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Yannos Majestikos

Kizobazoba

February 4 - February 17 2024

OPENING : February 4th, 2pm - 6pm

Performance at 4pm



In Lingala, *Kizobazoba* refers to pieces of fabric that have been salvaged and sewn together to make a garment. Kizobazoba in that way is the unlikely mixture of scraps. Artist and performer Yannos Majestikos applies this principle of assemblage to his exhibition, invoking in turn fashion, political instability, poverty and environmental disasters.

In his performance *Kati Na Libanda* (2021), dressed in armor made from electronic waste and printed circuit boards, the artist denounces the exploitation and violence in the blood minerals of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, controlled by mercenaries and armed groups.

Helmets, clothes and a train, made from peanut shells and presented as an installation, come from *Sapekologie Téléportation* (2018). «Sapekologie», a suitcase word combining the Sape (Society of Ambiance-Makers and Elegant People) and the term Ekolo, which in Lingala means both «country» and «container». Under Mobutu, the ekolo was a system of measurement used to purchase food, and was intended to help solve the economic crisis. Here, the artist points to the identity malaise linked to the colonial heritage that he perceives in the art of undermining.

Somewhere between a Greek emperor and a guerrilla warrior, Yannos Majestikos denounces the crises afflicting the Democratic Republic of Congo. His collages and drawings are inspired by a story from ancient Greece, in which a handful of soldiers confront an entire army. *UNDER, EXIL-EXIT, WORLD REVOLUTION* show people in exile, fighting to change the course of things.

Tala Lelo's vernissage performance features TV men wearing cathode-ray monitors as heads. The screens broadcast portraits and speeches by the leaders who wrote the history of the former Zaire and its decolonization.

Born in 1988 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yannos Majestikos is a visual artist and performer. With a degree in interior architecture from the Beaux-Arts of Kinshasa, he creates drawings and sculptures, founded the Sakana Na Art collective, signs committed performances in the public space from 2012 («Super Ekolo»), participates in exhibitions and films («Système K» by Renaud Barret). Winner of the 2018 Visa pour la création from the French Institute, and resident at the Cité internationale des arts, he chose to settle in France and became a member of the atelier des artistes en exil. He took part in the «Kinshasa Chronicles» exhibition at the Musée international des arts modestes (MIAM) in Sète with «Sapekologie Téléportation», and performed in Paris, Lille, Annecy, Belgium and Spain. He staged «Tala Lelo» at Les Subsistances in Lyon in 2019, and «Résurrection» at La Condition publique in Roubaix in 2021 (Latitudes contemporaines festival). As part of the Collège de France's Pause program, he is a guest at the École supérieure d'art Annecy Alpes and the Arts décoratifs de Paris. He is the 2019 winner of the ADAGP «Regards d'ailleurs» grant.