



Who is Mederic Turay?

Visionary, thoughtful as much as intuitive, Mederic Turay uses his talents to participate in raising awareness by telling the most beautiful as well as the hardest stories. This multidisciplinary storyteller lives his art as a privilege and uses a plurality of techniques to create entities, sometimes figurative, sometimes abstract, which become the protagonists of his graphic stories.

His style and the themes he deals with reflect his cosmopolitan life journey and his West African origins. Descendent of a royal family of the Akan people in present-day Côte d'Ivoire, Mederic only got to know his country of origin as a teenager when he returned from the United States where he grew up. His cultural mix which explains his constant quest for balance in duality, influences the way he builds his works.

Trained in Fine Arts, he easily got rid of stylistic constraints by drawing from the material and the process which allow him to best express his point. This is how he combines his talent for music and writing with his passion for painting and sculpture, multiplying albums and first artistic prizes. The maturity and humility he acquired through travel and meetings with other recognized artists of his generation and the previous one allowed him to focus on the visual arts and to assert his unique style.

Poetic works rich in meaning

On the canvas, he captures scenes of life that represent frozen moments and encapsulate the dynamism of the action of living nature that he interprets. His textured works, which combine painting, collage and drips, stimulate all the spectator's senses. They arouse a series of emotions and invite contemplation but also and above all, reflection.

In his treatment of often deep and deeply moving themes such as those of child soldiers or migratory journeys for tragic ends, he constantly incorporates glimmers of hope. The complexity of his subject is balanced by an expressionist style and a frame that unfolds with strong referential elements, landmarks and hooks that make the reading of the work more accessible.

In fact, Mederic's works read like poems, rhythmic and harmonious. He plays with the artistic worlds by deconstructing them and reassembling them in his own way. His message is thoughtful but his composition spontaneous: transcribes the energy of the moment. Sometimes his chromatic palette is rich and vibrant and he intertwines the most vivid colors, sometimes coffee grounds which he uses in addition to oil paint, as a pictorial layer, darkens the work and makes it melancholic.

His signature?

The balance of life forces, symbolized by two complementary forms: the cross and the spiral, in a way his yin and his yang. The spiral, round and infinite, refers to the movement of the cosmos, the dynamism, the creative fertility. Conversely, the cross, rigid in straightness, symbolizes anchoring, stability and material concretization. It is most often in the eyes of his characters that he inserts these cosmogonic symbols. For him, balance in duality leads to happiness.

The Call of the Ancestors

Having traveled the world all his life, Mederic is now looking for roots. This new decade coincides with this defining moment, when he feels the need to connect with his origins. "Art above all, you have to feel it," he says. This is how his new project explores his cultural and artistic heritage more head-on. There he stages the creations that Picasso called in 1917, "rigorously logical" and "more beautiful creations than the human imagination has ever produced": the ancestral masks and sculptures of Africa.

This new project, which required intensive research work and a transformative interior journey, is part of a process of cultural reappropriation, which gives his quest for identity a highly symbolic dimension. He went to revisit ancestral sources to materialize the intangible link between the visible and the invisible, between the natural and the spiritual, as African master sculptors have done for generations. The Baoulé, Dan or Fang masks staged become the protagonists and Mederic lets himself be guided by the ancestral power that they shelter. "Painting is an experience as such, I'm just living the experience," he says. A project that should be understood as a tribute to those who preceded it and to his land of origin: Africa

