

BLAACKBOX

BRUSSELS LARGER AFRICAN ART CONTEMPORARY KERN

- recording live african art history -

present

CULT

FRANCK KEMKENG NOAH

01/06/23 – 31/08/23

List of Works

(Prices in EUR, excluding VAT, Transport & Insurance)

valid during the exhibition

FRANCK KEMKENG NOAH

(Cameroon, 1992)

CULT

CULT is the first solo exhibition of Franck Kemkeng Noah's work at BLAACKBOX. The gallery had already presented the Cameroonian artist's paintings on canvas and carpet in September 2021, as part of AFRITOPIA, which took place in Brussels, Belgium.

Kemkeng Noah's work has since been exhibited globally, presenting each viewer with a unique communal space wherein cultures meet, blend, assemble, and find new meanings. The artist's philosophy, although strongly rooted in his native Bamileke tradition, has selectively incorporated ideas and concepts of contemporary Western societies, which combine to act as a visual celebration to come together, and build a hybrid future.

CULT is a new series of eight paintings on canvas and carpet, which we present for the first time. This recent corpus looks at figures, objects and traditions associated with a cult, which are decontextualized as well as artistically and symbolically blended by the artist to create a new contemporary assembly of veneration and devotion, simultaneously interrogating notions of pop culture and iconography.

Since Kemkeng Noah started using colour to invade his rigorous black and white architectural representations, his work has become uniquely marked by a very particular pictorial approach that extends so many invitations to jump into the unknown of secret societies and symbols. His visual research now goes well beyond the confines of Sub-Saharan African rituals, to incorporate aspects of Buddhism, Shintoism, and Christianity – commonly celebrating the idea of a world that is invisible, far beyond our reach, and our human endeavours to connect to it.

Through all his representations of belief and faith, the artist's unique juxtapositions create so many more associations of ideas, the merging of which generates new iconography, fresh popular images, that continuously challenge and inform the way we see the world.

For whatever you have seen, you can never unsee.

By adding, subtracting, or over layering myriads of shapes and lines, Kemkeng Noah infiltrates the unprovable, the unexpected. And soon enough, we are left walking on a new path, one we did not know existed. And we are not alone, for we are preceded and followed by processions of masks, of figures, of costumes and ritual objects, many faceless, which populate an engaging celebration of multiculturalism.

CULT does not take the road of religions, or sects. Rather, it calls back on the ancient Latin sources of the word *Culture*, namely the act of tending, of cultivating – helping a world in need of attention, to grow its faculties, its understanding, and its manners.

