



LOUISIMONE  
GUIRANDOU  
GALLERY  
PRESENTS

# Découvertes #7

Press Kit

Table of contents

A word from the Director	.03
The exhibition	.04
The artists	.08
The Gallery	.13
Infos	.15



## A word from the Director

Since 2018, LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery has been committed to amplifying emerging voices that shape the contemporary art scene. With *Découvertes*, the Gallery becomes—each year—a laboratory for the young creation, a space for experimentation and encounters.

For this 7th edition, four artists engage in a subtle conversation. Their works echo one another, weaving a delicate cartography of memory, identity, and transmission.

***Découvertes #7* is an invitation to slow down, to observe, to let yourself be moved. A suspended moment between legacy, doubt, and rebirth.**

We look forward to seeing you.

Gazelle Guirandou





# The exhibition

## The curator

Born in 1999, Nora Diaby is an independent curator and cultural coordinator working between Paris and Abidjan. Trained in international art market, she sharpened her perspective through experiences in galleries, auction houses, and private collections, before fully devoting herself to curating.

At the intersection of visual arts and social sciences, her curatorial practice embraces collaborative approaches, knowledge sharing, and accessible mediation. She favours projects that build bridges between artists, artworks, and audiences, with a strong commitment to dialogue and the circulation of ideas.

For the first time since the inception of *Découvertes*, LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery has entrusted the curatorship to an independent voice. This choice signals a deliberate opening to a new generation of perspectives within the art world. Nora Diaby embodies this spirit : **a young curator whose vision is sensitive, thoughtful, and deeply rooted in the contemporary.**

Her selection of artists for *Découvertes* #7 reflects a desire to spotlight singular yet complementary practices. Each work resonating with memory, identity, and the tensions of the present.

**This edition unfolds as a space of resonance, construction, and attentive listening, true to her vision of curating : bold, generous, and deeply human.**



## Découvertes #7

For this 7th edition of *Découvertes*, **curated by Nora Diaby**, four emerging artists come together around a common thread: memory, identity, and transmission. *Maria Adjovi*, **Jean-Luc Konkobo**, **Lydia Matiegou-Keïta**, and **Capucine Minot** were selected for their singular, deeply embodied artistic worlds – and for the subtle echoes they weave between one another.

Through photography, painting, wood sculpture, or pencil drawing, their works speak of bodies, territories, forgotten or rediscovered gestures. They capture fleeting moments, recompose memories, summon mythical figures or shape intimate narratives. There is no imposed theme here—only a shared pulse: the desire to speak through material, to carry a voice, to root oneself in a present haunted by echoes of the past.

Maria Adjovi treats painting as an extension of interior silence. Her weightless portraits, inspired by photographic scenes, float between haze and light. They evoke faith, doubt, and the intensity of unseen bonds.

Jean-Luc Konkobo's photographic series *Apocalypse*, constructs a world between mythology and science fiction. His hybrid figures, captured in desolate landscapes, embody the tensions of a contemporary Africa—one that questions itself, searches, and reinvents.

With her raw wooden pieces etched using pyrography, Lydia Matiegou-Keïta explores cycles of repetition and buried transmissions. Her delicate “baobabs” form miniature forests – intimate archipelagos where the traces of the material intertwine.

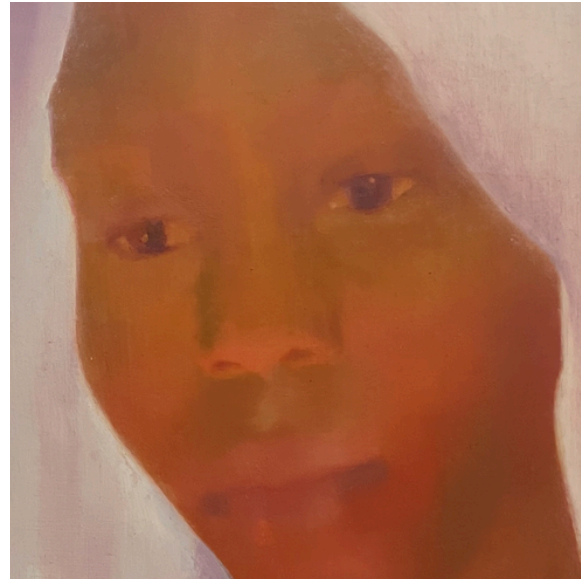
In Capucine Minot's hyperrealistic drawings, each object becomes a fragment of memory: a Baoulé comb, a Dan mask, a handful of palm seeds... Her work invites us to slow down, to look closely, to restore meaning to the simplest things.

Far from academic categories or illustrative approaches, this exhibition is a sensitive journey, a visual polyphony where each voice rises in its full singularity.

Through the eyes of these four artists, *Découvertes #7* once again reaffirms LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery's mission: **to foster new forms of creation in Africa and beyond, and to offer emerging talents a space for dialogue, experimentation, and visibility.**



©Maria Adjovi, "Dans la prière, je te retrouve", Oil on canvas, 33 x 41 cm, 2025.



