



Karim Kal

Nengi Omuku

A CORPS DÉFENDANT

Exhibition
Opening

18 Sept. – 11 Dec. 2021
17 Sept. from 6pm

PRESS RELEASE

À CORPS DÉFENDANT Karim Kal and Nengi Omuku

This exhibition elicits interaction between the work and explorations of two artists who do not know each other, but whose fields of interest can set up mutual echoes. In this case, the colourfully crowded canvases of Nengi Omuku (born in 1987, lives and works in Lagos) responding to the disembodied, quasi-abstract photographic images of Karim Kal (born in 1977, lives and works in Lyon and Algiers). Both question the way bodies strive to get free of normative frameworks, whether social, architectural or political.

Influenced by a certain politics of the body and the complexities attaching to identity and difference, Nengi Omuku observes human beings positioning themselves and adapting to each other in space. Reacting to the recent lockdown restrictions, her latest paintings reflect her interest in the collective and in community life. Painted on *sanyan*, a traditional Nigerian cloth, her colourful portraits, set against dreamlike landscapes, seem to slide from anthropomorphic forms to vividly coloured surfaces, revealing in the process issues of gender, race and cultural heritage.

In its detachment from the lyricism of much of the documentary photography tradition, Karim Kal's work is fuelled more by art history references – abstraction or minimalism, for example. Eminently political and poetic, his approach reflects a form of spatial coercion induced by a supposed structural-social ergonomics. The large areas of flat monochrome Karim Kal favours in his images are part of a deep-rooted critique of the dominant influence of architecture on our habits, in a built environment he considers a cultural and ideological marker. With his nocturnal urban landscapes, he draws the social and political outlines of these environments, as if framing black screens for the projection of countless stories.

Curator: Marc Bembekoff

This exhibition is supported by the ADAGP and the Copie privée.

PRESS VISIT
FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER, 4PM

Press relations: Marie Dernoncourt
marie.dernoncourt@noisylesec.fr

Wednesday – Friday 2pm – 6pm
Saturday 2pm – 7pm
Closed on public holidays

Free admission

LA GALERIE,
CENTRE D'ART F – 93130 Noisy-le-Sec
CONTEMPORAIN lagalerie@noisylesec.fr
DE +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17
NOISY-LE-SEC www.lagalerie-cac-noisylesec.fr

Facebook: La Galerie CAC Noisy-le-Sec
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KARIM KAL

Born in 1977 in Geneva (Switzerland), lives and works between Lyon (France) and Alger (Algeria).

Schools, Studies

- 2003 Diplôme de la formation supérieure, École de photographie de Vevey
- 2001 DNSEP, École Supérieure des Beaux-arts de Grenoble
- 1998 CEAP, École d'Art d'Avignon

Public collections

- _ Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris
- _ Centre Hospitalier de Chambéry
- _ Artothèque de Strasbourg
- _ Centre d'art Madeleine-Lambert, Ville de Vénissieux
- _ Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris
- _ Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole

Solo shows

- 2021 "Kosmos", Centre Psychothérapique de l'Ain, Bourg-en-Bresse
- 2019 "'L'Issue" paysages intérieurs", as part of VEDUTA - 15^e Biennale de Lyon, Médiathèque de Meyzieu
- 2017 "L'Angle", Espace d'art contemporain du pays rochois, La Roche sur Foron
- 2015 "L'arrière-pays", Centre d'art contemporain de Lacoux, Hauteville-Lompnes
- 2014 "Au cœur des ténèbres", La Halle, Pont-en-Royans
- "Résidence Photographique 2013", Centre Hospitalier, Chambéry
- "Souvenirs d'en France", Le Bleu du ciel, Lyon
- 2011 "Blocks", Galerie Sandra Nakicen, Lyon
- 2010 "Les Déclassés", Musée Urbain Tony Garnier, Lyon
- 2009 "Cayenne", Médiathèque du 8^e, Lyon
- 2007 "Social Housing", Musée des cultures Guyanaises, Cayenne
- 2005 "Cayenne", Ecole Nationale des Beaux-arts, Lyon
- 2004 "Auteuil 2004", Centre National de la Photographie, Paris

Group shows (selection)

- 2021 "Rencontre photographique", Galerie Françoise Besson, Lyon
- 2020 "La photographie à l'épreuve de l'abstraction", Frac Normandie, Rouen
- 2019 "Là où les eaux se mêlent", Biennale de Lyon, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon
- "Photographier l'Algérie", Institut du Monde Arabe, Tourcoing
- 2017 "Les Regards du Grand Paris", Les Ateliers Médicis, Clichy-sous-Bois/Montfermeil
- 2015 "Images résistantes", Fondation Bullukian, Lyon
- 2013 "Le Pont", Musée d'Art Contemporain, Marseille
- "Rendez-vous 13", Institut d'art contemporain, Villeurbanne / Rhône-Alpes
- 2011 "J'ai deux amours", Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris
- 2010 FESPA, Musée d'Art Moderne, Alger
- "Nulle part est un endroit", CPIF, Paris
- 2009 "Reflets d'Afrique", Musée d'Art Moderne, Alger
- 2008 International Triennale of Contemporary Arts, Prague
- 2003 "Algérie en création", Centre d'Art Le Rectangle, Lyon
- 2001 "Start", Galerie des Beaux-arts de Grenoble

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NENGI OMKU

Born in 1987 in Nigeria, lives and works in Lagos (Nigeria).

