



Soly Cissé

Born 1969 in Senegal

Lives and works in Dakar, Senegal

Soly Cissé is a mixed media painter and sculptor from Dakar, and is one of Senegal's most celebrated artists.

As a child, Cissé enjoyed drawing on the radiology that his father, a radiologist, brought home. Today, he is still fascinated by transparencies, light imposed on darkness, the essence of colours. When he paints, his brush reveals a scene, brings light to a story, and frees the characters trapped in the black background.

Cissé's artworks are profoundly inspired by and contextualized through his upbringing. He grew up during an epoch of transition, following Senegal's period of social and political unrest, where art served as mode of social activism and self-expression for the disenfranchised persons.

His work, like a portal where the imagined and physical realms convene, intuitively explores notions of duality and repetition; tradition and modernity, the spiritual and the secular. Soly refuses to imitate and abhors illustration. His work gives birth to a new world, populated by creatures neither completely human, neither completely animal nor completely legendary.

Cissé's spontaneous painterly movements, textured accents and neo-expressionistic techniques form depictions reflective of the dissolution of society's moral thresholds, shifts attributable to globalization and modernization. Shapeless human characters distort into anthropomorphic shadows of the other self; identities lost in translation from the past to the contemporary and abstract lines and bold strokes of contrasting hues intersect, creating a layered configuration of Cissé's mythical visions.

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Education

1996 National School of Fine Arts, Dakar, Senegal

Permanent Collections

Sa Bassa Blanca Museum, Alcúdia, Islas Baleares, Spain

Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Men and Lives*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, UK
Idoles, OH Gallery, Dakar, Senegal
Sunu Thiossane, Aerog'Art, Aeroport AIBD Dakar
Valeur Humaine, Galerie 38, Marrakech, Morocco
Je Vois Un Oiseau, D Galerie, Paris, France
- 2018 *Support Support*, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, UK
Curiosité (Almadies Residence Ciring) Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
Champ de Coton (Gorée) Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
Incandescence, Pavillon Institut Français, Dakar, Senegal
- 2017 *Les Mutants*, Musée Dapper, Paris, France
- 2016 *Le Trait*, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, UK
- 2015 Galerie des Tuileries, Brussels, Belgium
- 2014 *Universe/Univers*, Dakar, Senegal
Dreams, M.I.A. Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 2013 Tornabuoni, Paris, France
Galerie des Tuileries, Lyon, France
- 2012 *Lost World*, M.I.A Gallery, Seattle, United States of America
- 2009 *Solycolor*, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
- 2008 IFAN Museum, Dakar, Senegal
- 2007 *Être pour devenir*, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
- 2006 *Recent works*, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
Centenary celebration of the birth of Senghor, Verson, France
- 2005 *Le Monde perdu*, Luigi Pecci Center for Contemporary Art, Prato, Italy
French Development Agency, Paris, France
Free Fields: Africa, Art Center Camac, Marnay-sur-Seine, Aube, France
- 2004 *ARCO 2004*, Madrid, Spain
Animismes, Galerie DA Vinci, Nice, France
- 2002 *Multicultural 2002*, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain
Biennale DAK'ART, Dakar, Senegal
KuBa Kunsthalle, Wolfenbüttel, Germany
- 2001 Galerie ATISS, Dakar, Senegal

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- Prix de la francophone*, Montreal, Canada
 1999 Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany
 1997 French cultural Center, Dakar, Senegal

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Gallery), London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), NY, USA
- 2019 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Gallery), London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), NY, USA
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Marrakech, Morocco
- 2018 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Gallery), London, UK
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), New York City, USA
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Marrakech, Morocco
- 2017 *Trop Comprendre* curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, UK
 AKA Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Paris, France
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), London, UK
- 2016 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Gallery), London, UK
- 2015 *Lumières d’Afrique, African Artists for Development*, Palais de Chaillot, Paris, France
- 2014 Beirut Art Fair, Beirut, Libanon
 Volta Art Fair (M.I.A. Gallery), New York, USA
 Art Miami (Ethan Cohen New York), Miami, USA
- 2007 *TRANS CAPE – Contemporary African Art on the move*, Cape Town, South Africa
Black earth : Ousmane Sow and the trends of African sculpture today, Maurice Denis
 Departmental Museum, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France
- 2006 *Africa Remix/Contemporary Art of a Continent*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
 Dak'Art 2006 7th Biennial of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, Senegal
Men without history?, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
Artists from Senegal, Musée Dapper, Paris, France
African Expressions, Spring - Bd Haussmann, Paris, France
- 2005 *Foire Internationale des Arts Derniers: Les Afriques 2*, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
Africa Urbis: Perspectives Urbaines, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France
Contemporary creation in Senegal, Galerie Le Manège, Dakar, Senegal
- 2004 – 2005 *Africa Remix: Contemporary Art of a Continent*, Museum Kunst Palast,
 Düsseldorf, Germany; Hayward Gallery, London, UK; Centre Georges Pompidou,
 Paris, France
- 2004 *Art in the city - Out in Africa*, Saint-étienne, France
 ARCO 2004, Madrid, Spain
Animismes, Galerie Da Vinci, Nice, France

Video

- 2019 Dakaractu TV, AIBD: L'aéroport est un vecteur idéal pour faire connaître les artistes du Sénégal
Atelier A / ADAGP, Soly Cissé
- 2018 Urban Africans, Soly Cissé
Sulger-Buel Gallery, Black Books Project
- 2017 Sulger-Buel Lovell, Inside-Out

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