©Maria Adjovi, "La flamme", Oil on wood, 20 x 15 cm, 2025.



©Lydia Matiegou-Keita, "Forêt de baobabs #1", Pyrography on wood, 9,5 x 35 x 5 cm, 2024.



©Lydia Matiegou-Keita, "Forêt de baobabs #5", Pyrography on wood, 15 x 37 x 22 cm, 2024.



©Jean-Luc Konkobo, "Mami Watta", Archival pigments on FineArt paper, 115 x 75 cm, 2025.



©Jean-Luc Konkobo, "Demi Dieu", Archival pigments on FineArt paper, 115 x 75 cm, 2025.



©Capucine Minot, "Baoulé", Graphite pencil drawing, 100 x 65 cm, 2025.



©Capucine Minot, "Dan", Graphite pencil drawing, 100 x 65 cm, 2025.

# The artists

## Maria Adjovi (Bénin)

*"To me, painting is a gesture of love... It's being in love. It's the absoluteness of what I can have"*  
- Maria Adjovi

Born in 1996 and trained at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Maria Adjovi develops an introspective style of painting, influenced by literature, spirituality and intimate memory. Her paintings are born of a process of visual writing, in which photography, narration, mental sketches and successive erasures are interwoven.

Maria Adjovi paints as one composes a poem or a prayer, between clarity and mist, between silence and remanence. **Her work speaks to us of faith, of the inner quest and of what resists within us despite erasure.**



## Jean-Luc Konkobo (Burkina-Faso / Côte d'Ivoire)

*"Thus, the predicted plagues of a misguidedly modern Ivorian society are sweeping down from the heavens. A society which, by trying so hard to become what it is not, ends up destroying what it is, and what lives with it."*

