

Barthélémy Togu

Barthélémy Togu was born in Mbalmayo in Cameroon in 1967. Between 1989 and 1993 he studied art, first at the École des Beaux-Arts in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) then in Grenoble (France), and finally at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf (Allemagne) where notable encounters included Tony Cragg, Jannis Kounellis and Konrad Klapheck. Although he stayed in Europe and became a French citizen, Barthélémy Togu remained profoundly attached to Cameroon, and he regularly returns to the country. That is where he created Bandjoun Station, a foundation inaugurated in 2013 with the aim of hosting artists and academics from around the world in residential workshops, to develop propositions in harmony with the local population. This is how he talks about it: "My idea with Bandjoun Station was to combine classic African art and global contemporary art, to exhibit these works in the same space, without ghettoization or a hierarchy of values. That way Bandjoun Station will become a crossroads, a point of contact between classic and contemporary art." This "laboratory without borders" exhibits a permanent collection of contemporary works gathered by the artist thanks to exchanges with his peers and collectors. He also develops agricultural projects there, in a spirit of healthy and sustainable development.

Since the end of the 1990s, his works have been noticed by many critics and curators who have invited him to participate in major events: Hans Ulrich Obrist in 1999 for *Migrateurs* (ARC, Paris), Jean-Hubert Martin in 2000 for *Partage d'exotismes* (Biennale de Lyon), Pierre Restany in 2001 for *Political Ecology* (White Box, New York), and Okwui Enwezor in 2015 for the Venice Biennial, *All the World's Future*. In 2016, Barthélémy Togu was one of four artists nominated for The Marcel Duchamp Prize and for this occasion he presented the installation *Vaincre le virus!* at the Centre Pompidou. In 2018, a personal exhibition *The Beauty of our Voice*, was held at the Parrish Art Museum in New York. Barthélémy Togu presents in 2021 a personal exhibition at the Quai Branly, *Désir d'Humanité*. In 2022 he presented at the Biennale of Sydney a 10 meters long ink on canvas entitled *The Generous Water Giant*. That same year, Togu was invited to produce a large scale installation under the Louvre pyramid.

The works of Barthélémy Togu are present in many collections including those of the Musée National d'Art Moderne (Paris), the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Paris), the Museum of Modern Art (New-York), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Miami), the Perez Art Museum (Miami), the Chazen Museum of Art (University of Wisconsin-Madison), the Parrish Art Museum (Water Mill, USA), the Fondation Louis Vuitton (Paris), the Collection Agnès b (Paris), and Bandjoun Station (Bandjoun). A recent commission was placed with the artist for four over-doors at the Rodin Museum (Paris).

Solo shows (selection)

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2024

Stronger Together, Musée Mohammed VI d'art moderne et contemporain, Rabat, Morocco

2023

Expression(s) décoloniale(s) #3, Château des ducs de Bretagne – Musée d'histoire de Nantes, Nantes, France

Habiter la terre, HAB Galerie, Nantes, France

Water is a Right, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2022

Faith can move Mountains, Villa Merkel, Esslingen am Neckar, Germany

Barthélémy Togo, Musée Picasso, Barcelona, Spain

Urban Requiem, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, United States

2021

Barthélémy Togo, Galerie de Sèvres, Paris, France

Désir d'humanité, Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France

Kingdom of Faith, Centre d'art La Malmaison, Cannes, France

Partages, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2020

If Not Now, When ?, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2019

Of Blood and Water, Le Parvis, centre d'art contemporain, Ibos, France

Terra Incognita, Archives Nationales, Paris, France

Wouri, Donga, Sanaga..., Lelong Editions, Paris, France

A Road to Exile, Museo of Mille Miglia, Brescia, Italy

Urban Requiem, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, United States

2018

Homo Planta, Fondation Blachère, Apt, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Secret Evidence, Robert Grunenberg, Berlin, Germany

