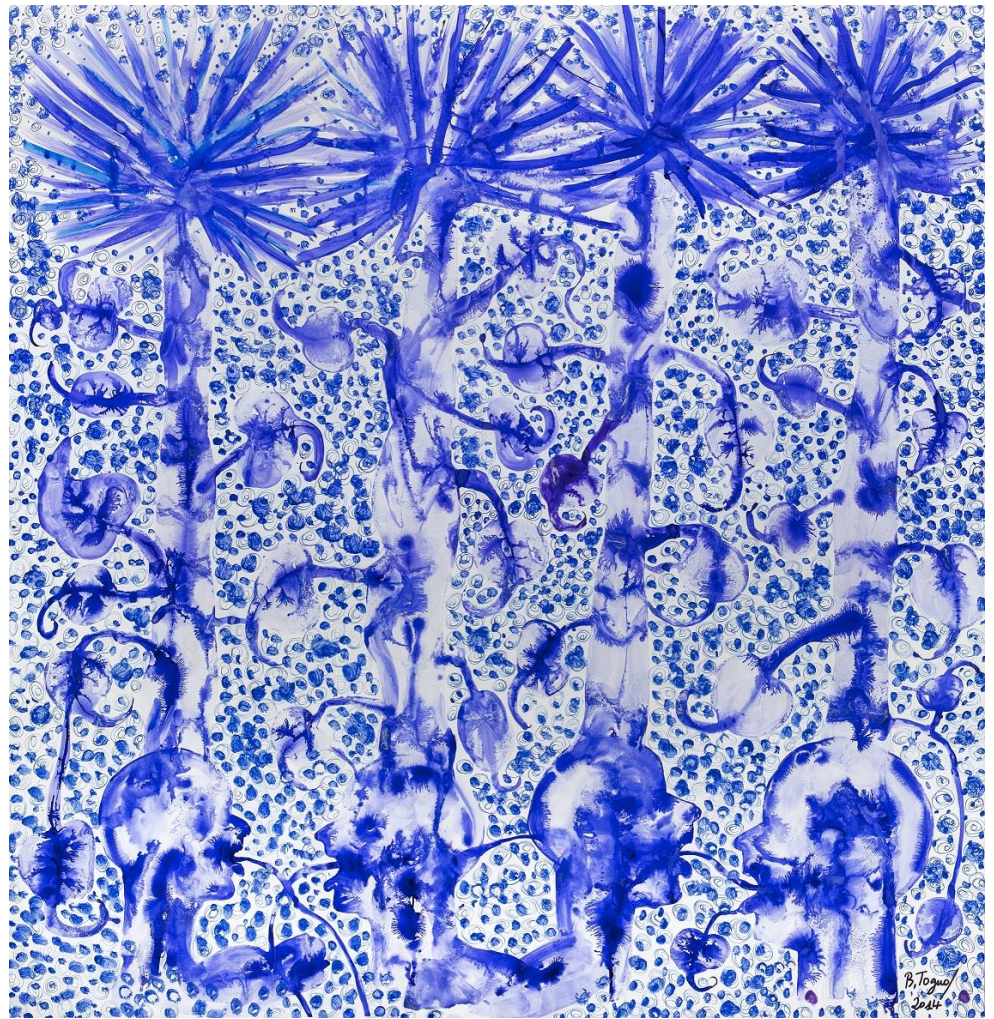


ESSENTIEL PAYSAGE

AFRICAN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FACING THE ENVIRONMENT

An exhibition designed by Brahim Alaoui
November 2016 - March 2017



Barthelmy TOGUO (Cameroon)

"Night Singers", 2014 - Watercolour and pastel on paper on canvas- 240 X 240 cm
Copyright: Barthelmy Toguo – Bandjoun Station/ Courtesy : Galerie Lelong – Photo by Fabrice Gibert

On the occasion of the **COP 22** to be held in November 2016 in Marrakech, the **Fondation Alliances** in Morocco will present an exhibition showcasing the current creative energy from the African continent as a culturally diverse geographic whole place at the service of the challenges of sustainable development.

