

# TOUS CES REGARDS MÊ DÉTOURNEMENT DE MOI.

**12 JAN. 2023**

**12 MAI 2023**



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FONDATION  
D'ENTREPRISE  
FRANCÈS

## ALL THESE GAZES ARE TURNING ME AWAY FROM MYSELF

**For its 30th exhibition, the Francès Foundation reveals itself for the first time at the heart of the Okó agency, through a selection of recent acquisitions and key pieces collected over nearly 20 years. Reservations are open to the general public from January 12th to May 12th, 2023.**

**Since 2009, the Francès Foundation has been exhibiting the eponymous contemporary art collection in Senlis (Oise) in an intimate space and historic architecture, echoing the 12<sup>th</sup> century cathedral located nearby. Here, on the outskirts of Paris, in a completely renovated industrial building, a new light is being shed on the collection and the Foundation, on their development and projects.**

**The exhibition "All these gazes are turning me away from myself" is an invitation to go and meet these "image-bodies"<sup>1</sup> that populate the Francès collection. Focusing on figurative painting, it tackles a familiar and complex subject: the body and its images. The selected works explore the multiple ways in which the human figure is constructed and represented, extending the Francès collection theme: the Human and his excesses.**

Often viewed as the very origin of painting, the body as an image has a rich and varied history which has crossed centuries and continents since prehistoric times. Its forms and uses are countless, its meanings and significance multiple, constantly revisited and renewed. "All these gazes are turning me away from myself" presents a rich palette of figuration showing successively grandiose, supplicated, fictional or diverted bodies, even reincarnated ones. Sometimes subjects of representation, other times supports of an incarnation, these multiple figures oscillate between presence and absence, catching the spectator in the opacity of their existence. The works exhibited by the Francès Foundation explore the conditions of their appearance as images and underline the conceptual plurality inherent to their form.

Psychological, fictional or prestige portraits, exploded, vaporous or organic compositions, the exhibition is structured around different perceptions of the body and the history of its representation. The artists are aware of its historical roots. Their gaze is informed by centuries of figuration. Their works cultivate an ambiguous relationship with tradition and art history, oscillating between quotation, criticism, deconstruction or repair. The exhibition wanders through these different interpretations and views on history and society, showing the *body-images* as both endorsing and inducing identity, cultural and political questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Term borrowed from Sylvie Ramond in *Le Corps-image au XXe siècle* (2011).

In order to expand this reflection, the Foundation presents a selection of bark paintings made by artists from Papua New Guinea and a group of sculptures and masks from several sub-Saharan African countries. Their presence in the exhibition is part of a research project on the use and meaning of their production. Acquired during the travels of Estelle and Hervé Francès, they are subjects of research and encounters. A work of memory which should translate into an artistic residency. Raymond Marek Kowspi, Agatoak Roni Kowspi and Chiphowka Kowspi are invited to join a residency program at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2023.

"All these gazes are turning me away from myself" offers a rich and heterogeneous body of work whose coherence lies in the place given to the human figure, to the body as source and subject of images. Within painted portraits, organic sculptures, masks or ritual paintings, the bodies are confronting our gaze, scanning and peeling our soul. They captivate and transport us out of our own temporality, out of our own body, to plunge us, for a moment, into the depth of their existence and the questions it generates.

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The artists exhibited: Roy Adzak, Kader Attia, Seon-Ghi Bahk, Tony Bevan, Alin Bozbiciu, Miriam Cahn, Mircea Cantor, John Currin, Berlinde de Bruyckere, Tim Eitel, Adrian Ghenie, Robert Gligorov, Mona Hatoum, Naoto Kawahara, Youcef Korichi Agatoak Kowspi, Sophie Kuijken, Tomasz Machcinski, Jonathan Meese, Antoni Miralda, Max Neumann, Nazanin Pouyandeh, Michael Ray Charles, Nicola Samori, Shirley Villavicencio Pizango, Kehinde Wiley, Lynette Yiadom- Boakye



Between resistance and generosity, the Francès Foundation is an art centre created in Senlis in 2009. The in-situ exhibitions are accessible to all, free of charge, and offer everyone the opportunity to discover contemporary art. Created by Estelle and Hervé Francès, the eponymous foundation is conceived as a laboratory for reflection around a collection of nearly 800 works of contemporary art. Located in Senlis, the foundation is committed to the democratisation of contemporary art and has established partnerships with public and private institutions in the area. The Francès Collection, built up as Estelle and Hervé Francès made their discoveries, reveals a common thread, that of "Human and his excesses", and thus becomes a source of inspiration and affirmed convictions. As an exhibition curator, Estelle Francès has always initiated exhibitions in dialogue with a chosen theme that offers open perspectives and correspondences that sometimes bring together artists with unexpectedly similar consonances. Exhibitions that aspire to create new views, new emotions, to excite the intelligence and awaken the desire for art. Like the solo shows at the Fondation Francès, inviting an internationally renowned artist for a carte blanche, Gavin Turk, Claire Morgan, Mircea Cantor or Kader Attia.