Schools, Studies

- 2012 MA, Slade School of Art, University College London
- 2010 BA, Slade School of Art, University College London

Prizes

- 2012 Prankerd Jones Memorial Prize
University College London
- 2011 Nancy Balfour MA Scholarship
University College London
- 2003 Winner-British Council CHOGM art competition
Awarded by Queen Elisabeth II

Solo shows

- 2021 (Upcoming), Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin
- 2020 "Gathering", Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London
- 2017 "Stages of Collapse", September Gray, Atlanta
- 2016 "A State of Mind", The Armory Show, New York
- 2015 "A State of Mind", Omenka Gallery, Lagos
- 2011 "To Figure an Encounter", Open The Gate, London

Group shows (selection)

- 2021 "Dancing in Dark Times", Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London
- 2020 "All the Days and Nights", Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery (Wandsworth), London
"Untitled Art San Francisco", with Kristin Hjellegjerde, San Francisco
- 2019 "1-54", with Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London
- 2018 "Hospital Rooms", Griffin Gallery, London
- 2018 "At work", Arthouse, Lagos
- 2017 "ARTX", Lagos
"Commotion", 1:54, London
- 2015 "Mapping Histories, Constructing Realities", ART15, London
- 2014 "The Next 50 Years", Omenka Gallery, Lagos
- 2012 Jerwood Drawing Prize Exhibition, Jerwood Gallery, London
- 2011 "Deep Cuts Last Measures", Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London
"Surplus to Requirements", Slade Research Center, London
- 2010 "The Future of Contemporary Art", Lloyd Gill Gallery, Bristol
Group Exhibition, Swiss Cottage Gallery, London
- 2009 Group Exhibition, Camden Art Gallery, London

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AROUND THE EXHIBITION

Saturday 25 September 2021, 3pm:

Guided tour of the exhibition with Nengi Omuku

Sunday 10 October 2021, 2pm – 6pm:

Exceptional opening of the exhibition

3pm: Guided tour of the exhibition with Marc Bembekoff, curator and La Galerie director

Saturday 20 November 2021, 5pm:

Guided tour of the exhibition with Karim Kal

Saturday 4 December 2021:

Guided tour of the exhibition

Part of a TaxiTram excursion

TRAM, réseau art contemporain

Paris/Île-de-France

+33 (0)1 53 34 64 43 / taxitram@tram-idf.fr

Saturday 11 December 2021, 4:30pm:

Panel discussion with Karim Kal, Pascal Beausse (art critic, Head of photographic collection at Centre national des arts plastiques) and Isabelle Renard (Head of collections and exhibitions at Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration)

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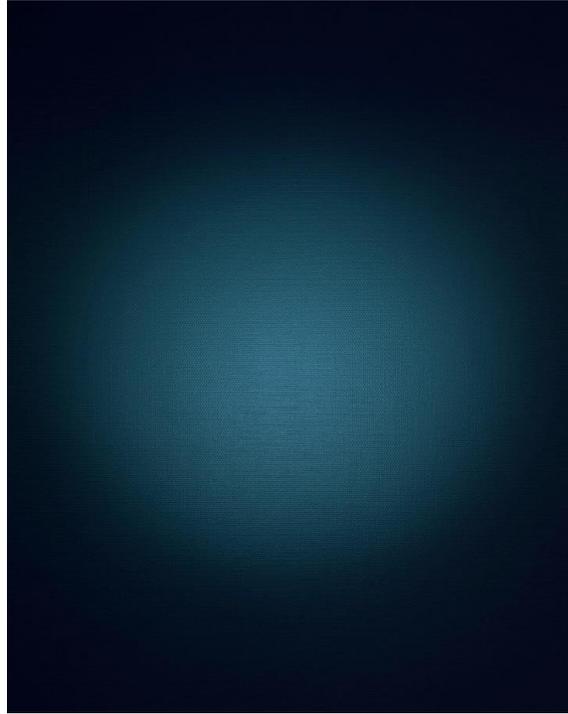
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AVAILABLE VISUALS