This exhibition, entitled ***Essentiel Paysage***, brings together a selection of African contemporary artists. For some, their work testifies to their anchoring in a continent blessed by nature, underlining the interdependence between humans, animals and plants.

Other artists provide a critical perspective on the unsound utilization of natural resources in Africa and denounce the harmful effects it has on their continent. Using ingenious visual metaphors, these unique, imaginative or scholarly artworks lucidly show a state of mind and provide an environmental assessment of Africa today, while asserting the desire to perpetuate a lasting relationship between Man and land.

Fondation Alliances: “art is opening up to the world”

By carrying out a museum project (**MACAAL**) along with programs to support emerging African photography (**La Chambre Claire**) and raise awareness about contemporary art (**Passerelles**), Fondation Alliances promotes access for large audiences to the cultural field. It advocates the idea of an art accessible to all through the development of significant cultural mediation for all social backgrounds, thereby contributing to the promotion of Moroccan and African contemporary art using a demanding approach.

For its founders, Farida and Alami Lazraq, “art is opening up to the world”. They have thus built a collection of over 2000 artworks which they would like to share with the public. A selection of this collection is featured today as part of the exhibition ***Essentiel Paysage***.

ESSENCIEL PAYSAGE, a five-sequence itinerary

Held as part of the **COP 22**, this exhibition sets out to explore the way some African contemporary artists look at nature and related activities through an itinerary which has been designed along five sequences.

RECOUNTED NATURE

Nature is a source of inspiration for many artists, whether it is perceived as the place of imagination, spirituality or memory. Told in images in a mythical or animistic way, it symbolizes for them the search for an ideal of harmony between the world around them and their inner world.

To represent nature, other artists, in their search for beauty, refer to “*Jannat adn*” a heavenly garden promised to the faithful.



Pierre BODO (Democratic Republic of Congo) - “*The Golden Brush*”, 2007 - Acrylic on canvas and glitter - Fondation Alliances coll.

MAN AND THE SEA

The African continent is surrounded by two oceans and one sea. These shores give it rich marine resources, but are also a source of various problems related to maritime activities.



For a very a long time, economic considerations have always prevailed over all other values.

Yet, the sea is of inestimable value. This value is sentimental, ecological, economic and cultural, all at the same time.

The sea is spectacular, attractive, worrying, and hence it has fascinated men and artists since the dawn of time.

MOKE (DRC)

“*Fishermen hospital*”, 1995

Acrylic on canvas

130 x 170 cm

CAAC Coll.- The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva

RECYCLING/ RESISTING

African artists use salvaged articles of consumption to distort them from their primary function and turn them into original and aesthetic objects. These works appear as a form of resistance to the standardized invasion of their environment.



Romuald HAZOUME (Benin)
"Chery", 2011 - Plastic and feathers
"36 X 12 X 10 cm
Fondation Alliances coll.



Gonçalo MABUNDA (Mozambique)
" War Throne ", 2013
Recycled metal and weapons, 91x 92 x71 cm
CAAC Coll.- The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva

THE TREE OF LIFE



“Whatever its family and whatever its name, the tree is the symbol of the renewal of life and of its diversity,” poet Adonis writes.

The tree is used by many artists as a metaphor. It represents stability and attachment to land and arouses many admiring or worried glances in these artists, who represent it by turns in its grandeur, solemnity, and fragility.

