

PRESS RELEASE



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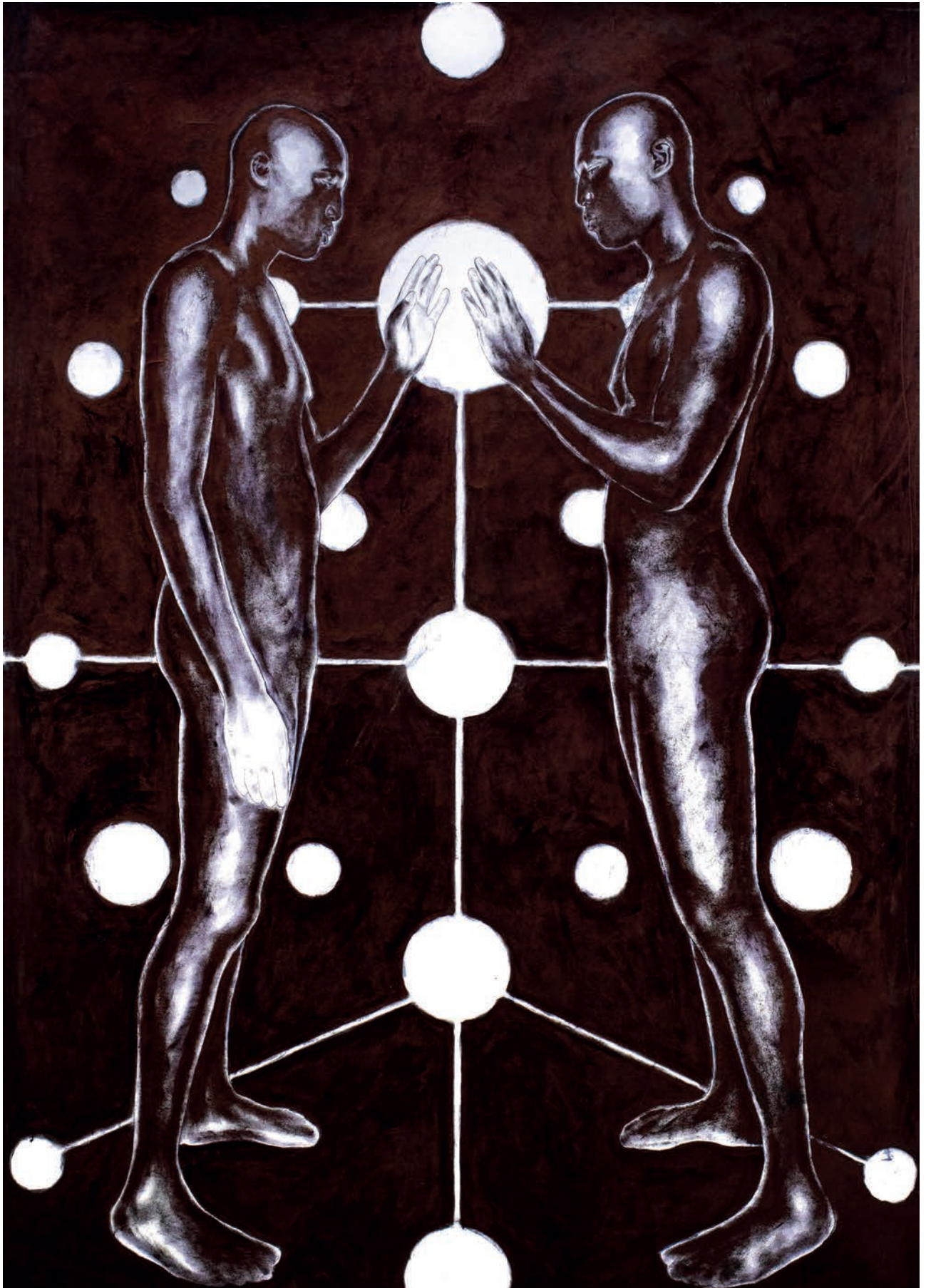
1  
54 Contemporary  
African Art Fair

# Josué Comoe

## LA MYSTIQUE DU CORPS

13/15 October 2023

Preview on 12 October by invitation



**Cosmogonie, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas*

H 190 x L 130 cm





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Josué Comoe is a multidisciplinary artist who studied photography and video at the Arts Décoratifs in Paris, at the same time devoting himself to painting and drawing. Born in Côte d'Ivoire, he first experienced migration at the age of 7 and subsequently multiple crossings between these worlds. His creative process now involves the very space inhabited by the body, and its encounter with other spaces.