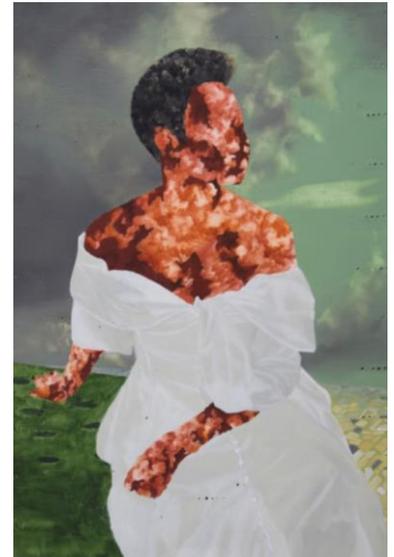


Karim Kal, *Sol 8*, Noisy-le-Sec, 2021
Production La Galerie, centre d'art
contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec
Courtesy of the artist

Karim Kal, *Kosmos 51*, Centre
Psychothérapique de l'Ain,
Bourg-en-Bresse, 2020
Courtesy of the artist

Nengi Omuku, *Ring A' Roses*, 2021
Production La Galerie, centre d'art
contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec
Courtesy of the artist and Kristin
Hjellegjerde Gallery

Nengi Omuku, *Viva*, 2019
Courtesy of the artist and Kristin
Hjellegjerde collection



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LA GALERIE, CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE NOISY-LE-SEC

La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec has been granted of national interest.

Launched in 1999 by the City of Noisy-le-Sec, the centre for contemporary art is backed by the Île-de-France Region Cultural Affairs Office (DRAC) – Ministry of Culture, the Seine-Saint-Denis département and the Île-de-France Region.

It is also part of d.c.a – association de développement des centres d'art contemporain, tram – réseau art contemporain Paris/Île-de-France, Arts en résidence – réseau national et BLA ! Association des professionnel-le-s de la médiation en art contemporain.

The La Galerie programme reflects the diversity of today's art in terms of a range of aesthetic and social issues, via the work of emergent or established artists with local, national or international reputations. The programme revolves around two main themes: first of all *genius loci*, the spirit of place defined by the centre's distinctive architectural, social and historical associations; and secondly, the word galerie ("gallery"), with its different meanings and implications.

The exhibitions

Gallery: A room or building for the display of works of art

For its four annual exhibitions, the programme systematically starts out from specific ideas or pretexts, either literary, architectural or musical. The avenues explored by these solo and collective exhibitions complement each other, while opening up fresh perspectives and lines of enquiry.

Receptivity and commitment to the local

Gallery: A long room or passage, partly open at the side; a balcony providing space for an audience

Ongoing work on the Grand Paris project is bringing radical change to Noisy-le-Sec and the intermunicipal Est Ensemble locality. La Galerie is participating by going out to make contact with potential visitors and engage in collaborative ventures with publics otherwise lacking the chance to develop a taste for today's visual arts. The art centre functions as an incubator for ideas, an agora where knowledge can be shared in close connection with the region's new visual arts organisations, notably Micro-Folie Noisy-le-Sec and Komunuma in nearby Romainville.

The cultural programme

Gallery: A group of spectators

The fundamental principles of an art centre: to guide and assist the emergence of challenging projects and their production and dissemination, while constantly mindful of the need for accessibility for the public at large. In line with these requirements, La Galerie's cultural programme is aimed at establishing a dynamic of "social involvement", of interplay with Noisy-le-Sec residents that will let them "blow the spectators away". This project stresses a day-to-day forging of links between the aesthetic and the social spheres, between an exacting creativity receptive to the world and its challenges, and a cultural transmission adapted to each individual. With respect to contemporary art – and especially its artists – modes of seeing, encountering and living together are imaginable, which it seems important to make the most of. The urban and social context offered by La Galerie is an ideal tool for contributing to dialogue between artists, local stakeholders and the various publics.

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ACCESS

Getting here
By tube

From Paris:

- RER E, stop "Noisy-le-Sec"

(10' à 15', from Gare du Nord or from Hausmann Saint-Lazare)

- Line 5, stop "Bobigny-Pantin-Raymond Queneau" + Bus 145, direction, "Cimetière de Villemomble", stop "Jeanne d'Arc"

- Line 11, stop "Porte des Lilas" + Bus 105, direction "Pavillon-sous-Bois", stop "Jeanne d'Arc"

From Asnières, Bobigny, Drancy, Gennevilliers, La Courneuve:

Tram T1, stop "Noisy-le-Sec RER"

By car

From Porte des Lilas, direction Romainville

From Porte de Bagnolet, motorway A3 exit Villemomble, direction Rosny centre commercial

HEALTH PASS INFORMATION

Following the government announcements, La Galerie, centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec is accessible with a health pass. More details on <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/pass-sanitaire>.

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