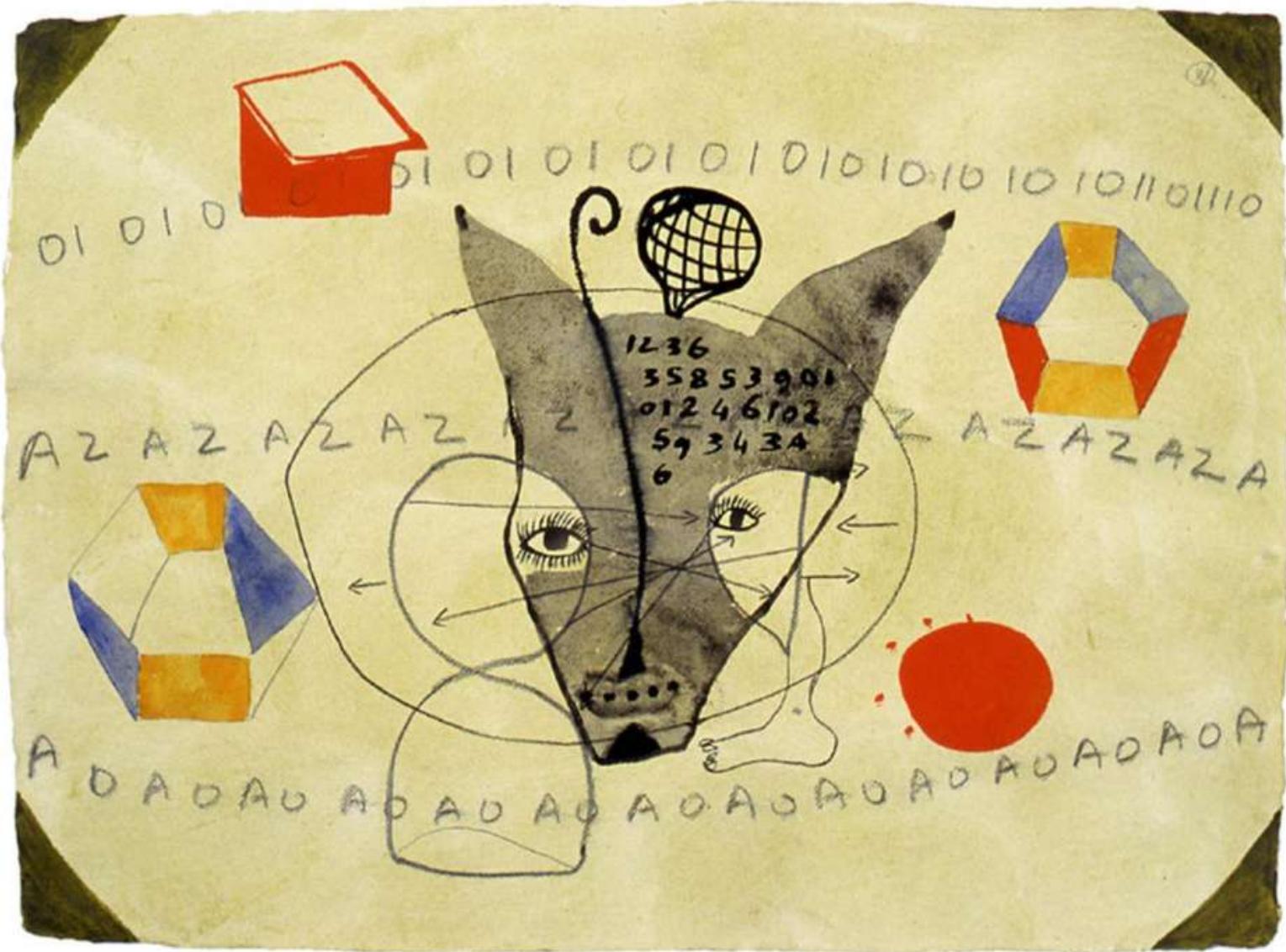


ABLAKASSA

Wisdom, Freedom, Opulence & Responsibility



Abidjan - Grand Bassam - Assinie
11 Jan - 25 Feb 2024

Initiated by Jean Servais Somian
Curated by Roger Niyigena Karera

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

-

INTENTION CURATORIALE



ABLAKASSA

Wisdom, Freedom, Opulence & Responsibility

"The obsession with being accepted abroad instead of developing the local is almost perverse...If you develop your own art scene, and let people know what is going on, the focus on being accepted internationally becomes less of an issue"

Bisi Silva

Ablakassa is an artistic experience in line with Bisi Silva's words, inviting established and emerging artists to join forces and speak to the people of Africa.

While the eyes of the world will be riveted on the CAN football tournament – African Nations' Cup - to be held in Côte d'Ivoire in January and February 2024, I'd like to invite several artists to come and play their part, accordingly to Jacques Attali: "Since time immemorial, the artist has been in the vanguard of 'becoming oneself'; he chooses a destiny that no one could have chosen for him." A strong message to African youth to choose their destiny and write their future.

For over a month, the *Ablakassa* experience will be punctuated by ambitious exhibitions, monumental and immersive installations, artistic residencies, conferences and other highlights. The aim is to encourage young Africans to take ownership of their History.

Ablakassa, a project to be discovered through 4 chapters in 3 different cities:

Chap 1: Wisdom: Grand Bassam - Artistic residency created by Jean Servais Somian

Chap 2: Freedom: Grand Bassam - Show room created by artist Jean Servais Somian

Chap 3: Opulence: Abidjan - La Résidence Abidjan

Chap 4: Responsibility: Assinie -

Ablakassa, the little nickname given to artist Jean Servais Somian, who initiated this project, sounds like a tribute to all the elders who have achieved international recognition and continue to develop their practice on the African continent.

Roger NIYIGENA KARERA, **curator**

ABLAKASSA

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"L'obsession d'être accepté à l'étranger au lieu de développer la scène locale est presque perverse... Si vous développez votre propre scène artistique et que vous informez les gens de ce qui se passe, l'importance d'être accepté au niveau international devient moins importante." Bisi Silva

Ablakassa est une expérience artistique qui s'inscrit dans la pensée de Bisi Silva et invite les artistes établis ou émergents à unir leur force afin de s'adresser aux peuples africains.

Pendant que les yeux du monde seront rivés sur le ballon rond lors la CAN – Coupe d'Afrique des Nations- qui se déroulera en Côte d'Ivoire en janvier et février 2024, je souhaite inviter plusieurs artistes à venir jouer leur rôle selon les mots de Jacques Attali : « Depuis toujours, l'artiste est à l'avant-garde du « devenir-soi » ; il choisit un destin que nul ne pouvait choisir pour lui. » Un message fort envoyé à la jeunesse africaine à choisir son destin et écrire son avenir

Pendant plus d'un mois, l'expérience *Ablakassa* sera rythmée par des expositions ambitieuses, des installations monumentales et immersives, des résidences artistiques, des conférences et d'autres temps forts. L'envie ici étant de sensibiliser la jeunesse africaine a s'approprier sa propre histoire.

