

# N O M A D G A L L E R Y

NOMAD Gallery is pleased to announce Senegalese painter Sambou Diouf's debut Belgian exhibition.

*Ghost Hybrids & Confused Dreams* explores the mystifying connection between human beings and nature.

Sambou Diouf is an artist heavily invested in the symbolism and visuality of the society in which he operates as well as the artistic traditions that came before him, whose paintings become terrains of possibility where these signs and traditions can be worked through.

This is not a given in a society that operates under significant pressure from socially conservative factions, and one must ask what it means for Sambou Diouf to take the literal and metaphorical mask off his figures - if we know how to find the right keys.

Art historian Alex Potts claims that a work of art "...points to or evokes a significance quite other than what it literally is as object through conventions of which we may or may not be consciously aware".

Sambou Diouf's paintings are particularly fascinating in this regard, as not only do they call upon and complicate numerous signs that carry great significance for Senegalese society, such as the ram, but these signs also journey back and forth through his different series.

We might consider the hooded, or masked, figures, or the ubiquitous key that features heavily in his paintings but also in earlier and later works.

What's more, Diouf pays homage to his predecessors by not only signalling aspects of their work but in taking up their mantle and creating spaces to explore these aspects further.

Referring to the wellknown Ecole de Dakar movement that flourished and then fell in tandem with the political career of Senegal's first post-independence president - Léopold Sédar Senghor - Diouf strives in part to pick up where they left off and to lean into the evolution he feels they were never able to have.

Diouf goes one step further by giving second lives to the practices of the artists he respects, recovering that which he feels has been erased.

*"My works are mystical and elusive, with historical and cultural references, they are re-transcriptions of the dreamlike, sometimes bordering the nightmarish"*

Sambou Diouf (b. 1975, Dakar, Senegal) works and lives in Dakar. The artist exhibits worldwide, in the United States, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Senegal, and takes part in a large number of art fairs and art residencies.

His works are part of the Collection Eiffage, Jom Collection, Batra Collection and the State of Senegal collection. He took part in the Montresso's Art Foundation IN-Discipline program in 2024 (Marrakesh, Morocco).

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