



Arébénor Basséne

—
*May I be born,
softly,
sowing*
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24.05 - 22.07.2023
Opening on 23.05.2023
6-9 PM
At L'Atlas, Paris

SELEBE
YOON

ATLAS

Arébénor Basséne

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At L'Atlas, Paris

Selebe Yoon is pleased to present "Que je naisse tout doux, semant" (May I be born softly, sowing), a solo exhibition by Senegalese artist Arébénor Basséne (b.1974, Senegal) at L'Atlas in Paris, an exhibition venue supported by the Emerige Group.

Imbued with the stories of ancient civilizations and West African mythologies, it is the stuttering of history that fascinates the artist. He is passionate about the first African migrations to Andalusia, as well as the links developed by Cheikh Anta Diop between the Nile Valley and West Africa. Faced with the plural narratives of history, its falsifications and its evidence, there is a tension between "historical truth or myth" that generates a pictorial imagination for the artist.

At L'Atlas, the works of Arébénor Basséne reveal human forms in motion that are exhausted in landscapes of eroded textures. Hardly perceptible, bodies seem to undergo a metamorphosis and dissolve into matter with a visible anchorage in the ground. The figures resonate as evocations of traditional dances such as those found in Casamance among the Diola, the artist's region of origin, where the dancers frantically strike the ground with their feet. At the same time, these paintings echo the physical and mystical dimensions of wrestling in Senegal. The ocre tones mark the movement of the earth, interspersed with bright colors that belong to an imaginary and quasi-fantasy world. As fragments of bodies, they are not the sole protagonists: the canvas is punctuated with symbols, cartographic motifs, aquatic or vegetal elements. He evokes in his works the invisible forces summoned during ancestral practices with a particular attention to the respect of the spirits of nature.

The artist uses techniques and materials specific to West African craftsmanship: the canvases are subjected to the batik technique, soaked in wax and natural pigments. On the surface of the canvas, he uses various materials such as gum arabic (the raw material that made the West African coast attractive to foreign sailors), the ink used for Koranic tablets, fouden (henna) and natural pigments from the Dakar region.

For his works on paper, Arébénor Basséne superimposes layers of materials - natural pigments, wax, ink and sawdust. Inspired by ancient writings, children's scribbles, archaeological finds or rock engravings, his works are strewn with abstract forms and figurative fragments. Textural cracks and folds evoke raw visions of material such as rock strata, geological faults, earth and sand - visions that evoke landscapes of her continent. As our gaze moves from one unit to the next, microscopic visions of earth materials transform into macro perspectives of geographic areas, relief representations, deltas, desert dunes, and river patterns. Each piece carries the illusion of the erosion of history, swept away by time.

ARÉBÉNOR BASSÉNE



BIOGRAPHY

From Southern Senegal in Casamance, Arébénor Basséne (b.1974, Dakar) holds a master's degree in African civilizations and literature (2012-2013), a double degree in English and African civilizations (2010-2011) from Cheikh Anta Diop University and is a graduate of the National School of Arts of Senegal (1997-2001).

His work has been exhibited on the international scene namely at 1-54 in London with Selebe Yoon Gallery. In 2023, he was nominated for the Norval Foundation Prize in Cape Town, SA and participated in the finalist exhibition. In 2022, he was selected in the official selection of the Dakar Biennale to represent the Senegalese Pavilion at the Museum of Black Civilizations, curated by Massamba Mbaye, for which he won the City Council Prize. Part of the official Dakar Biennale curated by Simon Njami in 2016, he won the UEMOA prize

He also participated in several exhibitions namely «Sur le fil : broderies et tissage » organized by Chanel House le 19M Théodore

Monod (IFAN) and in Paris (2023); "Mots de Neige, Histoires en Sable" at Selebe Yoon Gallery, Dakar (2021); "Junction" exhibition at the IFAN Museum (2017); "Regards sur cours" at the Gorée Institute (2017); at the Atiss Gallery in Dakar (2017); at the 9th National Salon of Plastic Artists (2011) where he received the Ministry of Culture's prize; at the first Cheikh Anta Diop memorial at the French Cultural Centre (1995) amongst others.