Un projet à découvrir à travers 4 chapitres répartis dans 3 villes différentes :

Chap 1 : Wisdom : Grand Bassam – Résidence artistique créée par Jean Servais Somian

Chap 2: Freedom: Grand Bassam- Show room de l'artiste Jean Servais Somian

Chap 3: Opulence: Abidjan – La Résidence Abidjan

Chap 4 : Responsability :Assinie - Eklomiabla

Ablakassa, le surnom donné à l'artiste Jean Servais Somian - à l'origine de ce projet, sonne comme un hommage à tous les ainés qui ont acquis une reconnaissance internationale et qui continuent à développer leur pratique sur le continent africain.

EXHIBITION VENUES

-

LIEUX D'EXPOSITIONS

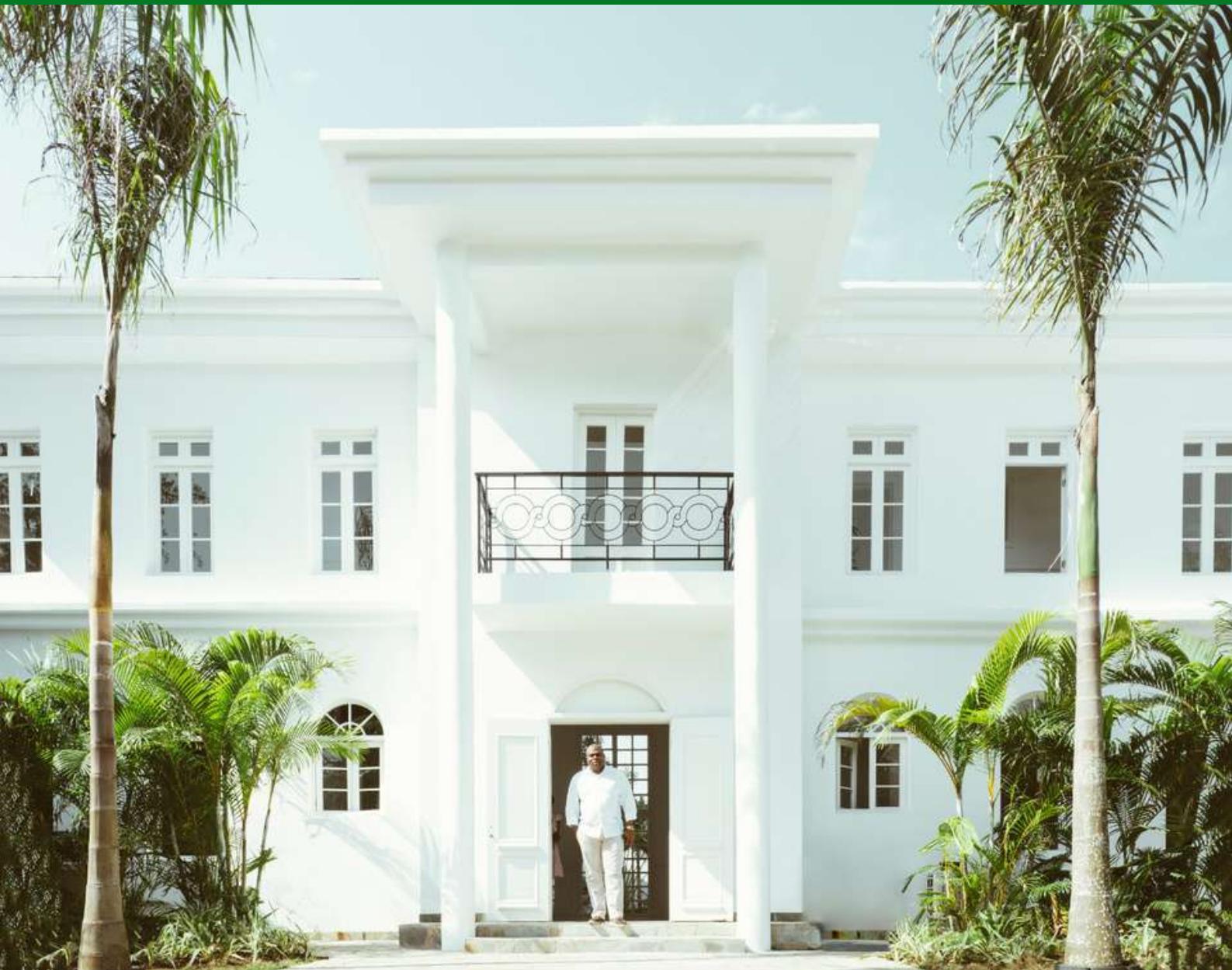
JEAN SERVAIS SOMIAN ARTISTIC RESIDENCY - GRAND BASSAM



JEAN SERVAIS SOMIAN SHOWROOM - GRAND BASSAM



LA RESIDENCE BUSINESS CLUB - ABIDJAN



FONDATION EKLOMIABLA - ASSINIE



THE CHAPTERS

-

LES CHAPITRES

Chap 1 : Wisdom

The first chapter explore the richness and diversity of African spirituality.
Le premier chapitre explore la richesse et la diversité de la spiritualité africaine.

Jeyifous Olalekan
Ernest Dükü
Yvanovich Mbaya
Eshnlokun Wasiu
Nene Mahlangu
Ousmane Ba
Jean Servais Somian – Sculpture

Chap 2 : Freedom

The second chapter reminds us of the importance of keeping our childhood dreams alive.
Le deuxième chapitre nous rappelle l'importance de garder nos rêves d'enfants

Jams Koko Bi
Jean Servais Somian – sculpture & Design
Rene Tavarez
Ken Nwadiogbu
Baudouin Mouanda
Lisa Colombe Adjobi

Chap 3 : Opulence

The African continent abounds in incredible wealth. It's time Africans took notice and made the most of it themselves: culture, spirituality, fashion, gems, music, beauty, knowledge, science and so on.

Le continent africain regorge de richesse incroyable. Il est temps que les africains en prenne conscience et profite eux même; La culture, la spiritualité, la mode, les pierres précieuses, la musique, la beauté, le savoir, la science etc.

Ouattare Watts

Victor Ehikhamenor

Sadikou Okpejo

Ernest Dükü

Omar Victor Diop

Ishola Akpo

Méné

Didier Viodé

Thandiwe Muriu

Stanley Ekene

Jessica Soares

Boris Anje

Yvanovitch Mbaya

Sebastien Boko

Tchinezan

Willow Evann

Chap 4: Responsibility

We all responsible of our future.

Let's cherish our planet and live in harmony with others.

