

# MBAYE DIOP

PRESS RELEASE

Balle de Match (Match Point)

02.12.2022 - 04.03.2023



SELEBE YOON

partcours

# MBAYE DIOP

## BALLE DE MATCH (MATCH POINT)

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At the crossroad of documentary and fiction, Mbaye Diop focused his research on Dakar's architecture and urbanism during his two-months residency at Selebe Yoon. While he is working in Switzerland since 2018, the socio-economic evolution of his native country, Senegal and its relationship to the West remain at the center of his practice.

Dakar - a city of contrast, torn between its future dreams and the traces of history, Mbaye Diop conceives it as a site where power structures are at play. Its urban fabric reveal architectural confrontations between models inflicted by colonial history, the persistence of traditional forms and the proliferation of new symbols of globalization.

Mbaye Diop makes us roam through a city inhabited by its contradictions, its submission to concrete, its past fantasies, and the ineluctable return of urban entropy. As visitors discover historical buildings through his works that are either vanished, threatened or for the time being, honoured, a series of different mediums unfold: from animated films, drawings to paintings, the artist interweaves the physicality of drawing with stop-motion technology.

His animated films are made out of thousands of drawings in black and white renderings, produced out of videos that he decomposes into photographs, each transferred with acetone on paper and re-worked with graphite. Page after page, the artist allows silhouettes and details to emerge and reveals the evanescent character of the action and the urban uproar; the ghostly quality of the depicted scenes and individuals. In his paintings and drawings, the artist scribbles and composes his figures out of repeated scrawls made with lead pencil and for the first time colour pigments.

Along the same line as his predecessors that took urban life as the starting point of a visual reflection, such as filmmaker Djibril Diop Mambéty with "Contras City" (1969) or Bouna Médoune Sèye with his photographs « Les Trottoirs de Dakar » (1992), Mbaye Diop depicts a "désarchitecture" of the city, a disorganized aesthetic, and the coexistence of various codes and systems.

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From Colobane market to that of Kermel, from colonial buildings to old houses; the streets of Plateau to those of Medina, his works offer a vision on spaces of sociability and of urban excess that bury colonial and post-colonial projects under the economic and political reality of today. Metal shelters, constructions in decay, traditional housings appear in his works. All evoke "architectures of survival that grow like parasite plants that cling onto a tree in full growth" according to the artist, and produce counterbalancing forces against new urban rules.

For him, the construction of the city resembles a game that opposes multiple rivals. Therefore, the image of the tennis game is found across his œuvre to echo the competitive state that inhabits the city. A game whose ending is close but that will irrevocably raise questions: will homogeneity triumph? Can multiple modes of living continue to coexist? What will the voices of those that we cannot hear say?

All the works in the exhibition have been created during his two-months residency at Selebe Yoon, except for "Colobane" (2020). The exhibition also presents a work in progress as to display the production process of a future animated film. Finally, an archival room is dedicated to the architecture of Dakar.

- Jennifer Houdrouge

SELEBE YOON





## Biography

Mbaye Diop is a multidisciplinary Senegalese artist born in 1981 in Richard-Toll, in the north of Senegal. In 2010, he graduated from the National School of Arts in Dakar and taught visual arts in the city of Saint-Louis until 2019. In 2022, he graduated from a master's degree in contemporary art practices at HEAD Geneva (Haute école d'art et de design). He now lives and works in Switzerland. He received several personal exhibitions namely "Balle de Match" at Selebe Yoon Gallery, Dakar (2022); "Colobane" at l'espace eeeh!, Nyon, Switzerland (2020); « De l'arbre à palabre à l'arbre numérique », La Becque, Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland (2020); « Autour du poisson » Galerie Skopia, Geneva, Switzerland (2019); « Chaussures usées », Centre culturel Blaise Senghor, Dakar, Senegal (2019); « Mame Coumba Bang », Théâtre de l'Orangerie, Geneva, Switzerland (2018); « Le bon mouton », Institut Français, Saint-Louis, Senegal (2016). He also participated in numerous group

