

Sensations

EXHIBITION from 19th APRIL till 20th MAY '06



Come and experience different art forms

Opening Wednesday 19th of April at 6.30 PM

At 2, Ankua Mensah Street, Dzorwulu

Info : Virginie Vlaminck 0244 888 490 Nana Anoff 0244 253 035

“SENSATIONS”

One night last autumn I had this idea of organising a special exhibition.

The idea was to bring different art-forms together in a nice combination. It had to be like you would enter the new house of your best friend, a cosy warm interior. The beauty of every art object invites you to sit down and have a nice cup of tea or coffee with your friend and make you more enjoy the ‘sensations’ of the different art-forms. Even stronger it has to make you feel at home and give you the desire to take a piece of art back home to continue the complete feeling of beauty for ever.

With this idea in mind I started to contact different artists that I got to know over the 2 years I’ve been in Ghana.

And then my good friend *Nana Anoff* asked me to exhibit with him in Novotel during the month of December 2005. What else could I do then put my idea aside and join my friend. We went together on an amazing journey through Ghana what lead up to our exhibition ‘Roadtrip’, as some of you might have witnessed at Novotel.

Then the company of my husband ‘Dredging International’ announced we would be leaving Ghana in June 2006 as the work at Korle Lagoon will be completed.

Now I had to put my guts together and go for ‘my idea’.

As I wanted to combine different painters and somehow blend in with my photography work, I asked *Gabriel Ekfou* to work on my photographs. Gabriel was the first painter I was introduced to and it ‘clicked’ from the first moment we met. We had a first successful exhibition together in Mai 2004 at my house in Dzorwulu. Together we spend some extraordinary hours of outlining our feelings into one piece of art. Both of us had a good feeling about our combined ‘photo-painting’ and we felt the same emotions creating them. With *Nana Anoff* there to put the works in his famous wooden frames, I was able to combine the work of 3 totally different artists together in one final piece of art.

When I asked *Fernand Nonkouni* to paint around my photographs, the process was longer because our history together is not so deep. We only met recently. But with the determination and mutual respect we managed to create some nice pieces.

Working together with *Dominique Arnal*, friend, painter and mother of five lovely children, was a joy. As we are both mothers, artists and of course women we come quickly to the point. Running a family and sharing the same passion for art makes us busy people. In a few short meetings we were able to determine the main lines of this exhibition. Dominique approached my photographs from a different angle, but see for your self the result is gorgeous.

I needed more than painters in my exhibition to complete the interior of the rooms and give them more depth, so I contacted *Catherine from La Maison Africaine and Kwame from Kikḳḳa Design*. Both are making or finishing furniture, very different styles but both so 'one' with Ghana, this had to be incorporated into this exhibition.

What could bring together furniture and paintings; African Arte Facts were the answer. The brother in law of Nana Anoff, *Sorakata Sylla*, was the man I needed. I know his collection since I set foot in Nana's gallery, because his collected pieces are all around the house and garden. I almost took it for granted but it needed a great deal of knowledge and patience to collect every piece.

Mr. Koffi and Mr. Happy were introduced to me by Dominique Arnal, as she wanted to decorate her room in her style.

Last but not least I wanted to invite my photography students to show some black and white photographs they made in my darkroom or colour pictures with my help in using their cameras in a better way. The brave ones are sharing their work with you.

I hope you enjoy every part of the exhibition and come back for coffee or tea with your friends to have a better look.



NANA ANOFF

Nana is a self-taught artist, who has explored charcoal, pencil and watercolour; and who has now ventured into mixed medium i.e. acrylic, oils and metals. He has been drawing since childhood, his first sketchpad was the walls of his grandmother's house, his first medium, charcoal from the coal pot. However, some years ago Nana enjoying the artistic challenge, turned professional. As his work evolved, he felt the need to create his own frames to complement each painting. This new discipline found him working with wood and metal. Now his frames are considered works of art themselves and are as successful as his paintings.

Nana has won awards (eg Bartimeus prize 2001), and his work has received critical acclaim from foreign media houses as Mnet "studio 54" in 2004 and Africa Within in 2005. This has inspired him to create more mixed media sculptures and installations in an alternative means of expressing his ideas.

Nana's inspiration comes from everywhere and anywhere and he feels duty bound to highlight the hard working African woman.

Nana has exhibited and sold works nationally and internationally and some of his work has featured in American sit-coms as The Parkers and Girlfriends.