How does it feel when the body that one is confined to begins to ask questions? In *La Mystique du Corps*, in a series of works done during a six-month residence at the Fondation Donwahi that brought him back to Côte d'Ivoire, Josué Comoe attempts to represent the body as the site of a mystical experience that blurs the boundary between what is private to the artist and that which is foreign.

He engages his whole body in a hand-to-hand combat with canvas and paper, using a technique that requires considerable physical effort, producing a state of tension close to the ecstatic - possession followed by release. It is precisely this invisible, unspeakable experience that he depicts on the occasion of this return to his homeland and to himself. It is this moment of returning that he uses as a condition for creating a visual language of his own.

**La Mystique du Corps, is this experience of the corporal that blurs the boundaries between inside and outside, that manifests the “Other” within us, so much so that we become strangers to ourselves. It is the experience of bodies that are at once so imposing and yet, with a simple change of viewpoint, seem to almost disappear.**

It's an exhibition that recounts both actual and inner exiles, generated by encounters with delimitations, spaces, frameworks and borders that compel the viewer to split into two, inciting an overflow of emotion, predisposing us to enter into a trance or a contemplative state.

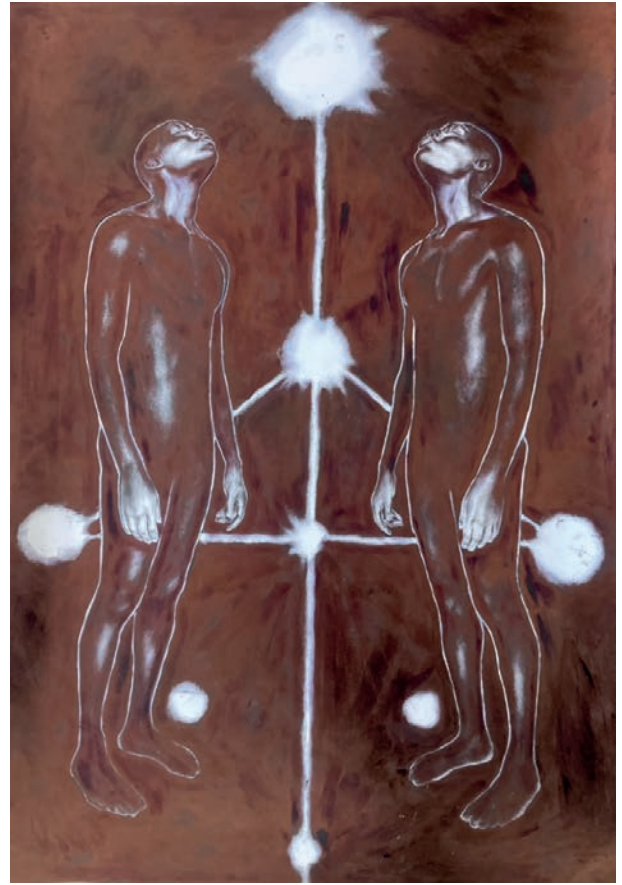
Josué Comoe renders the body «dans tous ses états», through the encounter between the figurative and the abstract, light and darkness, the alchemic meeting of his different inks. The experience of the body and the world as being foreign and the mirror image of that idea is both the starting point of the creative act and what the artist invites us to navigate, even if it means becoming disorientated. The artist plays with scale, using a technique that forces us to move around in an attempt to catch what is, in any case, doomed to escape us, without ever managing to grasp the density of the work from a single perspective.