exhibitions: "Bande-Annonce: The Jean Pigozzi Collection in Cannes" (2022); Geneva Biennale - Sculpture Garden, Switzerland (2022); "Ŋ Ndaffa / Forger / Out of Fire", Dakar Biennale, Official Selection (2022); « Comment quitter la Terre », living your head, Head Geneva, Switzerland (2021); « Ça déménage », fondation Esp'asse, Nyon, Switzerland (2020) to name a few. He was awarded the UEMOA Prize (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) on the occasion of the Dakar Biennale for his video installation « De l'arbre à palabre à l'arbre numérique ». He is also nominated for the The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize and will be included in the finalists exhibition at the Norval Foundation in Cape Town in January 2023. Mbaye Diop is in several collections internationally namely JOM Collection (Senegal); Pigozzi Collection - Contemporary African Art Collection (CAAC); Nyon Museum, Switzerland, amongst others.



# MBAYE DIOP

## CV

### Studies

2020-2022 Master, WorkMaster, HEAD\_Geneva  
2017 Master 1, cinema, Université Gaston Berger, Saint-Louis  
2010 Graduated from the Beaux-Arts of Dakar

### Exhibitions

#### Solo exhibitions

2022 "Balle de Match" (Match Point) Selebe Yoon, Dakar  
2020 «Colobane», Espace eeeh!, Nyon, Switzerland  
2020 « De l'arbre à palabre à l'arbre numérique », La Becque, Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland  
2019 «Autour du poisson» Galerie Skopia, Geneva, Switzerland  
2019 « Chaussures usées », Centre culturel Blaise Senghor, Dakar  
2018 « Introspection » performance, Institut Français, Saint-Louis, Senegal  
2018 « Mame Coumba Bang », Théâtre de l'Orangerie, Geneva, Switzerland  
2018 espace d'art EEEEH!, Nyon, Switzerland  
2017 « Le bon mouton », Institut Français, Saint-Louis, Senegal  
2016 Galerie Ethiope, Saint-Louis, Senegal

#### Group exhibitions

2022 Sculpture Garden, Geneva Biennale (Special Project: Head\_Geneva Students)  
2022 Ndaffa (forger out of fire), Dak'art Biennial, Official Selection Dakar  
2021 «Comment quitter la Terre», living your head, Geneva  
2020 « ça déménage », fondation Esp'asse, Nyon, Switzerland  
2018 « Port de Dakar », espace Gno Far, OFF Dak'art, Saint-Louis, Senegal  
2017 « Sardines », Ndar Ndar, café, Saint-Louis, Senegal  
2016 « les hybrides », Centre Waaw, Off, Dak'art Biennial  
2010 Centre culturel Blaise Seghor, Off, Dak'art Biennial  
2010 « Calbasse », l'alliance française, Ziguinchor, Senegal

### Publications

2019 « De l'arbre à palabres à l'arbre numérique », Ripopée editions, Switzerland  
2018 «Tukki le voyageur», avec les textes de Saïd Ba, cahier d'artiste, (n°100), Ripopée editions, Switzerland  
2018 «Mame Coumba Bang», with the students of Ameth Fall high school of Saint-Louis, cahier d'artiste, (n°200), Ripopée Editions, Switzerland  
2018 «Le bon mouton», livre d'artiste, (n°100), Ripopée Editions, Switzerland

### Prize

2022 UEOMA Prize - Dak'Art Biennale 2022  
2023 Nominated for the Sovereign Norval African Art Prize Foundation

### Residencies

2021 Espace d'art eeeew  
2020 Trelex Residency, Trelex, Switzerland  
2020 Espace d'art eeeeh!, Nyon, Switzerland  
2019 La Becque Residence, Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland





# SELEBE YOON

## Informations

**Opening hours**

Ouvert du mardi au samedi de 11h à 19h

**Adress**

Crossroad Rue Parchappe x Rue Salva  
(Behind Canal +)  
BP1390  
Dakar, Plateau

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**Instagram** @selebe\_yoon

**Youtube** Selebe Yoon