The world is ours

Demba Camara

Serge Nemlin

Cekho Nihckasson

Sebastien Boko

ARTISTS PRE-SELECTION



Chap 1: Wisdom - Jeyifous Olalekan



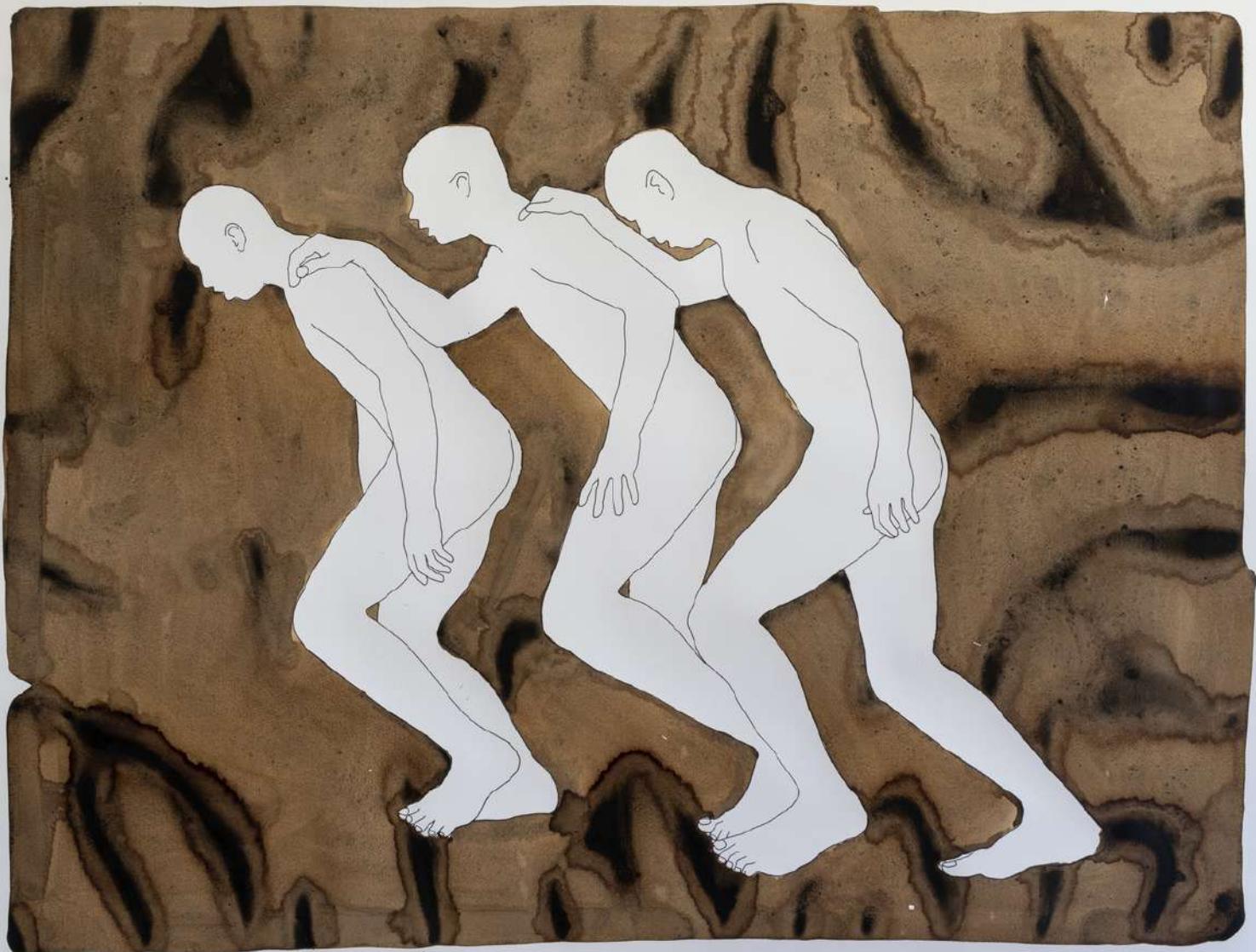
Digital collage and photography

Chap 1: Wisdom - Ernest Duku



