

Perspectives from Within: Our Cultures Through Fashion

Photographs by Yannis Davy Guibinga

Exhibition Summary

Perspectives from Within (PFW) is a photographic series curated by Obafemi Ogunleye as a platform for exhibiting new works from an emergent generation of artists living and working on the African continent as well as abroad in the Diaspora. The overarching goal for PFW is to advance the practice of African stories being told by Africans through the medium of photography. By intentionally exhibiting specific collections of images from selected photographers, PFW amplifies important messages that critically address a broad range of social, cultural, and political issues. In our latest edition, titled “Our Cultures Through Fashion”, we focus on how fashion and culture intersect by surveying various contributions to African styles from around the continent. We are particularly interested in how fashion has developed and been repurposed over time as an authentic way of self-expression.

The work of Yannis Davy Guibinga embodies the spirit of our PFW theme by tapping into traditional cultural aesthetics as well as creating entirely new ways of seeing the world of fashion from African perspectives. The featured series include: *The First Woman* (2020), *Lagbaja* (2021), *Yaye* (2021), and *Tales of the First Sunrise* (2021). This collection highlights Guibinga’s artistic range by displaying the beauty of his past projects while wrestling with issues that have emerged in his work over the years. Overall, there are several thematic categories that reoccur in this collection, such as: African mythology, femininity & womanhood, and cultural specificity.

A central theme to this exhibition is the juxtaposition between old and new, or traditional and contemporary. In approaching his projects, Guibinga believes that:

“Everything is always a reinterpretation of things that have already existed, especially in terms of art and creativity. In my work, I am taking from the past to construct the ideal future for Africans”.

-Yannis Davy Guibinga

For more information on the exhibition, visit: <http://www.olaju.org/pfw>

Artist Statement

Yannis Davy Guibinga is a photographer from Libreville, Gabon currently based in Montréal, Canada. His portrait photography is a documentation of a new generation of Africans, unapologetically embracing their many identities and cultures in the face of globalization and Western cultural imperialism. His work also focuses on highlighting the diversity of African identities, as well as how these identities are created through the intersection of different factors such as gender, culture, and socioeconomic status. By letting each image tell a different story and illustrate a unique experience, point of view and perspective, Yannis Davy Guibinga with colors, shapes and shadows creates a world of powerful, beautiful, and dignified Africans regardless of gender performance, class, or sexual orientation.

The negative stereotypes ascribed to the African continent before, during and after colonial times are still considered factual by many today, and the idea that the continent remains primitive and underdeveloped has always informed the way people think about and interact with Africa. In order to contribute to a change in the narrative about the continent, Guibinga has found in photography a strength and a tool allowing him to not only celebrate but also to document and represent the many cultures and identities on the African continent and its diaspora.




Yannis has worked with clients such as Apple, Nikon, and Adobe and has exhibited works internationally in England, South Africa, Nigeria, France, Russia, Qatar, Switzerland and more, as well as featured on platforms such as CNN Africa, Document Journal, I-D, Harper’s Bazaar Russia, Condé Nast Traveler and more.

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Image List

#	Thumbnail	Title/Series	Year Produced	Dimensions (wxh)
1		The First Woman IV	2020	30x20
2		The First Woman I	2020	20x30
3		The First Woman III	2020	20x30

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4		The First Woman II	2020	36x24
5		Lagbaja II	2021	16x20
6		Lagbaja III	2021	16x20
7		Lagbaja I	2021	16x20


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8		Lagbaja IV	2021	16x20
9		Yaye III	2021	20x30
10		Yaye I	2021	20x30
11		Yaye II	2021	30x20

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12		Tales of the First Sunrise V	2021	24x36
13		Tales of the First Sunrise I	2021	20x30
14		Tales of the First Sunrise II	2021	20x30
15		Tales of the First Sunrise III	2021	20x30

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16		Tales of the First Sunrise IV	2021	20x30
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All photographs are printed on archival matte paper.

Pricing by Size

- 8x10; \$100
- 16x20; \$1,650
- 20x30; \$2,000
- 24x36; \$2,500

For more information, contact: info@olaju.org

www.olaju.org

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