

# THE GALLERY OF EVERYTHING



## **Press Release: I-54 Contemporary African Art Fair**

I-54 [E4], Somerset House, London

10th October to 13th October 2024

The Gallery of **Everything** returns to I-54 Contemporary African Art Fair with a presentation to push the limits of African diaspora imagery: from the futurism of Mamadou Cissé's fictional cities and Abu Bakarr Mansaray's impossible blueprints, to the personal mappings of Johnson Weree's imagined portraiture and Emmanuel Botalatala's omniscient assemblages.

**Emmanuel Botalatala** (b 1951, Democratic Republic of the Congo) is a former teacher and bank clerk, whose arresting assemblages and three-dimensional reliefs speak of the complex politics and cultural life within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Working predominantly with recycled materials, the artist considers his role akin to that of an educator and activist. He is building a cultural centre in Kinshasa to house his lifetime oeuvre.

**Mamadou Cissé** (b 1962, Senegal) is a fictional city planner, whose real/unreal urbanscapes define a densely populated utopia reminiscent of the today. This one-time night watchman's ambitious illustrations are not only spiritual investigations, but solutions for better living. Cissé's work has been exhibited widely across Europe and is held in numerous private and public collections. In 2023, Cissé collaborated with Hermès on four futuristic designs for their iconic silk scarf.

**Abu Bakarr Mansaray** (b 1970, Sierra Leone) is an imagemaker, inventor and Afrofuturist, and a pioneer of contemporary African art. His fantastical text-heavy diagrams have been exhibited worldwide, including Simon Njami's *Africa Remix* (2004) and Okwui Enwezor's *All the World's Futures* (2015), and feature in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) and Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

**Johnson Weree** (b 1970, Liberia) has no fixed address or studio. Occupied by his practice from morning to night, Weree's figures, vehicles, vessels and homesteads speak of an interior life lived in vivid colour. His works have been exhibited at the Sven-Harrys Konstmuseum (Stockholm, 2012), Kunsthal Rotterdam (Rotterdam, 2016) and MONA (Tasmania, 2017/18). Weree appears in numerous publications including *African Artists from 1882 to Now* (Phaidon, 2021).

**Seyni Awa Camara** (b 1945, Senegal) is an octogenarian sculptor, whose mystical healing figures speak of motherhood, magic and the forest spirits who inform her daily practice. Her inclusion in the *Les Magiciens de la Terre* at Centre Pompidou (Paris) in 1989 led to exhibitions worldwide, most recently *Minds Rising Spirits Tuning* at the 13th Gwangju Biennale (2021). Her terracotta oeuvre features in numerous museum collections, including Tate Modern (London) and Centre Pompidou (Paris).

For more information, contact Sakhshi Mahajan: [ge@gallevery.com](mailto:ge@gallevery.com) or +44 20 7486 8909