

Aboudia (1983, Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

Graduated in 2005 from the Institut des Arts in Abidjan. His way of painting is influenced by the graffiti of his city and the wooden statues typical of West Africa. He describes himself as a chronicler, as he is interested in representing the events that take place in the streets of his city, even the bloodiest ones such as the conflict that took place following the elections in the country in 2010. Children are a subject that very often appears within his works. This year (2022) he was selected to represent his country at the Venice Biennial National Pavillon. Among his main exhibitions we report: Ethan Cohen Gallery (2021); Jack Bell Gallery (2020); 1:54 Contemporary African art fair, Marrakech (2019); 1:54 Contemporary African art fair, London (2018) Saatchi Gallery, London (2014); Galleria Continua, Les Moulins (2014); Art Basel, Basel and Miami (2014); Nevada museum of art, USA (2013); Centre culturel Franco-Guinéen, Conakry, Guinea (2009).

Bernard Ajarb Ategwa (1988, Kumba, Cameroon)

Ajarb lives and works in Douala, a colorful and chaotic city. Ategwa's work is characterized by the use of bright colors and everyday subjects taken from recurring city scenes in his city. The artist defines himself as a "witness" of his time and translates into painting - in ways close to pop art - everyday scenes where man is the protagonist. Aged of 30 he was invited to exhibit at National Museum in Cameroon (2019) and at Cairo's Biennial (2019). Important exhibitions followed and, among others, Espace Doual'Art, Douala (2020); Zuzem Art Center (2020) and Jack Bell Gallery, London (2021). In 2021 his works were first exhibited in Italy in our gallery in Milano.

Nu Barreto (1966, São Domingos)

Born in Guinea Bissau he lives in Paris where he moved in 1989. He graduated at the Ecole Nationale des Métiers de l'Image in Gobelins (Paris). Initially he was interested only in photography, later he explored different techniques. Through his drawings, paintings, photographs and videos he tries to condemn human oppression above all by denouncing the abuses taking place on the African continent. A language characterized by symbolic colors, shapes and motifs with a strong meaning. Among his main exhibitions we report: Centre culturel l'Escale, Levallois (2019) Galerie Sabine Knust, Monaco (2018) UNESCO's Art for peace exhibition, Paris (2013), French-Mozambican cultural center, Maputo (2005) National museum of fine arts in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2005) Lisbon world exposition (1998).

Armand Boua (1978, Ivory Coast)

Within his paintings the fundamental aspect highlighted is the inhumanity he sees around him. The mainly political violence that characterizes his land can be found in his works. Children, the most fragile, are symbol of innocence but also of hope, and have become recurring subjects within his works. Using found material, he recreates images in his memory. This year (2022) he was selected to represent his country at the Venice Biennial National Pavillon. Among his main exhibitions we report: Jack Bell Gallery (2018), Saatchi Gallery, London (2015) Artsy, The art Genome project (2015) Salon international des arts plastiques, Abidjan (SIAPA) (2011) Biennale of contemporary African art, Senegal (2010) Festival d'Essaouira, Morocco (2010).

Frédéric Bruly Bouabré (1923–2014, Ivory Coast)

Writer, theoretical, philosopher, he is one of the most important artists among contemporary African culture. Words and images for Bouabré are strongly connected. His work stems from a revealing experience that took place in 1948, from that moment he began to be called "Cheik Nadro", that is, the one who does not forget, starting a philosophical research on the meaning of life. Since the 1970s the artist has uniformed his drawings, made on 9.5x15cm cards, a life-long project that will take the name of "Connaissance du monde" and will continue until his death. Drawings are set in the same way, dated and signed, made with ballpoint pen and colored pencils, collects and stores knowledge especially that relating to his Beté tribe. He also created an alphabet consisting of 449 monosyllabic pictograms an attempt to create a universal language.

Bouabré's works are Internationally famous and they have been displayed in many important Museums and Institutions. This year (2022) a special place was reserved to his works in the National Pavillon at the 55th Venice Biennial. Among his main exhibition we report: Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Lucca (2021); Contemporary African art fair, New York (2015), Centre Pompidou, Paris (1989), Documenta 11, Kassel (2002) Guggenheim museum, Bilbao (2006), Tate modern, London (2010) Palazzo Grassi (2011-12).

Seni Awa Camara (1945, Bignona, Senegal)

Originary from Senegal -from the Diola ethnicity, Seni Camara never left her territory because she consider herself deeply connected with it. In her works she shapes clay and shapes stories, events and feelings that have been dreamed of, revealed or created by fantasy. For the artist, her figures represent the world as she perceives it. All these creatures are modeled in the courtyard in front of her house and cooked in an open-hearth oven. Her creations, straddling craftsmanship and naif, arise directly from the artist's imagination, without the latter justifying its origin, meaning or possible interpretations. Taking the form of strange creatures, sometimes bicephalous, often built from a common trunk on which multiple bodies of children or animals appear. Her sculptures evoke scenes of motherhood, drawing from the natural universe as in a great bestiary. Among her main exhibitions we remember: Seni Awa Camara entre les éléments Galeria Kalao Bilbao, Spain (2011); El Vientre de la Tierra Galeria Kalao Bilbao, Spain (2010); Seni Camara & Ndoeye Douts Galerie Nathalie Fiks Paris, France (2009); Seyni Awa Camara-Terracotas Galeria Kalao Bilbao, Spain (2008); Seyni Camara Galerie Nathalie Fiks Paris - France (2007); Séni Camara De Crescenzo & Viesti Roma - Italy (2004); Seni Awa Camara Gallery 39 Dakar, Senegal (1990).

Laetitia Ky (1996, Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

A very young Ivorian artist and activist, she quickly gained fame through videos and photographs that portray her with real sculptures-stories made with her very long afro hair. The starting point of her works is the desire to regain possession of his African identity and therefore the renunciation of any masking / dyeing or straightening of her hair. Thanks to their "consistency" Laetitia Ky creates real stories with her hair - with the simple help of iron wire - which she then immortalizes in iconic self-portraits. The topics covered are the most diverse: from domestic or bucolic ones, to the more politically committed ones, especially related to issues such as discrimination suffered by women and all the problems in accepting oneself and one's appearance. Her works have remained in the limbo of the web for several years - Laetitia Ky has a tik-tok profile followed by millions of people - and only recently has the artist decided to concretely "materialize" her work. Her works - a series of shots and a video - are currently on display in the Ivory Coast pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale, which is still underway.

Saint Etienne Yeanzi (1988, Katiola, Ivory Coast)

Graduated in 2012 from the National School of Arts in Abidjan, Yeanzi had worked for years as a commissioned street-artist portraitist. Since 2013 he has embarked on his own personal path using in his works a melting-pot of plastics, colors and residues found in the street. His attitude towards the portrait has become more and more attentive and concentrated, discarding the normal definition: in his works he portrays without portraying. In fact, he has developed a technique that allows him to trace profiles, contours, sketch faces or figures in a single day, using the subject's name as a title and trying to make clear what is the subject's "social mask" to reveal its essence. behind the mask itself. In his career he has won numerous awards and has participated in numerous international exhibitions including: the 55th Venice Biennale (in progress) in the national pavilion of the Ivory Coast; the Center George Pompidou, Paris (2018); Nil Gallery, Paris (2018 and 2019); Cécile Fakhoury Gallery, Abidjan (2015 -2017 and 2018); since 2016 his works have been part of the permanent collection of the Mohammed 6 museum of modern and contemporary art in Rabat (Morocco).