Sitor Senghor  
director



**Cosmogonic IV, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 100 x L 70 cm*



**Cosmogonic III, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 100 x L 70 cm*



**Alchimie II, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 100 x L 70 cm*



**Alchimie III, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 100 x L 70 cm*

# Biography



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© Guillaume Mussau

Born in Côte d'Ivoire, Josué Comoe migrated to France at the age of seven. He studied photography and video at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris but it was through painting and drawing, self-taught, that he first decided to express himself. At this same period, he was cultivating an interest in theology with the intention of becoming a priest; a path he ultimately abandoned to devote himself to art.

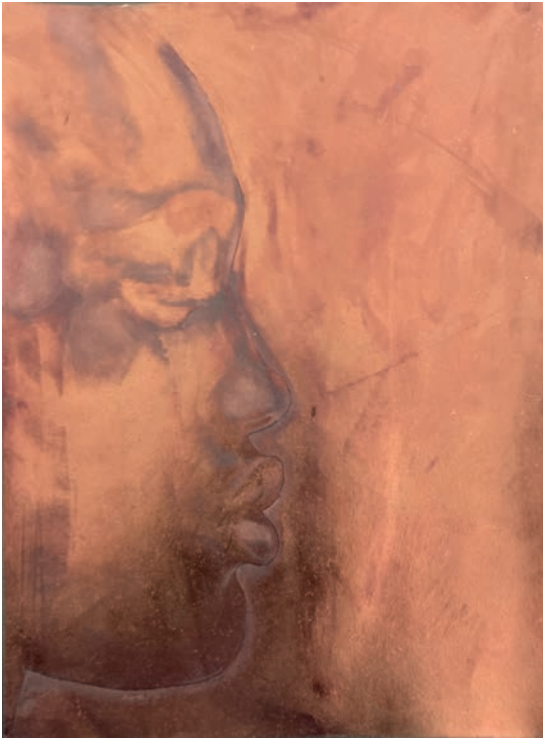
Josué's work destabilizes the binary by developing techniques that produce a black light from which reliefs and reflections emerge, calling into question the historical oppositions between light and darkness, materiality and spirituality, body and spirit. He stages representations of the body that turn metaphysical questions into the political question of the incarnate.

«I want to create pieces that call for transcendence».

His work is nourished by the sacred, punctuated by references and codes that belong to spiritual cultures, mysticism and esotericism.

Through a combination of economy of means and sophistication, he produces works of great graphic power, in which the black ink of the pen creates a depth of an abyss in the drawn surface, as well as a rhythm, a vibration.





**Carré magique IV, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 29,5 x L 23,5 cm*



**Carré magique VI, 2023**

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 29,5 x L 23,5 cm*

## *Selection of solo exhibitions*

**2023**

Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) | *La mystique du corps*

**2019**

Schwab Beaubourg Gallery, Paris (France) | *Le noir comme couleur*

## *Selection of group exhibitions*

**2022**

Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) | *About now*

Dilecta Gallery, Paris (France) | *La nature faite pour Dürer*

Musée Pierre Cardin, Paris (France) | *Morpho*

Galerie Odile Texier, Paris (France) | *Pour l'art pour l'Afrique*

**2019**

Church of the Holy Cross, Berlin (Germany) | *Forum Saint Louis*

Het Bos, Antwerp (Belgium) | *Healing through art*

Abbaye de Vinetz, Chalons (France) | *Empreintes*

Brooklyn Commons, New York, (USA) | *Performing Arts Mosaic*

Galerie Insula & La Galerie Africaine, Paris (France) | *(Dé)masqués*

## *Art Fairs*

**2023**

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London (UK), Art Sitor | *La mystique du corps*

**2021**

DDessin Paris Contemporary Art Fair, Paris (France) | *La pépinière d'artistes*

**2020**

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London (UK), Number 8 Gallery

## *Residencies*

**2022/23**

Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

**2022**

Musée Pierre Cardin, Paris (France)





La mélodie profane, 2023

*Ink oil and acrylic on paper mounted on canvas / H 163 x L 123 cm*