

BIOGRAPHIE



HYACINTHE OUATTARA

Originally from Burkina Faso, born in 1981, Hyacinthe Ouattara is a mainly self-taught visual artist who lives and works in France.

Ouattara's work is multifaceted, encompassing expressions as varied as: installation, sculpture, painting, drawing, fragments of poetic writing, performance, photography and video.

Rooted in ancestral heritage, his artistic proposals question the structure of living forms and revolve around matter perceived as the corpus of an organicity weaving together the layers of the world's memory. This memory, grasped in its deepest, complex, ambivalent and fragile humanity, is expressed through the trajectories of his lines and threads that intertwine, bind and connect.

His drawings are the quest for a human cartography within an elusive flow.

His installations extend his research through a visual vocabulary questioning balance and imbalance. They are also the renewed interpretation of a ritual tradition.

An interpretation also found in his paintings, as in his indigo series "the heartbeats of the earth", a manifestation of the ritual of works buried beneath the earth of his native village, Diébougou.

Art historian Cindy Olohou writes in the monograph "Ancestral Melodies" devoted to the artist:

"Hyacinthe Ouattara's textile installations and sculptures weave the fabric of an archaeology of intimacy. He starts from individual memories, in search of the common thread uniting histories: traditions, that of the world. The transmission of sensitive memories is at the heart of this initiatory and poetic journey".

He has taken part in several major exhibitions such as the Cairo Biennale (2019), the Dakar Biennale (Dak'Art 2022) and the Havana Biennial (2024). His work has notably been seen in Paris, Accra, Ouagadougou, London, Berlin, New York, Kinshasa, ...

"There is in Hyacinthe Ouattara's journey a force of composition that brings elements together to forge a unity, particularly one of memory, or fragments them to accompany the viewer's penetration of an idea or material. In drawing and painting, he invents 'human cartographies', the abundant network of rhizomatic individualities, becoming a single flesh. With his wall assemblages and installations, it is the play of scale that reveals singular elements; material, body or history". Domitille Bertrand, Gallery Director and Curator.

Since 2020, Hyacinthe Ouattara has been leading an open-air museum project in the South-West region of Burkina Faso.