PORTFOLIO



The Guardians of Sacred Totems

Mixed Media on canvas
342cm * 244cm
2019

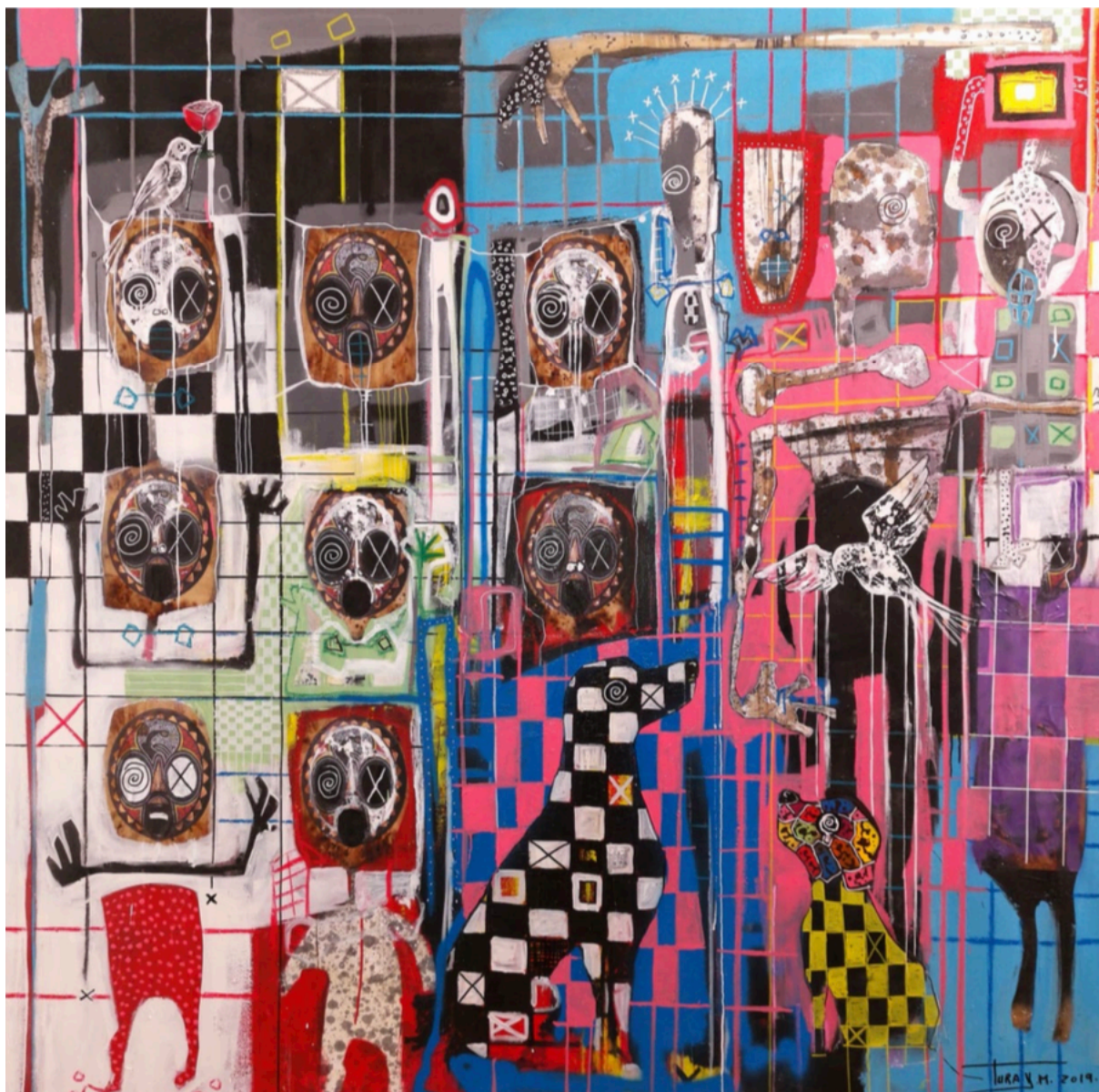