Heimatlos, Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

The Beauty of Our Voice, Parrish Art Museum, New York, United States

2017

Fragile Body, HdM Gallery, Beijing, China

Strange fruit, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

2016

Déluge, Le Carré Sainte-Anne, Montpellier, France

2015

Harvest in Heaven, Château Lynch-Bages, Pauillac, France

2014

Barthélémy Togu, L'aspirateur, Narbonne, France

2013

Dérive(s), Chapelle Sainte Anne, Arles, France

Hidden Faces, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Print Shock, Musée du dessin et de l'estampe originale de Gravelines, Gravelines, France

Talking To The Moon, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Saint-Etienne, France

2012

Criminal Tribunal, MAM Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria

2011

What's your name, Musée de la Fédération française de Tennis, Paris, France

2010

The Lost Dogs' Orchestra, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2009

... et la parole fut, Frac Réunion, Saint Denis, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2006

La Magie du Souffle, FRAC - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Marseille, France

Jet Lag in Hong Kong, Art Statements Gallery, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Barthélémy Togu, Art Statements Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2005

The Sick Opera, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

2003

Pure and Clean, INOVA - Institute of Visual Arts, Milwaukee, United States

2002

Épidémies, Goethe Institut, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Emergency Exit, Le Lieu Unique, Nantes, France

2000

Barthélémy Togu, La Criée - Centre d'Art Contemporain, Rennes, France

Group shows (selection)

2024

Future is Now, Le Parvis Centre d'art Contemporain, Ibois, France

Témoins d'humanité, Abbaye d'Auberive, Auberive, France

2023

Aux temps du sida, MAMCS, Strasbourg, France

Insistent Presence, Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, United States

2022

Fragilités, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, Czech Republic

Dancing nanas, Connecteur, Biarritz, France

Drôle de bestiaire, Galerie Albert Bourgeois, Fougères, France

Les choses. Une histoire de la nature morte, Le Louvre, Paris, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Toucher Terre, l'Art Céramique, Fondation Villa Datris, Paris, France

Cartographie des possibles, Nosbaum Reding, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

2021

This is Not Africa - Unlearn What You Have Learned, ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark

Blooming, Domaine Pommery, Reims, France

2020

Couleurs du monde, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France

Global(e) Resistance, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Voyage Voyages, Mucem, Marseille, France

2019

Retours à l'Afrique, Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

Intriguing Uncertainties, The Parkview Museum Beijing, Beijing, China

Jaume Plensa - Kiki Smith - Barthélémy Togu, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France

Liberté, égalité, diversité, Abbaye de Daoulas, Daoulas, France

Une bouteille à la mer, Aquarium de Paris, Paris, France

Prête-moi ton rêve, Maison de l'Union, Casablanca, Morocco

Prête-moi ton rêve, Musée des Civilisations Noires, Dakar, Senegal

Disturbing Narratives, The Parkview Museum, Singapore, Singapore

Meridians, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, United States

Perilous Bodies, Ford Foundation, New York, United States

Time for Change: Art and Social Unrest in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, El Espacio 23, Miami, United States

2018

Newwwar. It's Just a Game?, Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

Persona Grata, Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne MAC/Val, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Persona Grata, Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France

Pour un musée en Palestine "Nous aussi nous aimons l'art..", la collection du Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Palestine, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France

AFRIQUES. Artistes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, Fondation Clément, Le François, Martinique

Intriguing Uncertainties, The Parkview Museum, Singapore, Singapore

Exil, Red Cross Museum, Geneva, Switzerland

Unlimited, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Fragile State, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraine

2017

THE MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE at Hangar H18, Centre d'art Hangar H18, Brussels, Belgium

Art / Africa, Le nouvel atelier, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France

Prix Marcel Duchamp, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Essentiel Paysage, Musée d'Art Contemporain Africain Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco

2016

Every Body, LAAC, Dunkerque, France

Frontières, Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France

Intrigantes incertitudes, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Saint-Etienne, France

Rêver d'un Autre Monde, Centre d'Histoire de la Résistance et de la Déportation, Lyon, France

Voices of 20 Contemporary Artists at Idem Paris, Tokyo Station Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

l'Expo Talan, Tunis, Tunisia

2015

Migraciones en el Arte Contemporáneo, MUNTREF - Museo de la Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2014