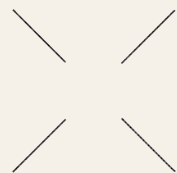
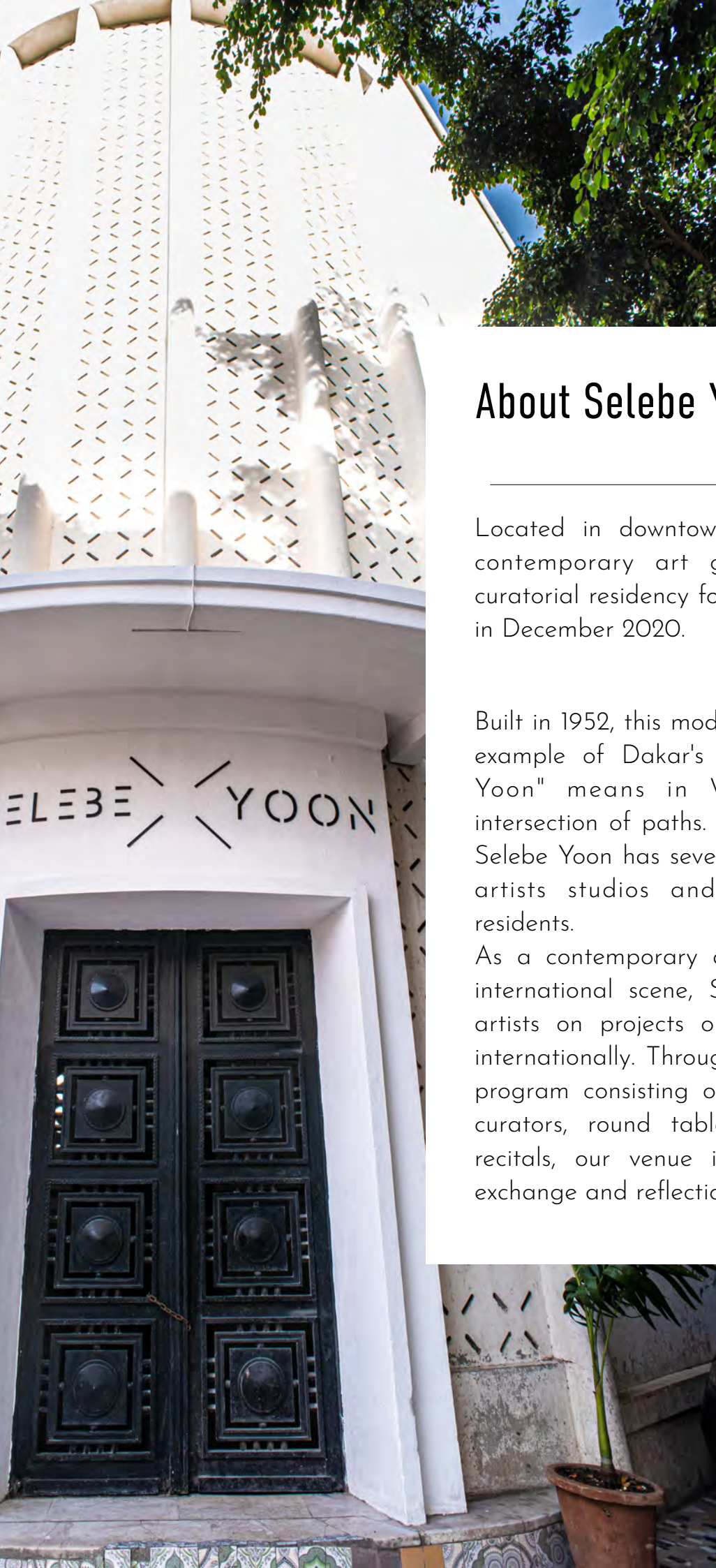
His work has also been featured in group exhibitions in the OFF of the Havana Biennale, Cuba (2019); the Alliance Française in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, (2017), at the Galerie Gery in Namur, Belgium (2016), "Le Sénégal à Paris" presented by la Maison de l'Afrique at the rotonde de Montparnasse (2011).

He is awarded a residency at Montresso Foundation in Morocco in 2023.



About L'Atlas, Paris

Supported by the Emerige Group, L'Atlas is an exhibition space in the heart of Morland Mixité Capitale, which proposes to invite foreign galleries, foundations, or institutions to present one or more artists from the international contemporary scene. In partnership with these major stakeholders in the world of contemporary art abroad, L'Atlas proposes an original and innovative model: a joint curation of the 5 annual exhibitions by Emerige's art projects Director Paula Aisemberg and the invited partner. These exhibitions come with a cultural programme (conferences, meetings, readings, screenings, or concerts) and educational visits or workshops aimed at a wide audience. L'Atlas allows its partners to set up a branch in the heart of the Parisian capital for two months, in line with the calendar of major artistic events (fairs, biennials, etc.).



About Selebe Yoon, Dakar

Located in downtown Dakar, Selebe Yoon is a contemporary art gallery and an artist and curatorial residency founded by Jennifer Houdrouge in December 2020.

Built in 1952, this modern building is an emblematic example of Dakar's architectural history. "Selebe Yoon" means in Wolof the crossroad, the intersection of paths. With its 1,000 square meters, Selebe Yoon has several exhibition rooms, a library, artists studios and accommodations for our residents.

As a contemporary art gallery committed to the international scene, Selebe Yoon accompanies its artists on projects outside the gallery walls and internationally. Through our residency and a public program consisting of encounters with artists and curators, round tables, performances or literary recitals, our venue is conceived as a space of exchange and reflection for the public at large.

Informations

L'Atlas

4 cour de l'Île Louviers, 75004 Paris

Mardi–samedi, 12h–19h

Free entrance

www.latlasparis.com

Guided tours are possible with a reserved time slot

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