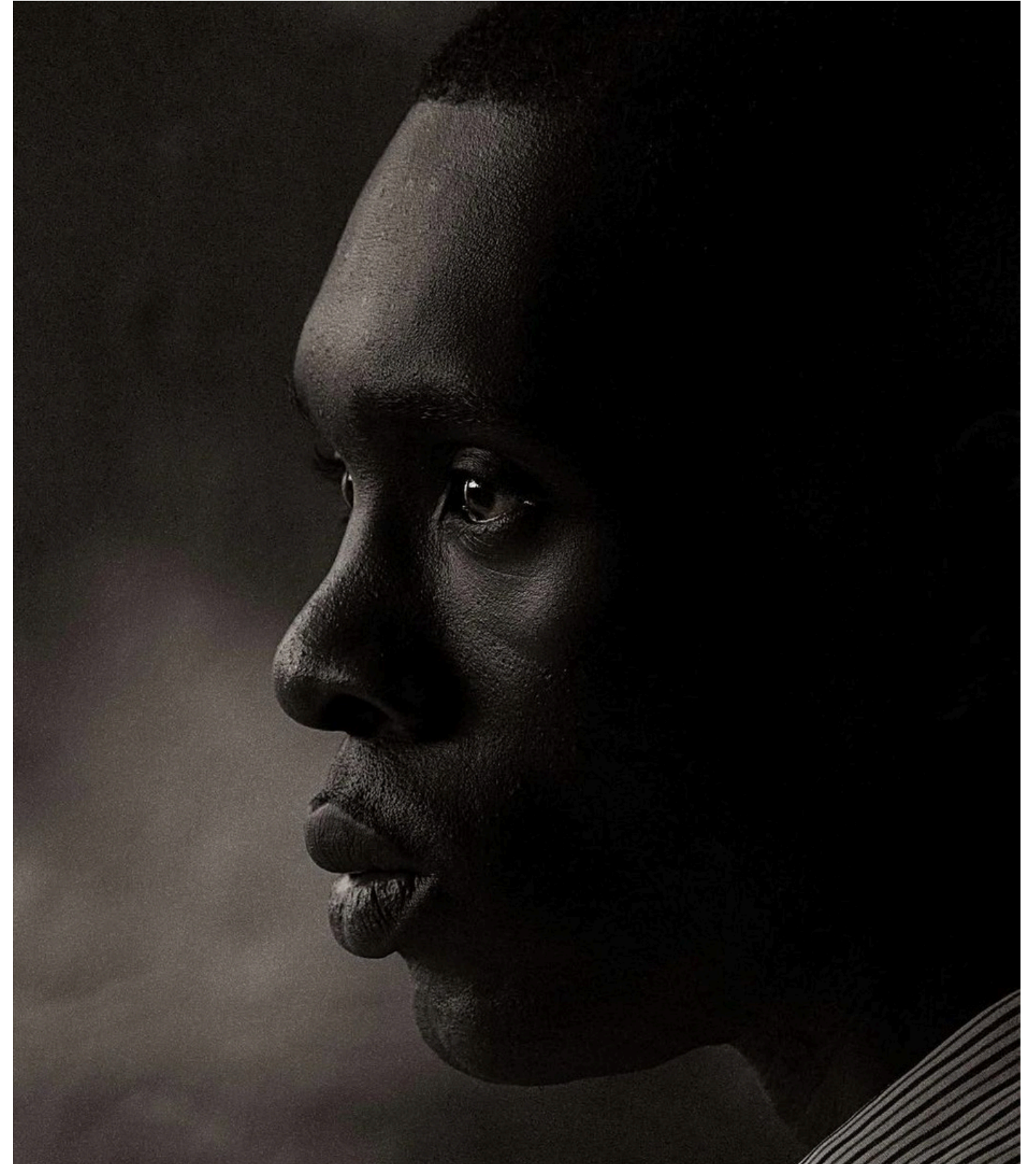
- Jean-Luc Konkobo

Born in Abidjan in 2002, Jean-Luc Konkobo began photography as an autodidact while still an architecture student.

Strongly influenced by his dual heritage in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, he constructs powerful visual narratives informed by history, spirituality, ecology and the human condition.

In his new series *Apocalypse*, presented in *Découvertes #7*, the artist explores contemporary tensions through hybrid figures and dystopian environments.

**His photographic work, both aesthetic and militant, questions the future of a world in crisis.**



## Lydia Matiegou-Keïta (Guinée / France)

*"For me, pyrography and wood are perennial. It's also about engraving deeply. So that it stays. Not just on the surface.... so it doesn't get forgotten."*  
- Lydia Matiegou-Keïta

A multidisciplinary artist born in 1999, Lydia Matiegou-Keïta is currently a student at the Beaux-Arts in Paris.

In her *Baobabs Forest* series, she assembles wood, pyrography and spontaneous gestures to create organic, fragile sculptures on the borderline between form and memory.

Inspired by family stories, nature and cycles of repetition, she questions transmission and transformation.

**In her work, recycled materials become living matter, tactile memory and symbolic presence.**



## Capucine Minot (France)

*"To pause, to take time, to observe these objects that we already know, to explore their beauty, textures and imperfections, to be moved by them, to marvel at them... This is what my work seeks to evoke."*

- Capucine Minot

A self-taught artist born in 1989, Capucine Minot's graphite drawings are marked by finesse and precision.

From Abidjan, where she has been based for the last seven years, she creates hyper-realistic works that question our relationship with time and matter. The result of a contemplative look at everyday objects, her drawings reveal the hidden poetry of shapes, textures and symbols - from cowrie shells to Dan masks and sand dollars.

**Her work is a vibrant tribute to African aesthetics, seen through the eyes of a sensitive and enchanted observer.**



# The Gallery

## LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery

**LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery** is a contemporary art gallery based in Abidjan, founded in **2015** by **Simone and Gazelle Guirandou-Ndiaye**. Conceived as a space for dialogue between generations, geographies, and artistic practices, the Gallery has established itself as one of the most distinctive voices on the Ivorian and African art scenes.

Located in the heart of Cocody, in a space bathed in natural light and recognizable by its façade inspired by woven fabrics, the Gallery offers a bold and thoughtful program, open to experimentation, storytelling, and memory. From solo and group exhibitions to curatorial collaborations and cross-disciplinary projects blending visual art, writing, and performance, each proposal is designed as a sensitive experience rooted in the present.

**The Gallery is committed to supporting strong artistic voices** — both emerging and established — from across Africa and its diaspora. **Through its curatorial choices, aesthetic positioning, and active engagement with the international art network, LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery asserts a singular identity: free, daring, and radically contemporary.**




**The story of the Gallery builds upon a pioneering legacy. Simone Guirandou-Ndiaye is a major figure in the Ivorian art world.** An art historian with a degree in Art History and Theory, she taught at the *École des Beaux-Arts in Abidjan* (INSAAC) before founding *Arts Pluriels* in 1991, one of the first contemporary art galleries in Abidjan. She also initiated the *Salon International des Arts Plastiques d'Abidjan* (SIAPA), and remains an active member of the *Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art* (AICA Côte d'Ivoire) and of the *Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines* (ASCAD).

While this exceptional journey continues to shape the foundation of the Gallery, LouiSimone Guirandou Gallery now embraces a resolutely forward-looking vision, led by Gazelle Guirandou. With a curatorial approach that is both intuitive and emotionally attuned, she builds a program that questions, disrupts, and connects.

**A living, demanding Gallery — in direct dialogue with its time, and deeply rooted in the city of Abidjan.**

# Infos

Infos

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Dates	<p>Opening on wednesday, July 9th 2025 Exhibition from July 10th to August 30th 2025</p>
Access	<p>Free access Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.</p>
Links to our social networks & ARTSY	<div></div>
Download link	<p>On request, to the following address : berenice@louisimoneguirandou.gallery</p>