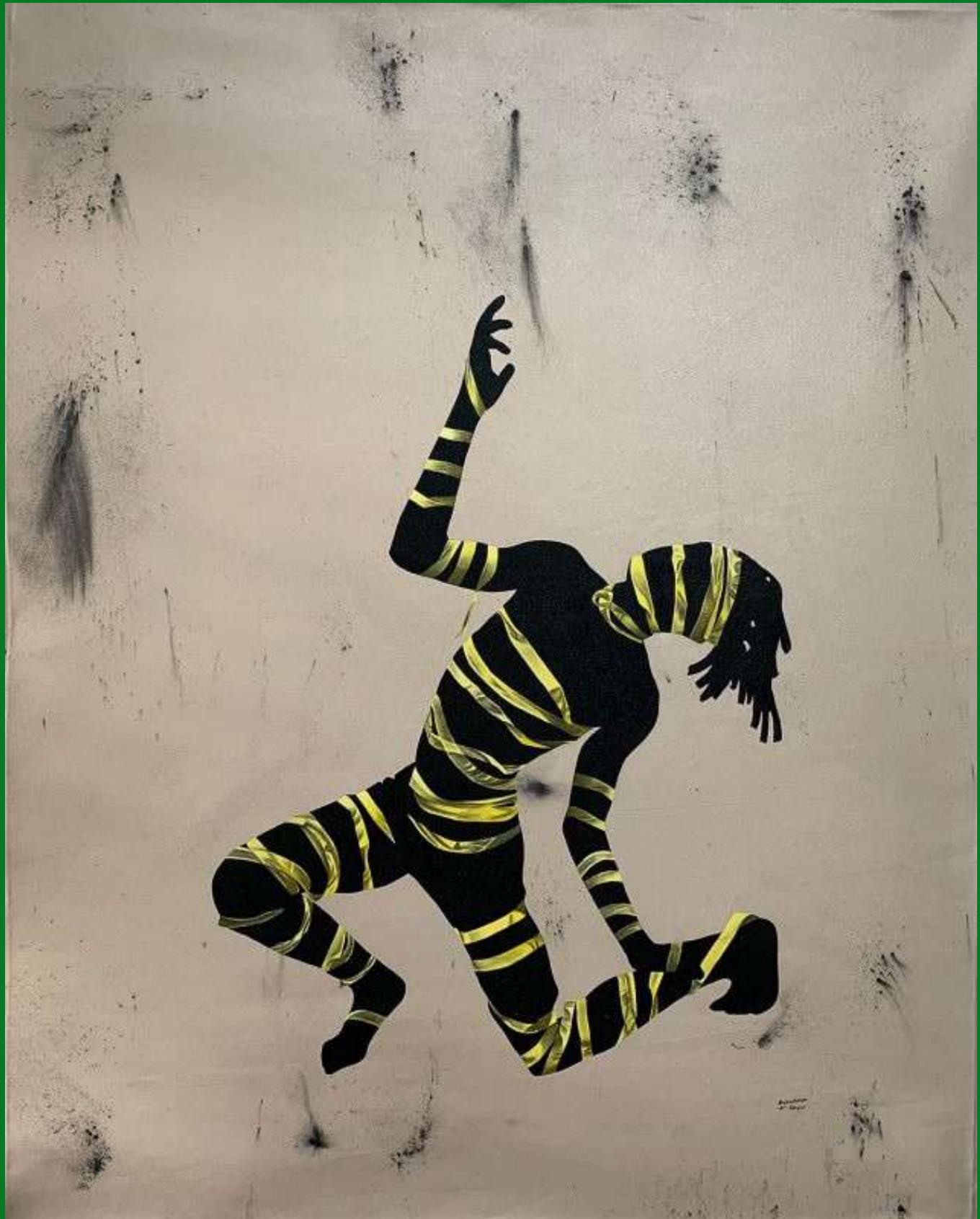
Mix Media

Chap 1: Wisdom - Yvanovitch Mbaya



Mix Media

Chap 1: Wisdom - Eshnilokun Wasiu



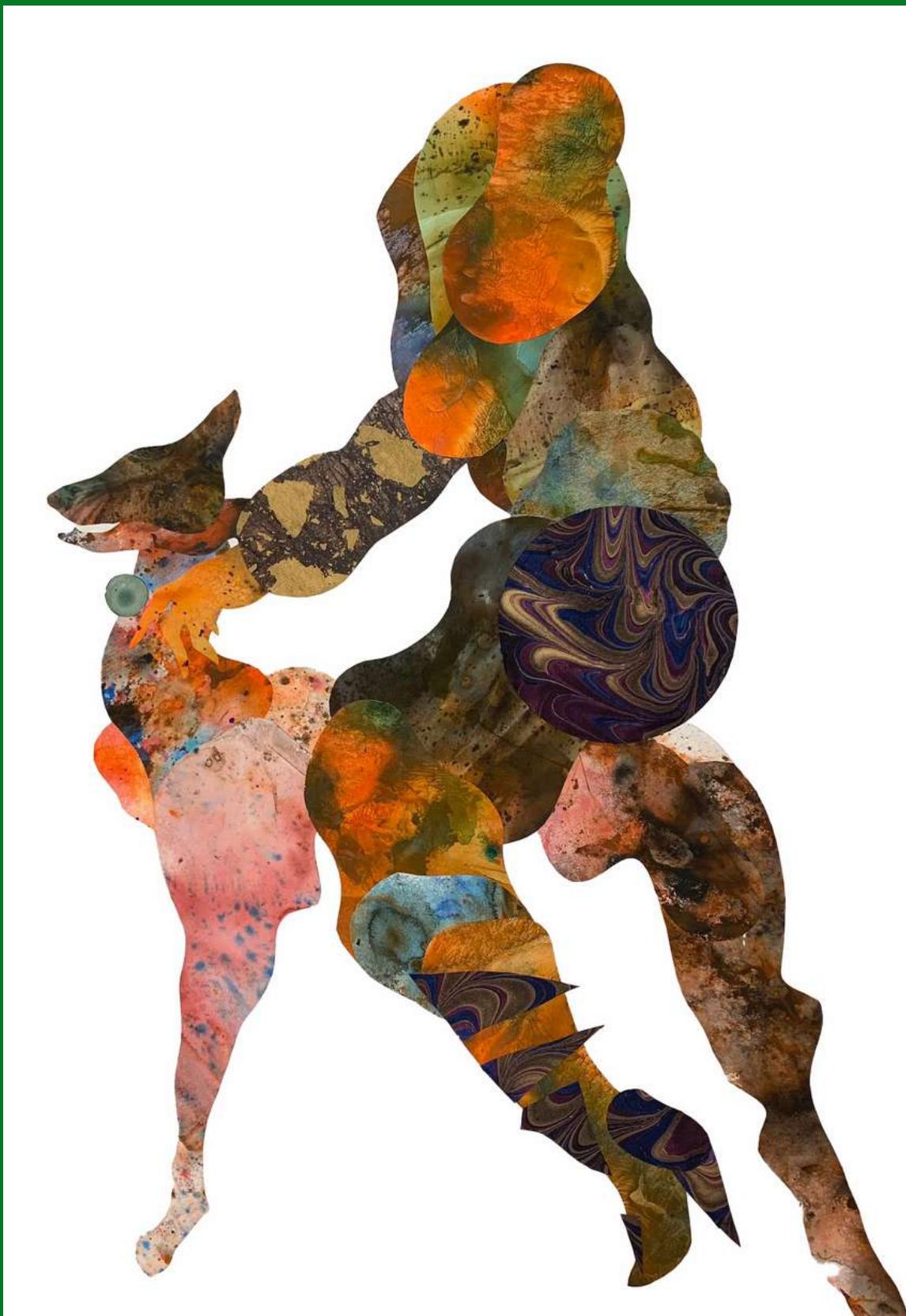
Painting

Chap 1: Wisdom - Nene Mahlangu



Painting