Every year, during the X-mas month, Nana Anoff is exhibiting in Novotel and this since 2000.



VIRGINIE VLAMINCK

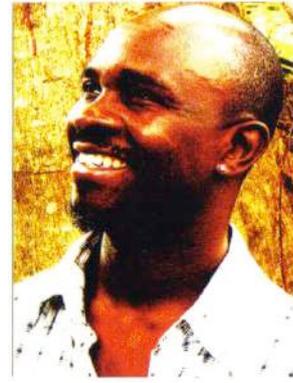
Virginie is a professional photographer, who moved to Ghana in 2003. She undertook 4 years of studies at the Academy of Arts in Ghent, Belgium, her country of origin and also a short journey at the Arts and Design College of Bournemouth in the U.K. A move to Guinée in 1994 saw a big life change and consequently a change in photography style. Here her love of Africa was born and has remained with her ever since. She has also lived in Nigeria for four years.

Following her studies Virginie held exhibitions in both Belgium and The Netherlands. In Guinée she was responsible for the organisation of two exhibitions in the National Museum of Conakry and Hôtel Camayenne in 1996 and 1998. This was followed by exhibitions on Bonny Island in Nigeria in both 2000 and 2002. Virginie's first exhibition in Ghana in June 2004 of photographs taken throughout West Africa was a great success. She combined it with the paintings of Gabriel Eklou. Her second exhibition in Ghana held in October 2004 in Ivy's Coffee Shop was predominantly images of Northern Ghana, her photographs were framed by Nana Anoff. During the summer of 2005 she exhibited an overall view of her African photographs in Bruges, Belgium. Her last exhibition was held last December with Nana Anoff in Novotel.

Virginie works with both black and white and colour film, however she expresses a preference for black and white: *"If you are wondering why I stick to black and white photographs" she says "it is because I want to show the emotions of the people and the children that I am photographing. Black and white emphasizes the dignity of people,*

while colour distracts attention away from the faces of the people photographed”.

The preference of Virginie to ask another artist to join her during the exhibitions she organises, has come to another level in this exhibition. Her photographs are not presented next to another art form, but artist with another discipline have in a way completed the pictures. This gives the photographs an extraordinary and unique touch. When you have a look at the ‘painted pictures’ it is amazing that you can identify immediately the different painting style of the artist. Without no doubt you recognize if the picture was completed by Eklou, Fernand, Dominique or Nana.



FERNAND NONKOUNI

Fernand Nonkouni was born in 1968 in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). After practising calligraphy and decoration, he started to paint in 1994, for the Ouag' Art session organized by the French Cultural Centre in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

Fernand Nonkouni didn't study painting formally. His first teacher, in 1994, was As M'bengue, from Senegal, who showed him the main techniques. Then he learnt about history of art with the French painter Blaise Patrice (1995).

In 1995 he travelled to the United States, for an exhibition organized in Kansas City by the Olorun Foundation (from Burkina Faso). This work included a training program directed to the youth of poor areas of the city. It was a success and Fernand spent 9 months there.

Back to Africa, he was able to do many exhibitions in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ivory Coast, but also France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, USA. With the French photographer Patrick Darlot, he realized an itinerant monumental installation in the South of France, in 1998. In 1999 he did a performance and exhibition at the Schwab Museum of Archeology, in Bienne (Switzerland), and also worked with the Swiss "Commission des Beaux Arts".

Fernand Nonkouni won an award from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation (New York) in 1998.

He now lives and works in Accra (Ghana).



DOMINIQUE ARNAL

Née en 1962 à Versailles. Elle est mariée avec cinq enfants.

Elle obtient son diplôme **d'Architecte** en 1990 et celui des **Beaux-arts** en **Gravure** en 1993 à Versailles.

Dans l'atelier d'André Bongibault, maître dans l'art de la manière noire, elle approfondit les techniques de l'aquatinte, eau forte et pointe sèche, combinées avec celles du monotype.

En 1995, elle plonge dans le monde de la pédagogie et la mise en forme des projets plastiques. Un an plus tard, cela l'amènera à créer un atelier d'arts plastiques à Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) ouvert aux adultes et aux enfants.

De 2000 à 2002, elle est intervenante en Arts Plastiques dans une école primaire à Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie), et deux ans après, elle travaille comme formatrice en Arts Appliqués à la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie, ainsi qu'au lycée Hôtelier Escoffier de la même ville.

