



UNSETTLED

AN ODE TO RESTLESSNESS

May 26 - July 3, 2022
Thursday-Sunday 11am-6pm
and by appointment.

Zwartzusters Monastery
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#DuendeArtProjects
#Unsettled2022
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PRIVATE VIEW:

<https://privateviews.artlogic.net/2/fce8fd8979b95c8026cfcd/>

Exhibited Contemporary Artists: Beatrice Wanjiku (Kenya), Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia), Tewodros Hagos (Ethiopia), Mulugeta Tafesse (Ethiopia), Admire Kamudzengerere (Zimbabwe), Thierry Oussou (Republic of Benin), Mostaff Muchawaya (Zimbabwe), Aimé Mpane (D.R. Congo) and Lilian Mary Nabulime (Uganda).

Exhibited Classical Art: an important Ijo statue, a Kongo nail power statue, two Janus Ekoi headdresses, two Ibibio sickness masks, a rediscovered Pende deformity mask and much more.



Duende Art Projects organises its second exhibition, 'Unsettled', from 26 May to 3 July 2022 in the 14th century Zwartuster monastery in the historic centre of Antwerp. With 'Unsettled', this new gallery shows a special mix of classical African art next to new work of 9 leading contemporary African artists in order to touch visitors and make them look at African art with a fresh view.

'Unsettled' exhibits artworks by Beatrice Wanjiku (Kenya), Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia), Tewodros Hagos (Ethiopia), Mulugeta Tefesse (Ethiopia), Admire Kamudzengerere (Zimbabwe), Thierry Oussou (Benin), Mostaff Muchawaya (Zimbabwe), Aimé Mpane (D. R. Congo) and Lilian Mary Nabulime (Uganda), in addition to a selection of traditional African art of museum quality (including an important Congo power statue full of nails). You will find a selection of images in the press folder.

Bruno Claessens (founder Duende Art Projects): " 'Unsettled' is an ode to restlessness. Restless souls are constantly moving, challenging themselves to realise their dreams. Artists challenge conventions, go beyond their comfort zone, and this restlessness manifests itself in art that inspires and moves. With 'Unsettled', we show art that balances on this cutting edge. Art must disrupt and derail, because only in an unsettled state one can grow."

It is Duende Art Projects' ambition to contribute to give African art a higher visibility in Belgium and on the international art market. Duende Art Projects is one of a few places in Belgium where you can discover new artists from the African continent.

The gallery wants to open up the Western-dominated perspective on art and offers a fresh look on African art, both classical and contemporary. By establishing strategic partnerships with other galleries and institutions worldwide, it wishes to create opportunities to support and promote art and artists from the African continent. The gallery strives to advance the careers of the artists it exhibits and strengthen their international exposure.

The mission of Duende Art Projects is to connect people (the curious and interested, novice and experienced collectors, emerging and renowned artists, art advisors, curators and journalists) with art from the African continent and its diaspora. Duende Art Projects facilitates easy access through engaging exhibitions - offline and online, in Antwerp and on location. The online platform www.duendeartprojects.com offers educational content and aims to be a home for ideas, news and stories. In addition, Duende Art Projects offers tailor-made and discreet art advice that covers all aspects of composing, curating and managing a collection.

On the current momentum in African art:

African art today is getting the recognition and appreciation it deserves. Art collectors are pushing the market to new heights. This is partly due to a large number of exhibitions and art



fairs dedicated to African art in 2022. Last month, the two artists Sonia Boyce (UK) and Simone Leigh (US) became the first black women to represent their countries and to win a Golden Lion at this year's Venice Biennale. Two pavilions received special recognition: France with Algerian artist Zineb Sedira and Uganda for its first-ever participation in the event, with works by Acaye Kerunen and Collin Sekajugo. The latest show by South African artist Marlene Dumas at the François Pinault Venice Foundation is outstanding. And MOMA New York is currently presenting a solo exhibition by Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, only the second exhibition in the museum dedicated to an African artist. The famous Biennale of African Art will be held in Dakar until 21 June.