PORTFOLIO



Political Correctness

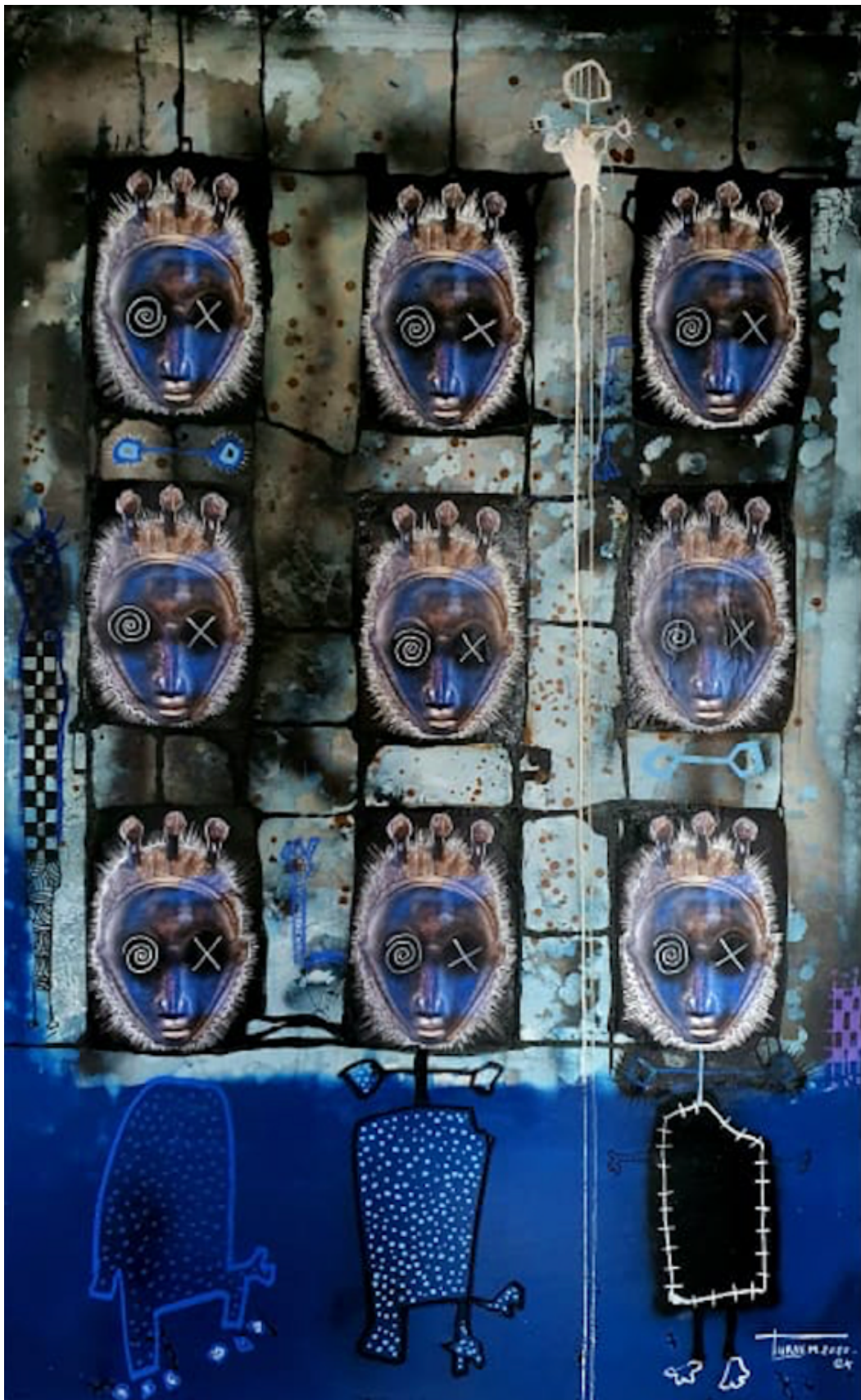
Mixed Media on canvas
200cm * 200cm
2019