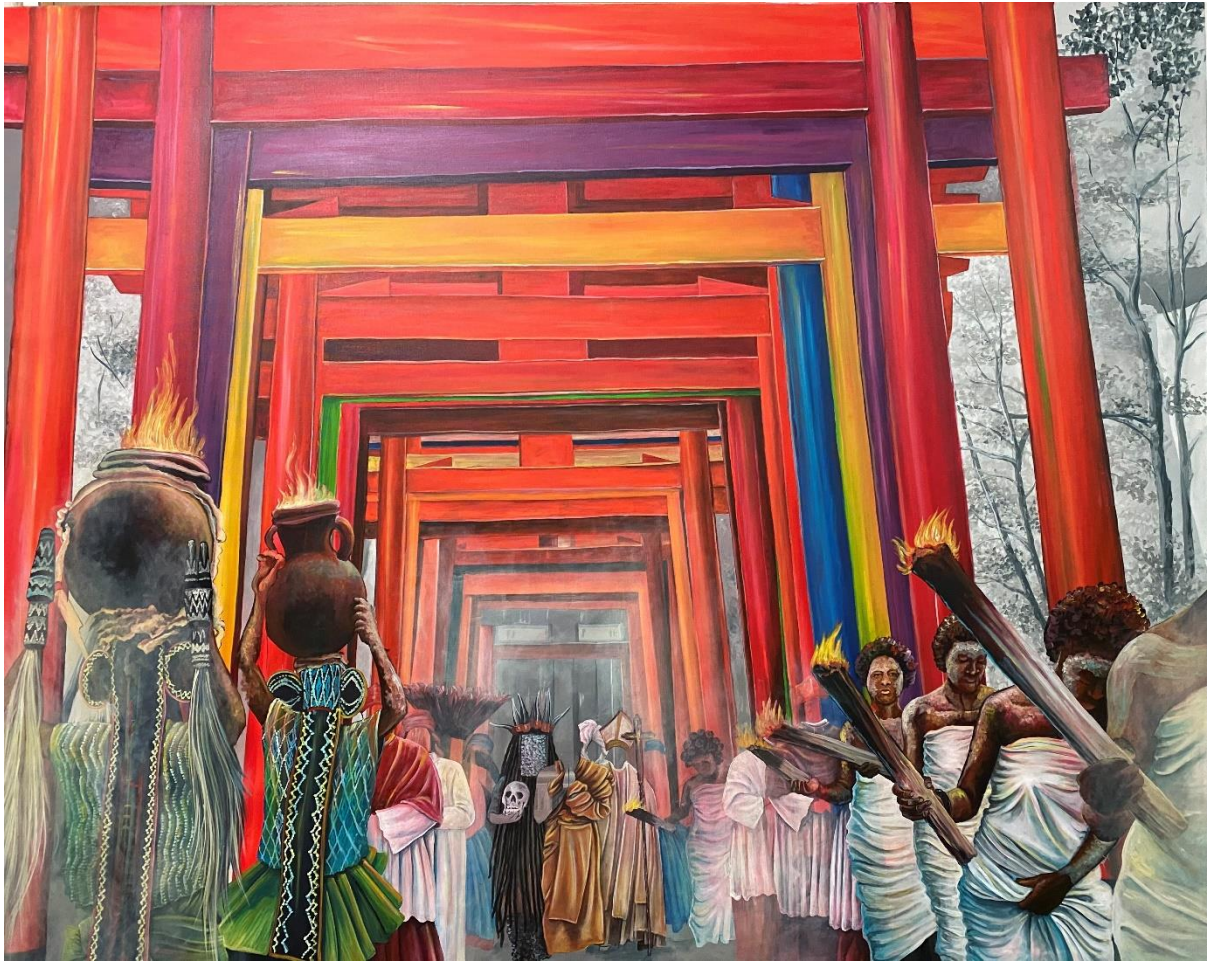
Klaus Pas

June 2023



CULT – Holy Fire (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 10'000



CULT - Laakam (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 10'500



CULT – Sacred Rite (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 11'000



CULT - Ordination (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 11'000



CULT - Ancestors (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 11'000



CULT – The Sacred (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 10'500



CULT – Adoration (2023)

Acrylic on Canvas - 160 x 200 cm – EUR 10'500



CULT – Sacred Exit (2022)

Acrylic on Carpet - 160 x 230 cm – EUR 11'000



Born in Yaoundé in 1992, Franck Kemkeng Noah graduates with a Master in Fine Arts from *IBAF*. In 2017, he moves to Amiens (France) and follows a second Master in Artistic Research at *Université de Picardie* in France. Soon, he starts painting on abandoned carpets. The discarded household objects he finds on the streets become a new support for a series of works which serve as narrative points in the history of migrations.

Often labelled hybrid art, Franck Kemkeng Noah's work is an experimental approach mainly characterized mainly by painting. The artist's aesthetic research, at the core of which mixed productions are born, is a uniquely vibrant perspective on notions of interculturalism, identity, and civilization. The mixing of human cultures constituting the center of his concerns.

"My traditional culture thus constitutes for me a true richness and my main source of inspiration which, in my creations, will merge with that which opens to me but also which is imposed by means such as globalization or immigration creating a kind of palace of memory. The confrontation with the works born from this experience encourages personal questioning about oneself, about the other, about our human and cultural nature. This idea of fusion between my traditional origins and the culture of the other for the creation of a new self is also inspired by Oswald de Andrade's Brazilian Anthropophagy."

Articulated through various means of artistic expression such as painting, sculpture, interactive performance, or installation, the dialogue between traditional African dances and masquerades, and mostly Western geographical and architectural spaces is the true protagonist of Kemkeng Noah's artistic universe. His distinctive style and artistic approach brought his work to global attention in exhibitions like *On the Road to Chieftaincies of Cameroon* at the *Musée du Quai Branly* (Paris, 2022), at *Fondation Blachère* (Marseille, 2021), or more recently at *Texas Southern University Museum* (Houston, 2023). Since 2021, the artist has been living and working in Brussels (Belgium).

Solo exhibitions

- 2023 *"CULT" BLAACKBOX*, Antwerpen, Belgium
- 2023 *"MEMORY PALACE – The Creations of Franck Kemkeng Noah"*, Texas Southern University Museum, Houston, USA
- 2022 *"MEMORY PALACE"* at Didier Claes, Brussels, Belgium
- 2020 AKA, Es Saadi Palace, Marrakech, Morocco
- 2019 AAC gallery, Amiens, France
- 2016 *"Hybridity as a Factor of Tolerance"*, Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé, Cameroon
- 2015 *"All in One and One in All"*, Goethe Institute, Cameroon

Group exhibitions

- 2022 Abderrahman Slaoui Foundation Museum, Casablanca, Morocco
- 2022 *"On the Road of the Chieftaincies of Cameroon, from the Visible to the Invisible"* at Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac, Paris, France
- 2022 Cape Town Art Fair, African Arty gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 Blachère Foundation, Avignon, France
- 2021 *Afritopia*, BLAACKBOX, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *"Young Artist"*, Art' Course gallery, Strasbourg, France
- 2018 *"Quinzaine de Parrainage "*, Stéphane Salord Gallery, Marseille, France

Collections

- Texas Southern University Museum of Houston, Texas, USA
- Fondation Blachère, Avignon, France
- The Pas-Chaudoir Collection of Contemporary Art from Africa and the Diaspora, Antwerp, Belgium
- Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland

Contact info@blaackbox.com

+41 78 614 54 02

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