Duende Art Projects' mission is to help address the lack of diversity on the international art market, as contemporary African art has been repeatedly underrepresented and misrepresented. In the last few decades, the African continent has become an exciting art scene with strong artists who are now exhibited worldwide. The global art world is finally making them part of it, while at the same time amplifying the voices of African artists.

About Duende Art Projects:

Duende Art Projects' ambition is to inspire people and enrich their lives by sharing our profound passion for the art of the African continent. Our purpose is to strengthen Africa's visibility and significance within the global and diverse art world through a strong digital presence and curated exhibitions on unique locations.

Duende is a Spanish word that is difficult to translate; it is a concept related to flamenco, referring to a magical moment of inspiration and genius. It is the heightened state of emotion when encountering a moving work of art, a sudden experience that can't be captured, a moment of goosebumps. While Spanish in origin, the word has an African ring to it - indeed it is a universal concept, and indicative of the gallery's ambitions. Duende Art Projects goes beyond labels and reveals the art's multiplicity of layers.

The gallery wants to open up the western-dominated perspective in the art world, and offers a well-rounded and fresh take on African art, both classical and contemporary. Establishing strategic collaborations with other galleries and institutions worldwide, it wishes to create opportunities to support and promote art and artists from the African continent. The gallery strives to advance the careers of the artists it exhibits and strengthen their international exposure. Our mission is to connect people — the curious and interested, aspiring and seasoned collectors, connoisseurs, emerging and renowned artists, art advisors, curators and writers — with art from the African continent and its diaspora. We facilitate easy access through compelling exhibitions — offline and online, in Antwerp and on location. Our online platform provides insightful educational content and wishes to be a home for ideas, news and stories. We offer a bespoke and discrete art advisory service that covers all aspects of building and managing a collection.



Duende Art Projects was founded in 2021 by Bruno Claessens, a passionate art expert with 15 years of ample experience in the African art market. Previously, he was the European director of the African art department at Christie's for 5 years. Bruno has published three books on African art (Ere Ibeji (2013), Baule Monkeys (2016) & UNÛ (2021)) and has ran a popular blog on the subject since 2013. Throughout his career, he gained a profound knowledge of art of the African continent, both classical and contemporary, and has developed a great network of collectors, curators and scholars as well as strong institutional ties.

PRESS IMAGES

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BEATRICE WANJIKU
DUALITIES OF EXCESS AND REPRESSION IV, 2022

mixed media on canvas

160 x 120 x 3 cm
63 x 47 1/4 x 1 1/8 in

Copyright: Duende Art Projects
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MOSTAFF MUCHAWAYA
AMINA, 2022

mixed media on canvas

180 x 150 x 3 cm
70 7/8 x 59 1/8 x 1 1/8 in

Copyright: Duende Art Projects
Photo: Valentin Clavairolles



TEWODROS HAGOS
THE DESPERATE JOURNEY 58, 2022

acrylic paint on canvas

120 x 100 x 4 cm
47 1/4 x 39 3/8 x 1 5/8 in

Copyright: Duende Art Projects
Photo: Valentin Clavairolles

PRESS IMAGES

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MULUGETA TAFESSE
THE MEDICINE MAN 4 - MOMENTS, 2022

acrylic paint on canvas

150 x 130 x 5 cm
59 1/8 x 51 1/8 x 2 in

Copyright: Duende Art Projects
Photo: Valentin Clavairolles



ANONYMOUS KONGO ARTIST
POWER STATUE

D.R. Congo - mid 19th century
wood, metal, cloth, fibers

height 45 cm
height 17 3/4 in

Copyright: Duende Art Projects
Photo: Valentin Clavairolles



ANONYMOUS EJAGHAM ARTIST
DOUBLE-FACED HELMET MASK

Nigeria - early 20th century
wood, leather, cloth, fiber, hairs

height 33 cm
height 13 in

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