### The Francès Edition

Created in 2016, the Francès Editions aims to explore different spheres of contemporary visual arts. The first edition launches a collection of artists' books, the second follows a thematic choice, referring to techniques and their evolutions from a didactic angle. The Francès Editions is a consequence of our attachment to words to describe an approach, whatever it may be, artistic, scientific or intellectual. Like a memory, it allows the trace and the history of these artistic encounters to be expressed.

### The documentation center

A dedicated and intimate space of the Francès Foundation, with about 1400 books available to visitors, schoolchildren, students or researchers. The documentation center is accessible by membership and contains references on contemporary artists, including those in the Francès collection. Journals, artists' books, exhibition catalogues, general works on the major currents in the history of art, comic strips and cultural policies are regularly supplemented.

### The Okó Agency

Okó is a multidisciplinary communication agency founded by Hervé Francès in 1993. Since 2005, it occupies a place that has been completely redesigned by its director, a singular, calm and luminous architecture spread over three levels. This former palm factory, transformed into an open space, offers refined spaces that have always been home to works from the Francès collection. These displays are coordinated by the cultural engineering company ARROI created in 2004 by Estelle Francès and co-founder with the agency Okó of the Francès Foundation.

As an extension of these exhibitions, which until now have been reserved for the agency's internal audiences, the Francès Foundation is initiating a series of exhibitions in 2023 that will be open to professionals, amateurs, collectors and the general public. This increased accessibility is intended to give visibility to the collection and to the many commitments and developments of the Foundation over the past 14 years.

While continuing its cultural activities in Senlis, the Foundation will offer new insights into the works in the collection, extending its mission of disseminating works in situ and outside the walls, and democratizing contemporary art.



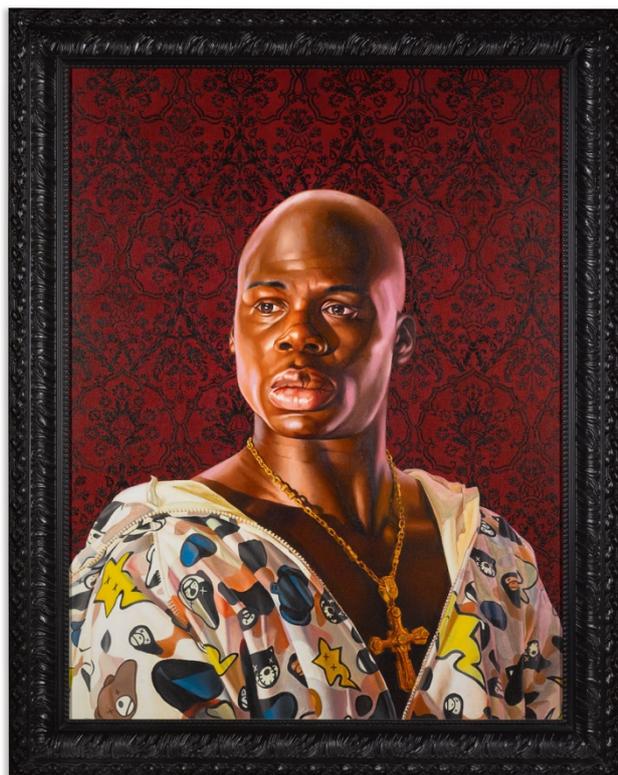
**Michael Ray CHARLES**

*(Forever Free) Picasso Monkey, 2000*

Acrylic latex and copper penny on canvas

141 x 82 cm

Francès collection



**Kehinde WILEY**

*Portrait Bust of Cardinal Richelieu, 2009*

Oil on canvas

122 x 92,4 cm

Francès collection



**Youcef KORICHI**

*Jasper Johns, 2022*

Oil on canvas

97 x 195 cm

Francès collection



**Nazanin POUYANDEH**

*The Wrestlers*, 2020

Oil on canvas

73 x 92 cm

Francès collection



**Wooden mask**

Dogon, Mali

Circa 1930

31 x 20 x 19 cm

Francès collection



**Roy ADZAK**

*Sans Titre*, 1965

Mixed media

47,5 x 56 cm

Francès collection



**Nicola SAMORI**

*Salagrama*, 2015

White marble of Carrare, iron and steel

80 x 35 x 35 cm

Francès collection



**Lynette YIADOM-BOAKYE**

*A Quarter*, 2013

Oil on canvas

200 x 160 cm

Francès collection

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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**Fondation d'entreprise Francès**

**21 rue Georges Boisseau, Clichy**  
**[mediation@fondationfrances.com](mailto:mediation@fondationfrances.com)**

**Visits need to be booked online:**

 **<https://www.fondationfrances.com/>**

*Accessibility:*

  Saint-Ouen

 138, 174, 274, 341 : Georges Boisseau  
66, 173 : Victor Hugo - Sanzillon

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