Dès très jeune, la découverte de l'art zen la captive et guide sa pensée, ses sentiments, son œuvre. La vie l'amène dans des endroits magnifiques, en pleine Océanie, en Afrique, qui l'imprègnent de couleurs, formes et lumières aussi variées que ses moyens d'expression.

A chaque nouveau pays où elle habite ses couleurs changent, prennent la teinte du pays: les bleus se font plus intenses et les terres prennent leur place. Le dessin reste toutefois très présent dans ses croquis, aquarelles et peintures des paysages. Moyens d'expressions pour des carnets de voyages du Vanuatu, Fidji, Australie, Nouvelle-Zélande,... Depuis 2003 elle est installée à Accra et elle a un nouvel atelier pour adultes et enfants.

En 2005 elle travaille pour un projet d'illustration de lecture enfantine avec le collage comme outil. Cette nouvelle découverte alimente dorénavant ses toiles et peintures.

Sa vision devient plus abstraite: les silhouettes s'allongent, les couleurs noires donnent force aux blancs et les lumières côtoient les formes et leur donnent une vie indépendante.

Expositions :

- 1993** **Exposition des élèves de l'Ecole des Beaux-arts à Versailles (France). Monotypes et gravures.**
- 1994** **Exposition européenne des beaux-arts de Maastricht (France). Triptyque aquatinte et monotype.**
- 1995** **Exposition de monotypes et aquarelles autour de scènes de rue en Côte d'Ivoire. Galerie Arts Pluriels d'Abidjan.**
- 1996** **Exposition de peintures, aquarelles, gravures sur cuivre et techniques mixtes/ collages et acrylique autour de paysages et de portraits au Centre Culturel Français à Abidjan. Côte d'Ivoire.**
- 2000** **Exposition de peinture à la galerie Arte Bello, à Nouméa, Nouvelle Calédonie. Paysages calédoniens à l'aquarelle et acryliques.**
- 2002** **Exposition personnelle de peintures, et carnets de voyages à la galerie Arte Bello, Nouméa- Nouvelle Calédonie.**

Dominique ARNAL is born in 1962 in France. She first graduated from a school of Architecture, then from a School of Art, both of them in Versailles (France) in 1990 and 1993. She has done several exhibitions in Versailles (1993), Abidjan (1995 and 1996) and New-Caledonia (2000 and 2002). In all these places where she has been living with her family she has created painting workshops for adults and children. She was also a teacher in Applied Arts in a Primary School and in the Chamber of Trade and Industry in New-Caledonia. Through her paintings she expresses what she was able to keep in her mind from her different travels (FIJI, VANUATU, AUSTRALIA, NEW-ZEALAND). Since 2003 she lives in Accra and has set up a new workshop. She is currently moving toward more abstract painting combining shapes, lights, blacks and whites. Life is the result.



GABRIEL EKLOU

A dynamic artist who emerged on the visual arts scene in Ghana with a bang, Eklou has over the years carved a niche for himself with extremely evocative works that tend to reveal his innermost thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Indeed, pieces by Eklou are characterised by subdivided fields with diverse shades of pastels alongside muted colours that appear secondary to his compositions. His cultural symbols, which are often in dark colours, are arbitrarily delineated and demarcated.

Perhaps, his most significant trademark is the ubiquitous presence of stilt figures with extenuated limbs and loose amorphous forms – indeed, their high waists, distended bellies, tapering hands and legs all recall images of Ghanaian folklore.

He often digresses with symbolic landscapes which comprise scenes that depict extremely exaggerated figures thus eliciting a kind of empathy while taking viewers out of their everyday reality – and consequently immersing them into his own hyper-reality.

A multi lingual artist who is largely self-trained, Eklou's love for earth colours knows no boundaries as they continue to show up in most of his works. Undeniably, he has an uncanny ability to play and move colours with relative ease.

Gabriel is invited all over the world through his contacts with expats in Accra. He is such a sweet guy and extremely hardworking that foreigners want to share his work with the people of their home-

country. But even after a hardworking night on Saturday, he will never skip his Sunday morning church service as it gives him the strength to complete his works.