Chap 1: Wisdom - Ousmane Ba



Painting



Chap 2: Freedom - Jems Koki Bi



Sculpture

Chap 2: Freedom - Ken Nwadiogbu



Installation

Chap 2: Freedom - Rene Tavarez



Installation

Chap 2: Freedom - Baudouin Muanda

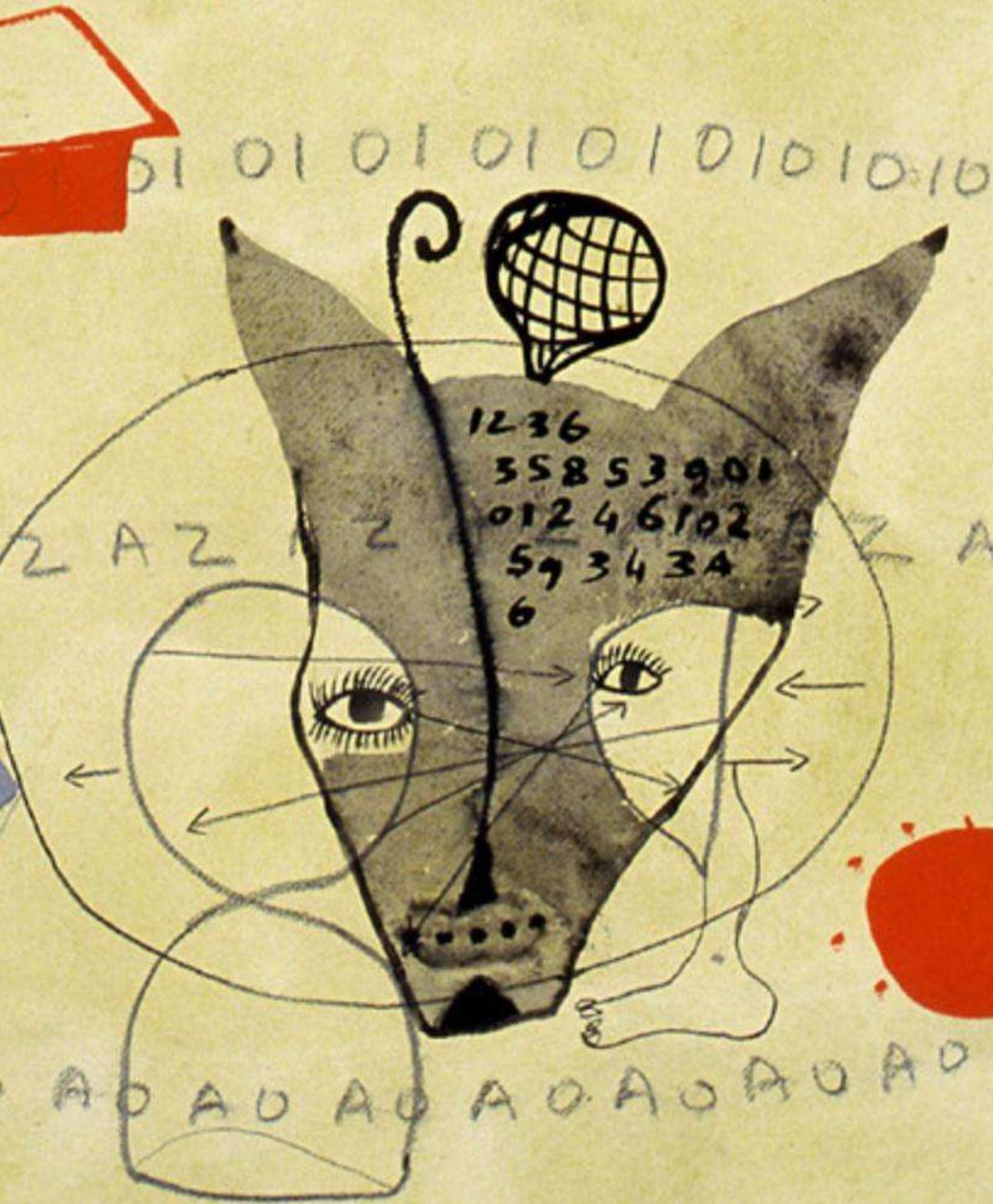


