

APALAZZOGALLERY

Ibrahim Mahama *In Dependence*

APALAZZOGALLERY is pleased to announce the new Ibrahim Mahama's exhibition "In Dependence", an installation made by hundreds of shoemaker boxes and a group of new photographic works.

"In Dependence" is borrowed from the title of Nigerian novelist Sarah Ldipo Manyinka's book "In Dependence" 2008, set in Nigeria in the early 1960s. It combines both love and failure as a starting point towards rebuilding faith within a place amidst crisis and uncertainty. Ibrahim Mahama is interested in the parallel histories of post independent states at the period and their influence on the aesthetics of society, the transformation of objects and spaces they have once occupied or still occupy. The element of decay is used as a starting point of reflection and production.

Ibrahim Mahama always reflects on materials, politics and daily life through his choice of objects and sites. The artist works with traditional materials and exchanged objects from Ghana: charcoal sacks, cast-off clothes, shoemaker boxes, scrap like materials, maps and puts them together to reflect on spaces within a deeply politically intent informed purely by the forms within the work. Traditional materials become part of new and old spaces. The artist uses architecture as the starting premise for his work turning them into something new, re-reading them in a different way.

The exhibition presents Non Orientable Nkansa II, 2 diptychs, the film 2 channel film 'EXCHANGE-EXCHANGER and a new series of photographs made in 2014 but never shown. They reveal the artist's attempt to work with the body and the shoemaker boxes within one image.

In the installation at APALAZZOGALLERY he goes through something new assembling shoemaker boxes into a monumental installation, as he recently presented at Future Generation Art Prize exhibition in Venice. Shoemaker boxes traditionally contain tools for repairing and polishing shoes, they remind us of the crisis within the existing systems of production. They are not new but witnesses of decay, wear and failure. These objects which are both exchanged and created from the residues of old civic/industrial spaces presents another layer to the artist's practice.

Labor is addressed within the chosen forms while dealing with the materiality of the individual works. Exploring independence and being in dependence of existing systems is an important question to the practice.

Ibrahim Mahama, born in 1987 in Tamale (Ghana) lives and works in Accra, Tamale and Kumasi (Ghana). Latest exhibitions: Orderly Disordely at the Museum of Science and Technology, (Accra Ghana), "On Monumental Silences" at Extra City Kunsthal (Antwerpen, Belgium), "Fragments" at White Cube (London, UK) and group exhibition such as Documenta 14 and the Future Generation Art Prize 2017 at 57th Venice Biennial and Spectacles. Speculations... at blaxTARLINES KUMASI project space, (Kumasi Ghana).

Opening Sunday 28 January from 5 pm
28 January – 31 March 2018

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