Younes RAHMOUN (Morocco)

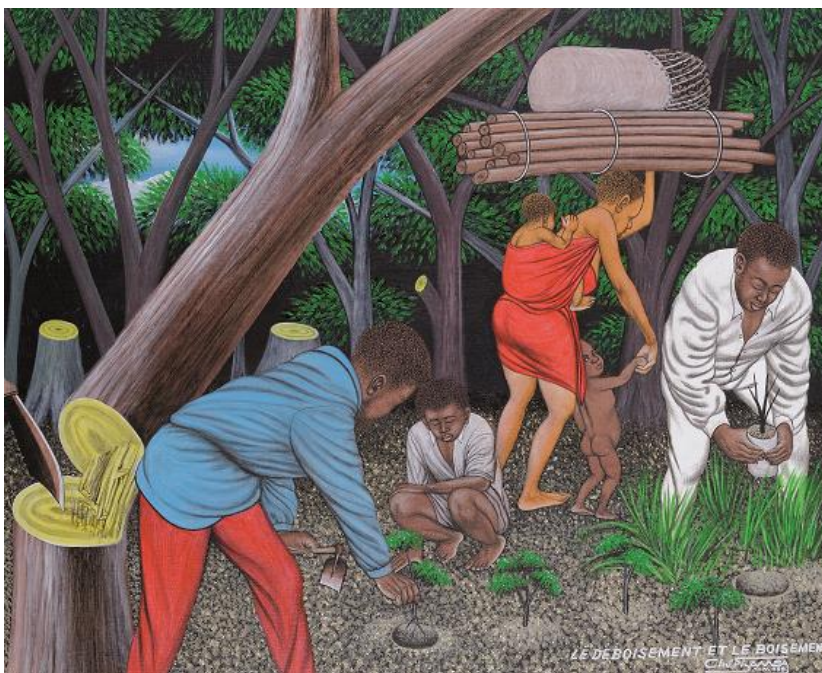
“Nakhla Sora”, 2001

Black felt on postcards

266x194 cm

Fondation Alliances coll.

NATURE IN THE MAKING



A fringe of African artists takes hold of ecology as a new tool for reflection, creation and action. They create new forms and images which are an essential source to understanding the changes in African society in light of the new social, economic and environmental challenges.

Cheri SAMBA (DRC)

“The Deforestation”, 1993

Acrylic on canvas

81 x 100 cm

Fondation Alliances coll.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Leila ALAOUI, Joel ANDRIANOMEARISOA, Sammy BALOJI, Farid BELKAHIA, Mohamed BEN ALLAL, Hicham BERRADA, Amani BODO, Pierre BODO, Chéri CHERIN, Abdllah EL ATRACHE, Mounir FATMI, John GOBA, Romuald HAZOUME, Ahmed LOUARDIGHI, Gonçalo MABUNDA, Abu Bakarr MANSARRAY, Gera Mawi MAZGABU, Mohamed MELEHI, MOKE, Mohamed MOURABITI, Khalil NEMMAOUI, Richard ONYANGO, Nyaba Léon OUEDRAOGO, Yazid OULAB, Younes RAHMOUN, Abbés SALADI, Chéri SAMBA, Zineb SEDIRA, Mohamed TABBAL, Pascale Marthine TAYOU, Barthélémy TOGUO, YAMOU and Billie ZANGEWA.

CURATOR: BRAHIM ALAOUI

Brahim Alaoui is an art historian and curator. Both through his writing and the exhibitions he has organized, Brahim Alaoui remains one of the rare mediators who establishes a living link between the current art in the Arab and African world and the European and international arts scene. He organized, together with Jean-Hubert Martin, the exhibition “African Meetings” in 1994, which was featured at the museum of the Arab World Institute as well as in Johannesburg, South Africa and Lisbon, Portugal. He now shares his life between consulting in cultural engineering, publishing and art curating.

AL MAADEN AFRICAN CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM (MACAAL)

This exhibition space, created by Fondation Alliances in Marrakech within Al Maaden Golf Resorts complex, is home to the first monumental sculpture park in Africa and testifies to Fondation Alliances' commitment to a dialogue between art and nature. By establishing the Al Maaden African Contemporary Art Museum, Fondation Alliances, which has been active for some years in collecting the works of African contemporary artists, wants to promote access to art and culture for all and showcase the arts from the African continent.

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