Exhibitions :

- 1996** **Groups exhibition in Vancouver Canada**
- 1997** **Exhibition in Accra Ghana and Lomé Togo**
- 1998** **Groups exhibition in Kumasi Ghana**
- 1999** **Groups exhibition in Munich Germany**
- 2002&03** **Exhibitions in Accra Ghana in different galleries**
- 2004** **Duo exhibition ‘Colours of Earth’ with Virginie
Vlaminck in Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana and a Groups
exhibition ‘Transition’ in Denmark**
- 2005** **Two *One man show*’s in a row; ‘Billedeventyr’ in
Charlottenlund, Denmark and ‘The Root’ in Yokohama,
Japan**
- 2006** **Two Groups exhibition simultaneous; ‘Sensations’ in
Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana and one in Canada.**



SOROKATA SYLLA

Since his childhood Sorakata has been surrounded with African art. He comes from a family of African art dealers. His grandfather, father and mother are all tribal art dealers.

In the U.S. where he lived for 20 years he has sold to collectors from all over the U.S. and Europe. He has pieces in the Bowers Museum and sells to gift stores, furniture stores, interior decorators as well as museums.

He is very enthusiastic about African art from west to east and central Africa. Traveling around Africa has allowed him to find some incredible pieces he is willing to share with anyone who might be interested in these pieces or just curious about African art.

There are several pieces in his own private collection as well as pieces which are for sale. His pieces span from museum quality to decorative pieces.

Sorakata has a great eye for African pieces and is willing to share his knowledge with anyone with a hungry ear. He is a great person to talk to for the both the beginner collector as well as the experienced collector, for decorating purposes or for someone looking for investment pieces.



LA MAISON AFRICAINE

La Maison Africaine presents an elaborate collection of 19th century furniture from the British empire. These pieces are made of hardwood like mahogany, teak, dark walnut and many more. They also present African Artworks from different countries.



KIKKA DESIGN by Kwame ASOMANI

Kwame Asomani left Ghana at early age for the U.K. and graduated at the Chelsea School of Art in London. He qualified in 'furniture design and manufacture' and as a member of the 'Society of Industrial Artists Designers'. Kwame held positions as furniture consultant, workshop coordinator and cabinet maker at different companies in between 1984 and 1992 in London. In 1992 Kwame started Asomani & Co, a company that was set up to make one-off furniture designed to suit clients individual needs. The workshop was fully equipped to deal with both small and batch production.

Plans were made to return to Ghana and 'KIKKA design' was set up in 2000 together with his partner Ilse Cachandt.

We have the honour that the opening address of this exhibition is held by Miss Heidi Owu :

Contact addresses of artists:

- Virginie VLAMINCK, photographer
e-mail: virre41@yahoo.com

In Ghana: H/No 2 Ankua Mensah Street, Dzorwulu, Accra
(233 21) 786 319 or 0244 490 888

In Belgium: Zeestraat 8, 9988 Waterland-Oudeman – 0032 9 379 79 71

- Fernand NONKOUNI, artist painter
e-mail: nonkouni@hotmail.com

In Ghana: H/No 8 Rangoon Close, Ring Road Central, Airport, Accra
PO Box 9592 – (233 21) 772 394 or 0243 425 455

- Gabriel EKLOU, artist painter
e-mail: gabrielakeklou2001@yahoo.com

Location: Regimanuel Est., Kwabenya DTD. Hse No UL 4, Madina
0277 572 267

- Nana ANOFF, artist painter
e-mail: nanoffgallery@yahoo.com

Location: H/No 69 Osubadu Street, Airport West, Accra
PO Box CT 1175 – 0244 253 035

- Dominique ARNAL, artist painter
e-mail: djarnal@africalonline.com.gh

In Ghana: , Accra
(233 21) 772 320 or 0244 895 579

- Sorakata SYLLA, Art Dealer
e-mail: sorakatasylla@sbcglobal.net

Location: H/No 69 Osubadu Street, Airport West, Accra
PO Box CT 1175 – (233 21) 773 716 or 0243 329 232

- La Maison Africaine ; dealers in colonial furniture, bogolan and decorative accessories
e-mail: lamaisonaf@yahoo.com

Location: BOD Market Adjacent Lands Departement, Cantonments,
Accra
PO Box 10308 Accra North – 020 813 84 79

- Kwame ASOMANI and Ilse CACHANDT from
KIKKKA Design
e-mail: kwameea@yahoo.co.uk

Location: First house right 8th Rangoon Close, Ringway Estate, Accra
Show room : Liberation Road, opposite Woolworth
PO Box CT 4742 – (233 21) 322 270 or 0244 661 750

Special thanks to:

- The creative painting skills of Ronney and Monique



- Dredging International Ghana
- Miss Heidi Owu
- Anna Myles

