

Ilídio Candja Candja

Mozambican, b. 1976

"Ilídio Candja Candja's painting isn't about creating a critical position. Instead, it is an artistic, aesthetic and cultural practice analogous to those who are guided by intuition, starting from the premise that art invents ways of inhabiting the world. The artist invites us to inhabit his world, sharing with us things that he is sensitive to, including a remix of thoughts and ideas of the past, present and future."

BIOGRAPHY

The artistic trajectory of Ilídio Candja Candja is marked by a progressive evolution, navigating the continuum of revisiting and recontextualizing both individual and collective memory. His practice places a critical eye on past, present, and future, with particular emphasis on positing Afro-centric utopias that chart a path towards a speculative future. Candja Candja's work represents a wide-ranging endeavor to influence current and future narratives by interrogating episodes from a colonial history that, while not experienced firsthand by the artist, is nevertheless inextricably woven into a shared historical tapestry.

Drawing from the wellspring of Abstract Expressionism and Action Painting, Mozambican-born Candja Candja situates his work within a broader, playful, and dynamic artistic lineage. His paintings pulse with a spontaneous vitality, their vibrancy reflected not only in the artist's assertive brushwork but also in his palette, personal symbols, and incorporation of African textile prints. Thus, Candja Candja's canvases become a ground for both introspection and the vivid exploration of cultural identity.

Candja Candja's painted collages constitute a compelling amalgamation of cultural introspection and personal semiotics. Rising from abstracted backdrops, enigmatic figures coalesce to form a mythology of the artist's own design, resulting in compositions teeming with spectral apparitions, demonic entities, arachnids, and skeletal forms. This raw expressiveness, evocative of Action Painting, counterbalances a delicate layering of geometrical and mathematical objects, photographs, and traditional African art and textile motifs.

This incongruity fosters an enigmatic tension within the work, compelling viewers to probe beneath the surface. The outcome of Candja Candja's oeuvre is a meditation on African cultural identities juxtaposed against an introspective exploration of the artist's restless spirit, his work straddling the boundary between the personal and the communal, the tangible and the conceptual, the historical and the futuristic.

Candja Candja was born in 1976 in Maputo, Mozambique. He studied at the National School of Visual Arts of Maputo. Following a number of exhibitions in his home country, Ilídio Candja Candja relocated to Porto, Portugal to develop his artistic practice.

EDUCATION

Visual Art School of Maputo, MZ.

SOLO EXHIBITION

2023 Black Silence in the Form of Chocolate, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA, USA.

2022 The magnificence, light and fusion, Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.

2021 "Octopus & Myopia", Galerias Municipais, Lisbon, Portugal

2019 Memory & Fantasy Part #2 Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.

Legacy, Galerie Le Sud, Zurich, CH

2018 Nothing is Lost, Everything Becomes... Cosmos Part #2, Galerie Frederic Storme, Lille,FR.

Freedom, Out of Africa Contemporary Gallery, Barcelona, ES.

Memory And Fantasy, Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.

2017 "No Borders: Another Page", Bill Lowe Gallery, USA

2016 "Xiluvha", Galerie Frederic Storme, Lille, FR.

"African spirits, rhythm and symbolism, Gallery Rastro, Figueira da Foz, PT.

2015 The game is to survive part#2, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfotein, SA.

Mozambique: The Dialogue Continues, GAFRA Gallery of African Art, UK.

Mahala blood/sacrifice for nothing, Plataforma Revólver, Lisbon, PT.

2014 Archive, Galerie Lumieres de Afrique, Brussels, BE.

2013 Invictus, Unix Gallery, New York City, USA.

2012 Processes, constantly evolving...paints and paintings, Bozart Gallery, Lisbon, PT.

The game is to survive, Galerie Gree-t-room, Hamburg, DE. (catalog.) Ya, snene of life, Galerie Rammlmair, Hannover, DE.

2011 Black people reincarnation, Aparte Gallery, Oporto, PT. (catalog.)

2010 Metamorphoses, Ikon gallery, Braga, PT.

African Remix, 9art gallery, Lisbon, PT.

2009 New paintings, Vitória gallery, Bragança, PT.

2008 Trips na imaginary World, Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT.

2007 Fragments of the past, Silva Guerreiro art gallery, Almancil, PT. (catalog.)

Indian dreams, House Museum Bissaya Barreto, Coimbra, PT. (catalog.)

Maze, Art Space João Pedro Rodrigues, Oporto, PT.

2006 Tariff between zoology and lyricism, Belo Belo gallery, Braga, PT.

- 2005** Vertical thinking, Camões Maputo Institute, MZ. A lookat my land wood flavor and zinc, Municipal Auditorium of vila de Conde, PT.
- 2004** Colorfull challenges-dreams, Belo Belo Gallery, Braga, PT.
- 2003** Samples 15 days, Fortress of Maputo, MZ.
- 2002** A gesture a smaile, Meldarte, Maputo, MZ.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Bill Lowe Gallery, Southampton, NY
- 2020** Winter exhibition, Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.
Summer exhibition, Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.
African Art, Museum Miramar, Sitges-Barcelona, ES. (curation by Sorella Acosta).
Arco Lisboa, Galeria Movart, Lisbon, PT.
- 2019** Summer group show, Out of Africa Gallery, Barcelona, ES.
Blomm:Calor, caress and seduction, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, USA.
JustLX Art fair, Galeria São Mamede, Lisbon, PT.
Street Art exhibition, Modern Art Museum, Cartagema, Murcia, ES.
JustmadX Art Fair with Galeria São Mamede , Madrid, ES.
Winter group show, Out of Africa Gallery, Sitges-Barcelona, ES.
- 2018** Nature redeems us, Galeria Garcia de Diego, La Palma, ES.
- 2017** Action time, Cordeiros Gallery, Oporto, PT
From A to C, This being B, Gallery & Warehouse Space, Manchester, UK.
- 2013** Crossing the divide, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA. 3^oth birthday
Aparte Gallery, Oporto, PT.
- 2012** In particular, 9art Gallery, Lisbon, PT.
- 2011** Pessoa(s), Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT.
- 2010** 9art, Catholic University of Oporto,PT. Free enter, 9art Gallery, Lisbon,PT.
New with Julio Resende, Spontaneous color Gallery, Oporto,PT.(Catalog.)
Mitos & ritos, Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT.
35 anos da Independência de Moçambique, Galeria do Casino Estoril, PT.
- 2009** Myth & rites, Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT. Roots, 9art Gallery, Lisbon, PT.
Colectiva, Saomamede Gallery, Lisbon, PT. Ethic Urban, Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT.
Project T6+1, Mariana Jones Gallery, Oporto,PT.
- 2008** 3 artis 3 continent the same language , Municipal Gallery, Barcelos, PT. Myths &rites, Ikon Gallery, Braga, PT.
7^o birthday, Mouraria Gallery, Funchal, PT. Moçambique-Figueira da Foz, Casino Figueira da Foz , PT. (catalog.)

JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

Light art, Convent of San Francisco, Coimbra, PT. 2007 6° birthday, Mouraria
Gallery, Funchal, PT.

- 2006 Bidimensionality, BCI-Fomento Library, Maputo, MZ.(catalog.)
Small format, Mouraria Gallery, Funchal, PT.
- 2005 Bienal TDM, National Art Museum , Maputo, PT.(catalog)