

Exhibition: **SD OBSERVATORY**
Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, IVAM
26 July – 10 September

Organized by: Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

Curator: Fernando Alvim

Sponsored by:  

The exhibition features 71 works, including photographs, collages, paintings, drawings, tapestries, installations and projections, belonging to the Sindika Dokolo African Collection of Contemporary Art, which contains over 500 works by 137 artists from 26 African countries

Sindika Dokolo is a collector of Congolese origin who, some years ago, acquired Hans Bogatzke's collection, one of the most important private collections of contemporary African art. This collection is considered one of the essential aesthetic and philosophical records of art for those who wish to understand the cultural movement that has taken place in Africa during the transition between the centuries.

A catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition, with illustrations of the works exhibited and essays by Consuelo Císcar and Simon Njami.

In a rational productive civilization, contemporary art surprises, questions and dislocates. And in Africa, even more, art is a freedom necessary for the soul. The world is constantly changing, there is talk of globalization, and therefore of the ceaseless search for an aesthetics of our time. If there is one characteristic that stands out in contemporary art it is its free, emotional quality. And freedom is an African issue: its political, economic, intellectual and cultural freedom is always of current concern. In Africa, everyday freedom becomes the centre of all aspects of human development, emanating an extraordinary energy which finds an ideal drainage point in art. The art and artists of Africa are organically

imbued with freedom and emotion. Yet Africa has always generated feelings of uneasiness in the West. The feeling that seems to predominate is one of guilt. Guilt connected with slavery, with the immorality of colonialism, guilt because of the widespread poverty against which no antidote seems to work.

The aim of the Sindika Dokolo Foundation is to create a contemporary art centre in Luanda in which African contemporary works of art can be exhibited, and to set up the necessary conditions and activities to bring African artists into the international circuits of the art world. The Foundation is based on the principle of trying to find a halfway point between international art collections connected with Africa and the development of ambitious, innovative initiatives originating from museums, institutions and biennials held on African soil. In doing this they seek to avoid the problems of the American Indian peoples who coexist between a dead ancestral culture and a westernized contemporary culture. Sindika Dokolo champions African art that is alive, that emerges with a character of its own and uses the new technologies as a form and medium of expression, but without allowing itself to be obstructed or annulled by them.

ARTISTS SELECTED

- **OLADÉLÉ AJIBOYÉ BAMGBOYÉ | NIGERIA**
- **ZOULIKHA BOUABDELLAH | ALGERIA**
- **LOULOU CHERINET | ETHIOPIA**
- **KENDELL GEERS | SOUTH AFRICA**
- **WILLIAM KENTRIDGE | SOUTH AFRICA**
- **PAULO KAPELA | ANGOLA**
- **IHOSVANNY | CUBA**
- **KILUANJI KIA HENDA | ANGOLA**
- **MOUNIR FATMI | MOROCCO**
- **N'DILO MUTIMA | ANGOLA**
- **INGRID MWANGI | KENYA**
- **BERNI SEARLE | SOUTH AFRICA**
- **TRACEY ROSE | SOUTH AFRICA**

- **MINETTE VÁRI | SOUTH AFRICA**
- **NÁSTIO MOSQUITO | ANGOLA**
- **YONAMINE | ANGOLA**
- **ABDOULAYE KONATÉ | MALI**
- **MIQUEL BARCELÓ | SPAIN**