PORTFOLIO



Conversation with Nature

Mixed Media on canvas
200cm * 200cm
2019



Uprooted Generation
Mixed Media on canvas
160cm * 100cm
2020

PORTFOLIO



The Story Teller
Mixed Media on canvas
342cm * 244cm
2019

PORTFOLIO



The road to paradise

Mixed Media on canvas

200cm * 200cm

2019

PORTFOLIO



The Arrival of Settlers
Mixed Media on canvas
150cm * 150cm
2019



Shaman
Mixed Media on canvas
100cm * 90cm
2019

SOLO SHOWS

- 2019:** Atlas of a Shaman Aedo, Giovanni Bonelli, Milan, ITALY
- 2019:** Itinerary of a Story Teller, Galerie des Bains, Geneva, SWITZERLAND
- 2018:** African Dandy, Gallery Out of Africa, Barcelona, SPAIN
- 2017:** Chelsea Football Club for NIKE, London, UNITED KINGDOM
- 2017:** African Dreamer, Galerie 38, Casablanca, MOROCCO
- 2016:** AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE, Donwahi Foundation, Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 2015:** Unlimited Morocco, BCK Gallery, Marrakech, MOROCCO
- 2015:** African Art is Beautiful, Cherkaoui Foundation, Tangier, MOROCCO
- 2014:** Liberation unmasked, Gallery Sulger Buel Lovell, London, UNITED KINGDOM
- 2014:** Traces of Humanity, Gallery Out of Africa, Barcelona, SPAIN
- 2013:** Centre Culturel Français, Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 2012:** Art and integration in Africa with Sea Plaza, Dakar, SENEGAL
- 2010:** Je viens de là , Cergy-Pontoise, FRANCE
- 2009:** La Croix Rouge, Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 2006:** Mirroir, Sofitel, Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 2001:** Galerie Art pluriel , Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 1999:** L'Enfance, Embassy of Italy, Abidjan, IVORY COAST
- 1999:** "Art'Essence", Art Gallery, Abidjan, IVORY COAST

COLLECTORS

Charles Saatchi, UNITED KINGDOM

Ethan Cohen, USA

S.M. King Mohammed VI, MOROCCO

Cécilia Sarkozy, FRANCE

Richard Attias, FRANCE

Didier Drogba Foundation, IVORY COAST

Fondation Donwahi, IVORY COAST

German Private Collection, GERMANY

Spanish Private Collection, SPAIN

Kyo Noir Collection, ITALY

Dubai Private Collection, UAE

Museum Mohammed 6, MOROCCO

Museum Murcia, SPAIN

Fondation Banque Populaire, MOROCCO

Collection Niarchos, SWITZERLAND

ART FAIRS & MURALS

2019: Vision Art Festival, SWITZERLAND

2019: Museum Marcia Art Project, SPAIN

2019: URBAN ART FAIR Paris, FRANCE

2017: ARTX Lagos, NIGERIA

2017: AKAA Paris, FRANCE

2017: Street Art Project Museum Murcia Barcelona, SPAIN

2017: Mural Museum Mohamed 6, MOROCCO

2017: Rabat "Afrique en capital", MOROCCO

2017: Commissioned Tramway, MOROCCO

2016: Marrakech biennale, MOROCCO

2016: International Contemporary Art Fair Lyon /Art3F, FRANCE

2015: International Contemporary Art Fair Mulhouse/Art3F, FRANCE

2015: International Contemporary Art Fair Paris/Art3F, FRANCE

2015: International Contemporary Art Fair Bordeaux/Art3F, FRANCE

2015: International Contemporary Art Fair Nice /Art3F, FRANCE

2014: Commissioned Mural Barcelona-Sitges, SPAIN

2013: Auction Sales "Fondation Eboué Emanuel ", IVORY COAST

2013: Auction sales for the "Fondation Didier Drogba", IVORY COAST

LATEST EXHIBITIONS



Mederic Turay | Atlas of a Shaman Aedo

curated by Alessandro Romanini

Opening **26th September 2019** | 7 pm

Milan | via L. P. Lambertenghi 6 | 20159

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www.galleriagiovannibonelli.it





galerie
des bains
genève

MEDERIC TURAY
*ITINERARY OF A
STORY TELLER*

SOLO SHOW



Mederic TURAY – *Enfants Soldats (1/3)*, 2019
Acrylique. 300 x 200 cm (détail)

DROUOT
et
FONDATION INVISIBLE BORDERS
présentent

ENFANTS SOLDATS

L'art contemporain africain au service de l'enfance

EXPOSITION

SAINT ETIENNE YEANZI – JEAN DAVID NKOT –
ARMAND BOUA – BRUCE CLARKE – MEDERIC TURAY –
BORIS NZEBO – GONCALO MABUNDA – ABOUDIA –
MOUNOU DESIRE KOFFI – ERIC BOTTERO

4 - 12 Février 2019

11h - 18h du lundi au vendredi

Nocturne jeudi jusqu'à 21h

Salle 9

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DROUOT
PARIS

UPCOMING PROJECTS

03/2020 : Exhibition Pretes moi ton reve, Abidjan, IVORY COAST

05/2020 : Unlimited Residency, One-month program, New York, USA

06/2020 : DAKAR Biennale, NSIA Bank, Dakar, SENEGAL