Photography

Chap 2: Freedom - Lisa Colombe Adjobi

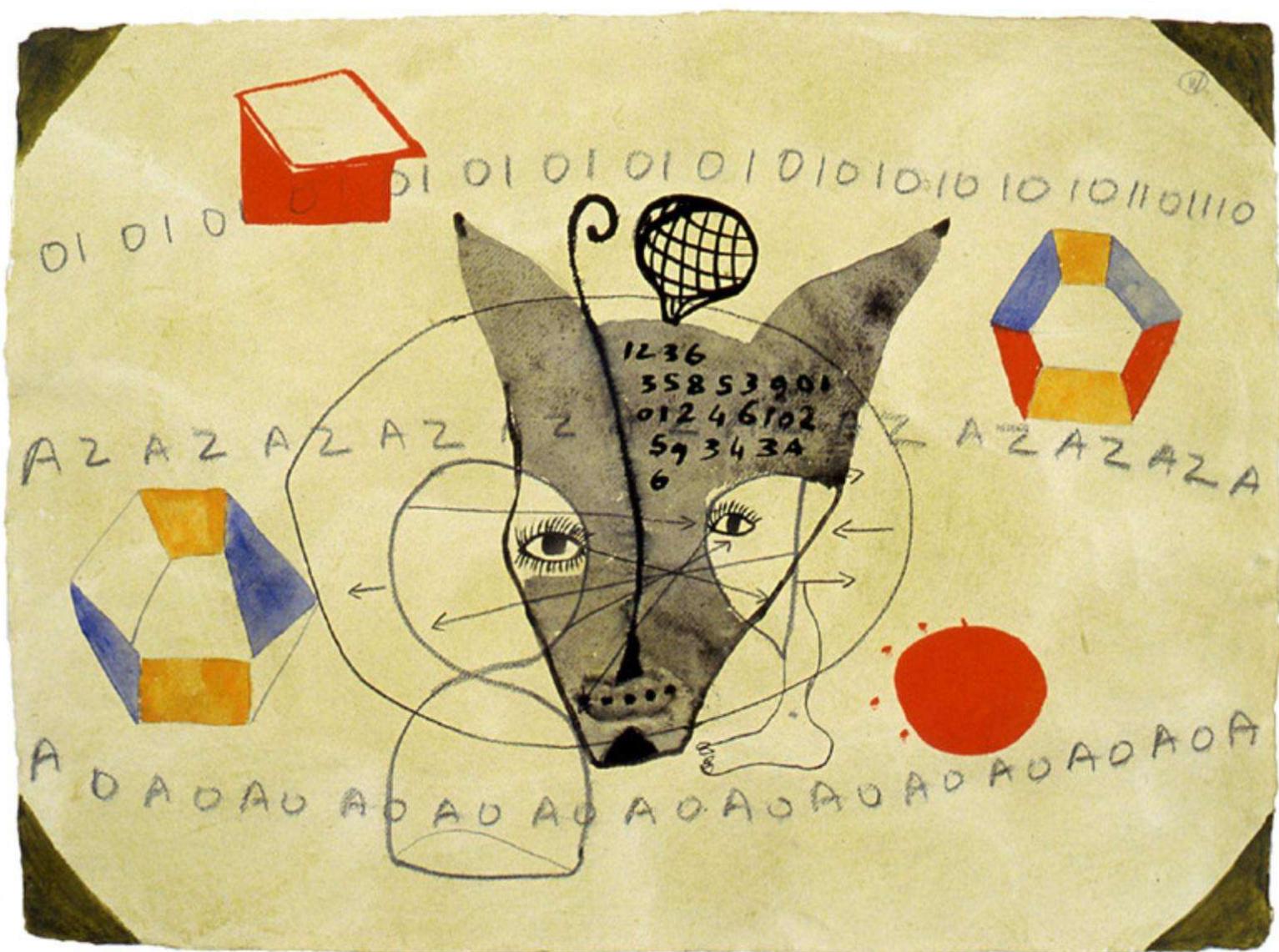


Design : Sculpture



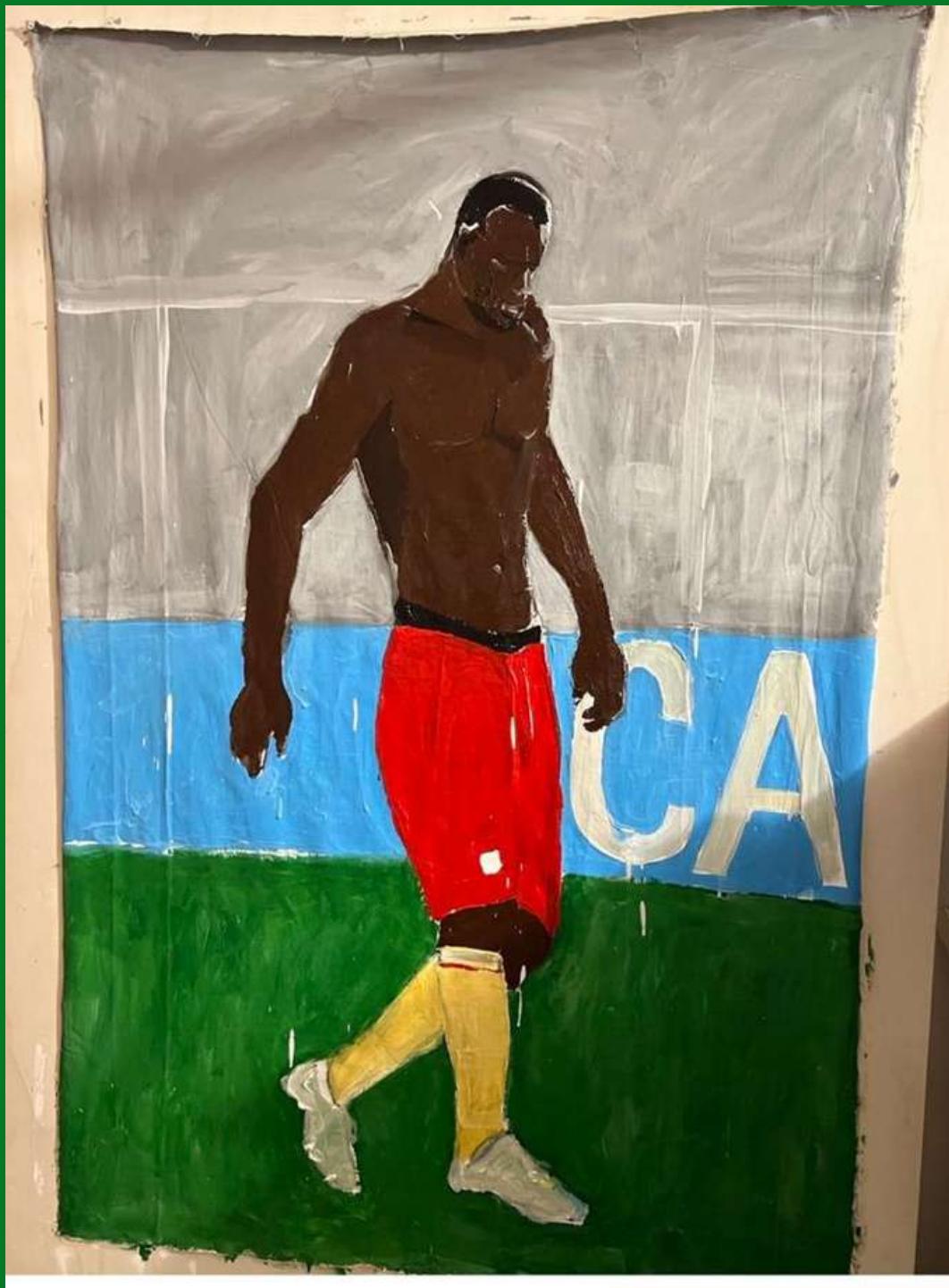
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Chap 3: Opulence - Ouattara Watts



