

## Africans Lights

From 7 to 10 April 2022

at Françoise Livinec Gallery, 24 rue de Penthièvre, 75008 Paris

On the occasion of its first participation in the **1-54 fair** at Christies, the gallery is delighted to propose a conversation between the two African women artists **Adjaratou Ouedraogo**, painter and **Oswalde Lewat**, photographer. They are both featured in numerous collections of **contemporary African art**.

**Oswalde Lewat** was born in **Gaoura, Cameroon**.

The photo series **Night Colour** is the result of multiple and contradictory desires. It is the idea of capturing the centre but also giving life to the outside. To highlight and conceal. To erase the visible and apprehend the unsuspected. Telling and not telling.

Dichotomy. Dialectic. Photography here is an infinite field of possibilities and feeds the photographer's tireless quest for meaning. **Sense of the world. Sense of things. Sense of the Other. Sense of time. Sense of History.** These photos are both resistance and provocation. The African continent needs images of itself, **lucid or fantasized** images, but above all **protean images**. Too often, it has only been shown images taken by others, focused on its misfortunes, its exoticism.

These photos, in the heart of the **African light**, state a refusal to be objectified through the prism of exteriorities that assign the peoples of Africa «**to the heart of darkness** ». They transmit the fire of life, of beauty, of hope. Yes, in Africa the lights shine even when the night seems dark.

Born in **Lomé, in Togo**, **Adjaratou Ouedraogo** lives and works in **Ougadougou in Burkina Faso**.

Since 2000, the artist has been developing her practice in **several mediums**, including mainly **painting, drawing and sculpture**. A free woman, she has always preserved her solitude to explore **materials and colours**. In her lively and colourful paintings, we find the **polychromy of African fabrics**, wax, in the image of Klimt, who incorporated into his works all the avant-garde fabrics of the Viennese Secession.

His creative process is singular; it begins with a work of abstraction. The artist elaborates **colours, shapes, balances and spaces**. Emerging from her personal history, the figures of her childhood gradually appear, which she seeks to repair.

She revolutionizes the boundaries between **abstraction and figuration**, invents a lively and poetic writing and explores a new voice in contemporary African art. She wants to change the order of things.



Oswalde Lewat,  
*Namaste II*, 2015  
Congo Night Color  
Fine-art baryta print  
40 x 60 cm



Adjaratou Ouedraogo,  
*Le poids du quotidien*,  
2021  
Acrylic, pigment, pas-  
tel, charcoal on canvas  
80 x 70 cm