Transferts - Dernières Acquisitions du Frac, Musée d'Art-Histoire-Archéologie, Evreux, France

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2013

Speaking Artists, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Republic of Korea

2012

J'ai deux amours, Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France

My Paris, Collection Antoine de Galbert, Me Collectors Room Berlin, Berlin, Germany

We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom

2011

Iles jamais trouvées, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Saint-Etienne, France

Babylon. Stadtgesichter, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Landschaften/Landscapes, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Pars Pro Toto, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Play Pink, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

2010

Isole mai trovate – Islands never found, Greek State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece

Isole mai trovate / Islands never found, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy

2007

De Schwitters à Togo, un choix, Cabinet d'art graphique, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Africa Remix - Contemporary art of a continent, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Africa Remix, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

2006

Notre histoire - une scène artistique française émergente, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

African Art Now - Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, National Museum of African Art - Smithsonian Institute, Washington, United States

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2005

Africa Remix - Contemporary art of a continent, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, United States

2004

Settlements : s'approprier un lieu, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Saint-Étienne, France

Outlook, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece

2002

Transfer, Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden

2001

Tutto Normale, Villa Médicis - Académie de France à Rome, Rome, Italy

Biennials (selection)

2023

Biennale de Suzhou, Biennale de Suzhou, Suzhou, China

2022

Biennale de Sydney, Sydney, Australia

2018

Possibilities for a Non-Alienated Life, Biennale de Kochi, Kochi, India

Echigo tsumari art triennale 2018, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial Secretariat, Niigata, Japan

Beyond Fahrenheit 451. A Book Is My Hope, Biennale de Dakar / Dak'Art Off, Dakar, Senegal

2016

Dak'art 2016, Dak'Art - Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal

2015

Biennale di Venezia - 56th International Art Exhibition, Venice, Italy

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

2013

Biennale Bénin 2012, Siège administratif de la Biennale Regard Bénin, Cotonou, Benin

2012

11th Havana Biennial, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba

La Triennale 2012 - Intense Proximity, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

2010

17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty and the Distance, Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

2002

Busan Biennale 2002, Busan City Hall, Busan, Republic of Korea

2001

1st Tirana Biennale 2001, National Gallery of Arts Tirana, Tirana, Albania

2000

5e Biennale de Lyon - Partage d'exotismes, La Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France

4ème Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dak'Art - Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal

1998

Dak'Art 1998, Dak'Art - Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal

Public collections (selection)

Salim Currimjee Collection

Fondation Sindika Dokolo, Luanda, Angola

Jozami Collection, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Queensland Art Gallery, South Brisbane, Australia

Collection Myriam et Amaury de Solages, Maison Particulière, Brussels, Belgium

Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

The Frank Yang Art & Education Foundation, Shenzhen, China

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France

Collection agnès b., Paris, France

Collection Société Générale, Paris, France

Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la création, Paris, France

Fonds national d'art contemporain, Paris, France

FRAC - Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, France

Frac Corse, Corte, France

FRAC Réunion, Saint-Leu, Réunion, France

La Maison Rouge, Paris, France

MAC/VAL, Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne, Vitry, France

Musée d'Art Contemporain Lyon, Lyon, France

Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Strasbourg, France

Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Etienne Métropole, Saint-Etienne, France

Musée du Tennis, FFT, Paris, France

Musée National d'Art Moderne - MNAM, Paris, France

Musée national d'art moderne de la Palestine, Paris, France

Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France

Burger Collection, Berlin, Germany

Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens, Greece

The Ekard Collection, Netherlands

Secondary School, Stella Matutina, Shyorongi, Rwanda

New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

Contemporary African Art Collection (CAAC), Jean Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland

Alain Nkontchou Collection, London, United Kingdom

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris – New York

Deutsche Bank AG, London, United Kingdom

Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom

Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, United States

Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami (MOCA), Miami, United States

Museum of Modern Art, New York, United States

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, United States

Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York, United States

Perez Art Museum, Miami, United States

Studio Museum, Harlem, United States