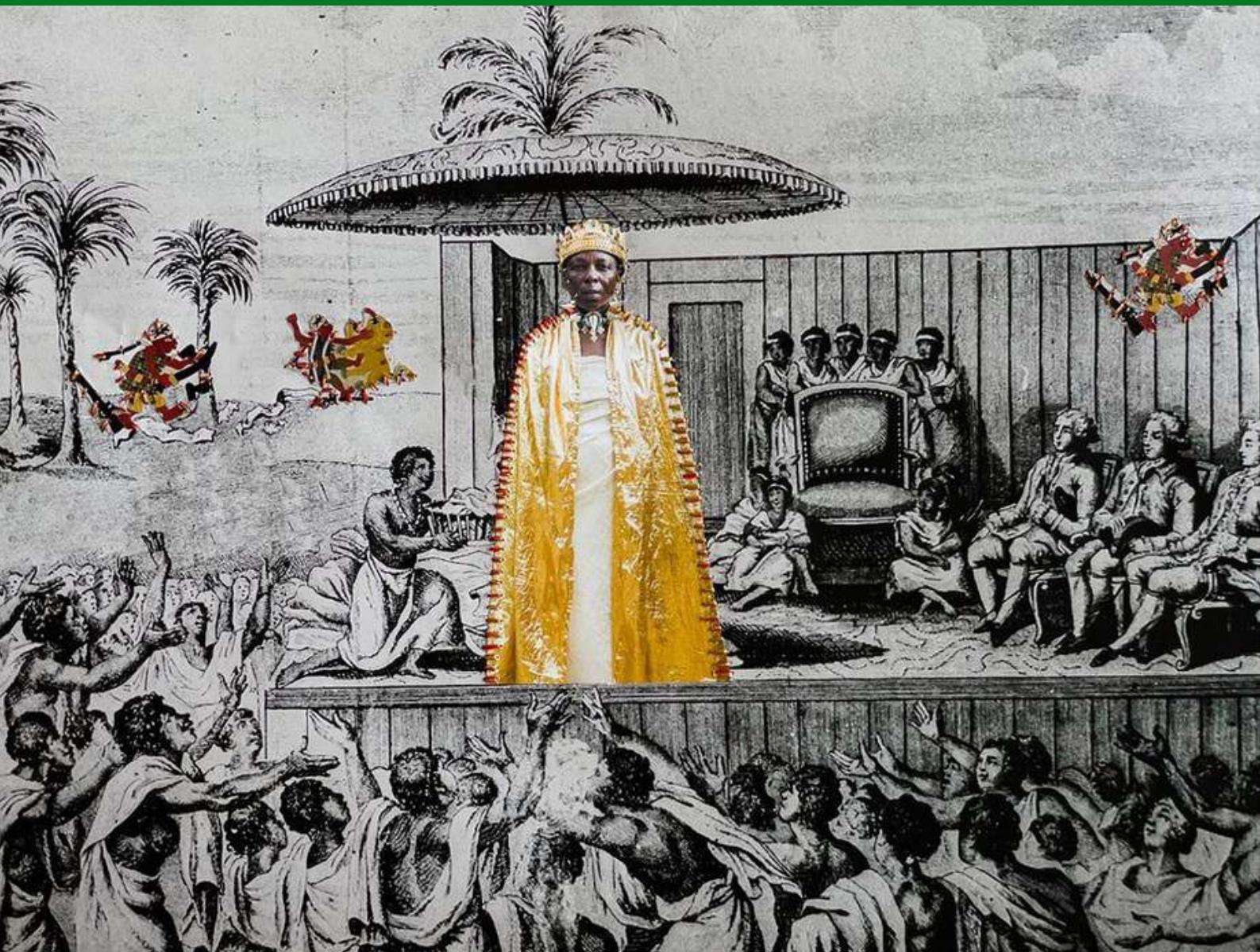
Mix Media

Chap 3: Opulence - Didier Viodé



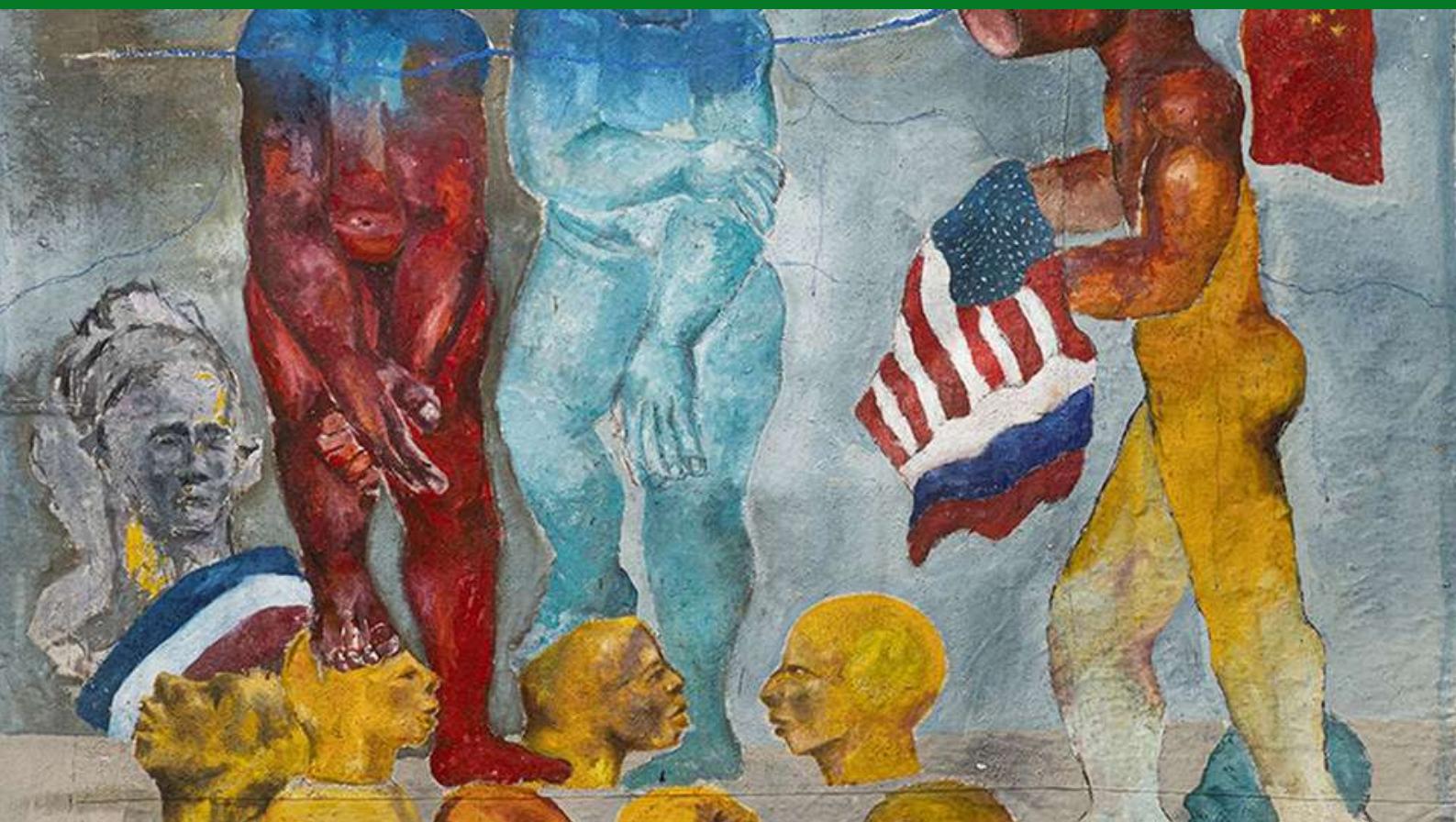
Mix Media

Chap 3: Opulence - Ishola Akpo



Sculpture - Installation

Chap 3: Opulence - Sadikou Oukpedjo



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Victor Ehikhamenor



Sculpture - Installation

Chap 3: Opulence - Ernest Duku



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Omar Victor Diop



Photography

Chap 3: Opulence - Sebastien Boko



Sculpture

Chap 3: Opulence - Méné



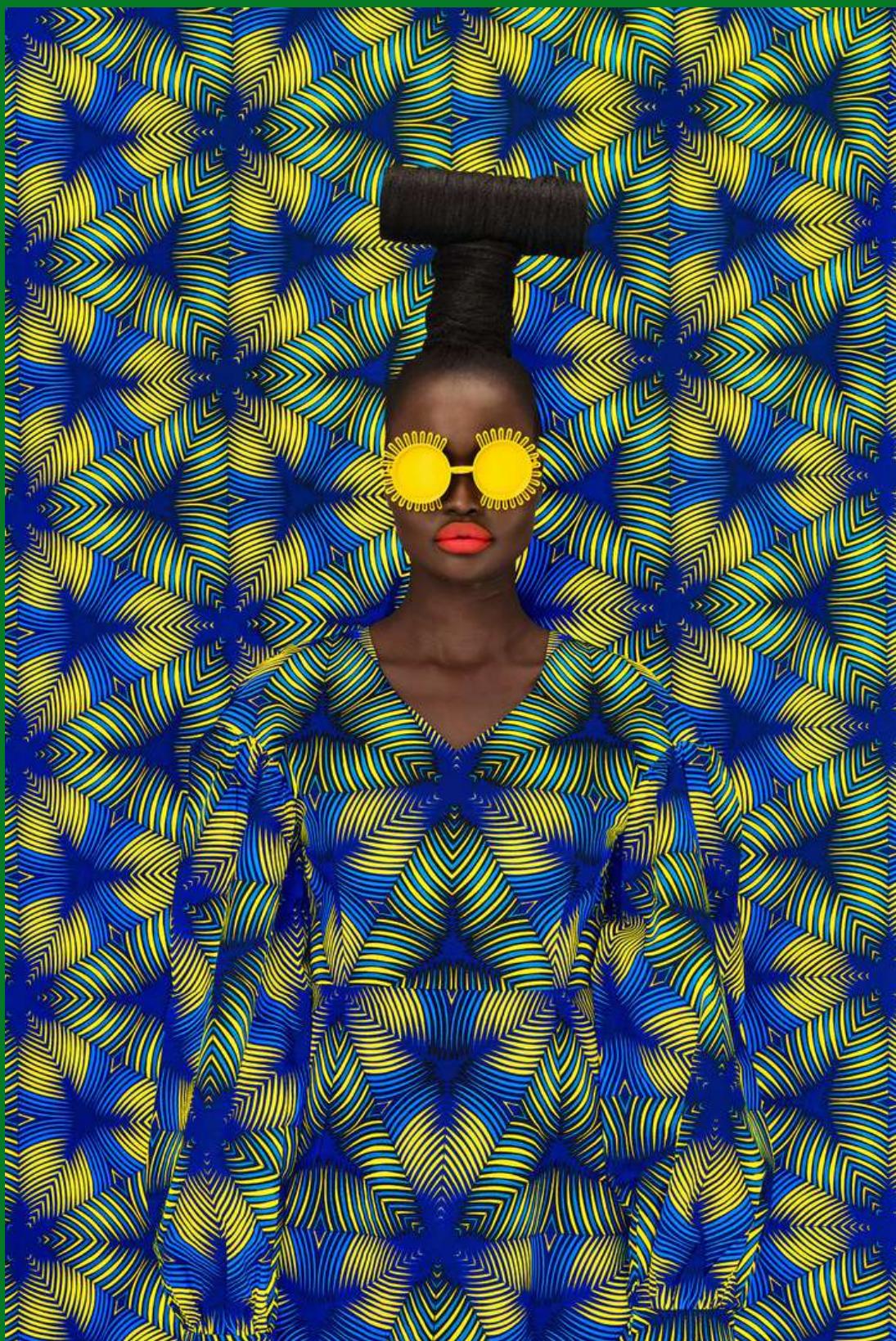
Mix Media

Chap 3: Opulence - Stanley Ekene



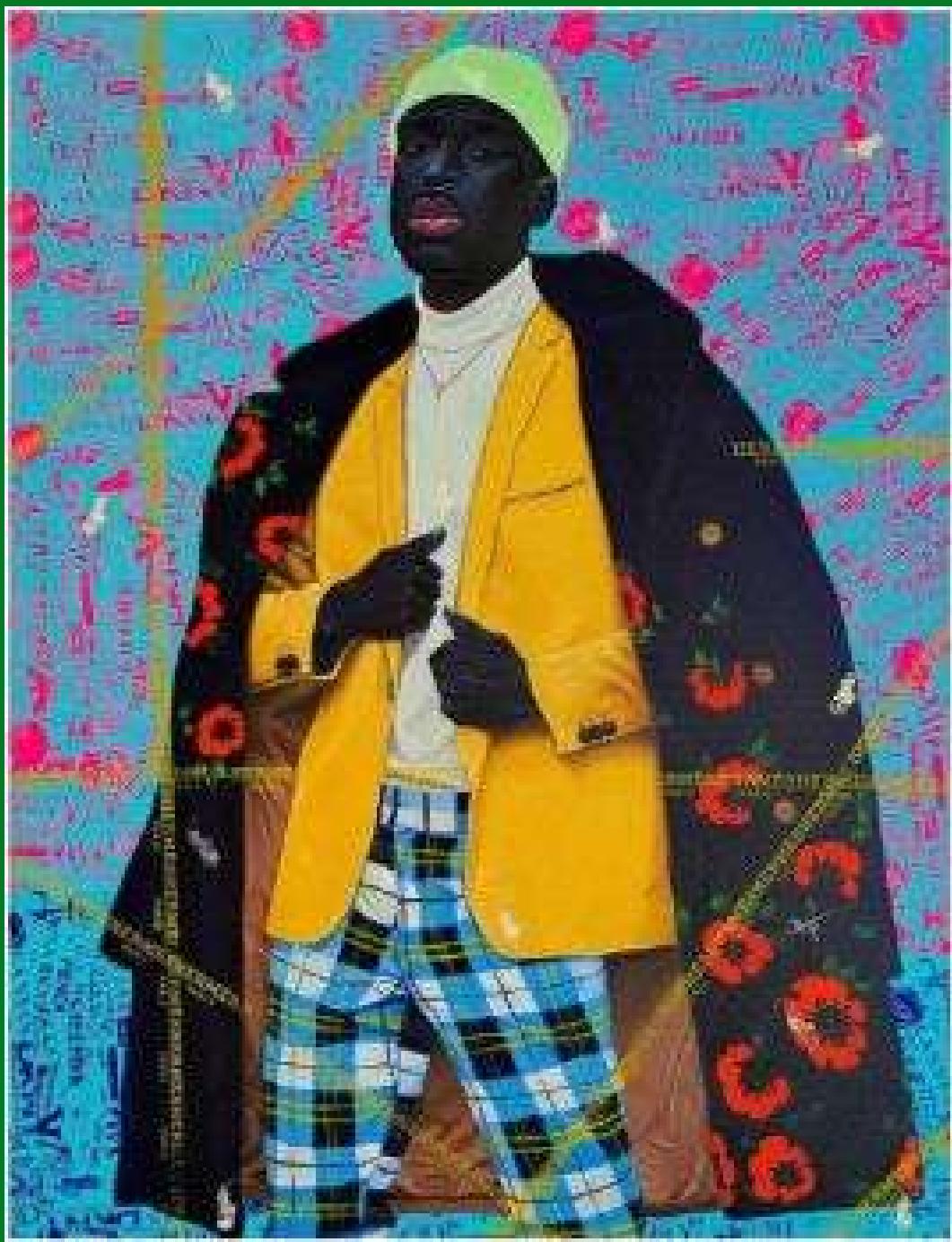
Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Thandiwe Muriu



Photography

Chap 3: Opulence - Boris Anje



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Yvanovitch Mbaya



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Jessica Soares



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Tchinezan



Painting

Chap 3: Opulence - Willow Evann



Painting



Chap 4: Responsibility - Serge Nermel



Sculpture

Chap 4: Responsibility - Demba Camara



Sculpture

Chap 4: Responsibility - Sebastien Boko



Sculpture

Chap 4: Responsibility - Cekho Nihckasson



Painting

**Ablakassa, a tribute to the man behind this initiative: Jean Servais Somian;
His work will be the link behind all the chapters.**





The Curator

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Independent Curator

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