

Africa Staged

Curated by Alessandro Romanini

Opening on Saturday, July 10th, 7 p.m.

Pietrasanta: July 10th - August 22nd, 2021

In the magic setting of Pietrasanta's *Collectors Night* Galleria Giovanni Bonelli & LIS10 Gallery are pleased to invite you to the opening of a new exhibition dedicated to contemporary African art. An exhibition that intends to operate on the profitable wave of paradox, trying to stage and fix in a snapshot a living and constantly becoming matter -contemporary African art- which genetically refuses to be enclosed in categories or stages thus not giving up a theatricality that is ritual and not just an aesthetic-exhibitionist element.

The works of the selected artists witness a postmedialism that is not assimilation of a Western status of the artistic debate, but a genetic condition, linked to the magical dimension of artistic action, inseparable from their creative process. Hence the free and unconditional use of media and supports, materials and techniques, genres and registers, often synergistically crossed in the same work, where categories and distinctions fall between the arts of space and the arts of time and where logical-geometric artifices -from perspective to gestalt patterns- jump for a benefit of an expressive all-over that entirely invest the surfaces.

From the photographs of the Malian Malick Sidibè with their documentary and anthropological spirit, to the pioneering works of "fathers and mothers" of contemporary African art like the Ivorian Frédéric Bruly Bouabré and his graphic but painted "postcards" related to the Beté people, or the Congolese Chéri Samba with his paintings so strictly related to his land and its history of exploitation; up to the Senegalese Seni Awa Camara with her sculptures shaped following shamanic rites in the forest. Gonçalo Mabunda's masks and thrones are also included on the stage of the exhibition. His works are plastic sublimations of civil war that raged for more than 16 years in Mozambique. Next to those pieces you can find the most subversive and stylistically fashionable dimension of cosmopolitan figures such as the ones created by Ivorian artist Aboudia - well known from the International scene, and his compatriot like Armand Boua and Cameroonian Bernard Ajarb, among others. The exhibition will be on stage until August 22nd and it is accompanied by a critical text by the curator.

Artworks by: Aboudia, Bernard Ajarb, Nu Barreto, Armand Boua, Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Seni Awa Camara, Soly Cissé, Lovemore Kambudzi, Gonçalo Mabunda, Esther Mahalangu, Cheri Samba.