



2010 FONDATION
2020 GANDUR
POUR L'ART

Press release

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Contemporary Art / Foundations

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art is enriched with a fifth and new collection dedicated to African Contemporary Art and the Diaspora

The collection of African Contemporary Art and the Diaspora, formed by Jean Claude Gandur, gathers to date more than 200 works created by artists who have strong links with the African continent and its history, from the Maghreb to southern Africa. In the custody of The *Fondation Gandur pour l'Art* (FGA), it will soon be published online along with the four collections already accessible.

Placed under the responsibility of Olivia Fahmy, this collection presents several groups of works composed of paintings, textile works, photographs and sculptures. The works tackle historical and social subjects as well as issues of form. They offer a lucid vision of the world, sometimes with humour and derision, and often with an acute critical sense, paying particular attention to the colonial past, present day issues that arise from it, as well as potential future dynamics.

Since 2015, **Jean Claude Gandur, Chairman Founder of the FGA**, has been building up this collection with an increasing interest and the desire to represent the diversity of contemporary creative works as it relates to the African continent and its diaspora:

“Through their committed messages and their challenging of the codes of globalized contemporary art, these artists provide a new impetus and offer the art world a necessary transformation.”

New identities?

The reflexions around identity are at the very heart of the collection, both on the local and on the global scale. History of the early and late modern periods, closely associated with that of migration, gives rise to hybrid practices. A context that stimulates the creativity and the production of the artists represented. The collection thus confronts us with fundamental questions: how are identities being challenged by globalization? How to imagine a new conception of beings outside the notions of nationality, ethnicity, race – understood as a social construct – and gender?

This multifaceted questioning inhabits the works of Athi-Patra Ruga (South Africa), Godfried Donkor (United Kingdom/Ghana), Ian Mwesiga (Uganda) or indeed Yinka Shonibare (United Kingdom/Nigeria).

A reversal of the gaze

The collection also questions the concepts of *authenticity* and *otherness* which have defined the relationship between the West and the rest of the world for many years. The artists in the collection highlight this skewed gaze from the West and turn it upside down to deliver in



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return a gaze distanced from an obsolete vision of Africa. They also create new forms of narration to tell their daily life, their view of the world.

The artists Mohamed Saïd Chair (Morocco) and Collin Sekajugo (Uganda) thus expose the abuses of a system, while Mary Sibande (South Africa) stages the resilience at the heart of the history of certain populations.

Heterogeneous materials

The collection includes several works made from recycled materials, employing collage, juxtaposition as well as fragile support materials. Binding substance and form, the materials are perfectly attuned to the subjects being tackled.

A synthesis that can be found in the work of Armand Boua (Ivory Coast/United States), Gonçalo Mabunda (Mozambique) or Kirubel Melke (Ethiopia).

An accessible collection

True to its mission of sharing, the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art now devotes a specific section of its website to this collection. Selected works will regularly be highlighted in the "Work of the month" section. Loans and the idea of an exhibition are also under consideration for 2021.

About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art:

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was founded in Geneva by Swiss art collector and entrepreneur Jean Claude Gandur in 2010 with the aim of conserving, enriching and exhibiting the collections developed for over 40 years.

Its mission includes making the collections available to museums, the academic world and the general public. Reflecting Jean Claude Gandur's conviction that culture should be accessible to all, the Foundation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and, more recently, the publication of reference catalogues. The Foundation has also developed a number of long-term partnerships, among others with the National Museum Centre for Arts Reina Sofía (Spain). The Foundation has been a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) since 2013 and of the Swiss Museums Association (SMA) since 2019, and strictly adheres to the code of ethics established by the ICOM.

The Foundation's collections cover five distinct areas: archaeology, with over 1,250 works of art from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East; fine arts, with more than 1,050 European paintings, mostly post-war, considered as one of the most important collection for the period in private ownership; decorative arts, with over 400 pieces, including decorative objects, furniture and pieces of art from the twelfth to the eighteenth century; ethnology, with close to 450 artefacts from Latin America and Oceania; and African contemporary art and the diaspora, with more than 200 works of art.

www.fg-art.org

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