
IBRAHIM BEMBA KÉBÉ
(b. 1996, Bamako, Mali)

Ibrahim Bemba Kébé is a Malian visual artist whose work articulates identity, memory, and ritual through a language that merges painting, sculpture, and textile installation. A graduate of the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers Multimédia Balla Fasséké Kouyaté in Bamako – where he completed his studies at the top of his class in Visual Arts – Kébé embodies a new generation of artists for whom tradition is not a static inheritance but a living, speculative force.

Having grown up in proximity to artisanal practices – his father being a carpenter-welder – Kébé was introduced early to the constructive logic of drawing and to the material intelligence of metalworking. These formative experiences later expanded into autodidactic explorations in calligraphy and screen printing, and ultimately, into his first pictorial works.

In 2016, he formally enrolled in the Conservatoire, where he distinguished himself through both the visual strength of his compositions and the depth of his theoretical inquiry. He is a founding member and current president of Sanou'Arts, an emerging collective of young artists and recent graduates committed to confronting the conceptual and practical challenges of contemporary creation in Mali.

Central to Kébé's practice is a sustained engagement with the cultural and formal legacies of the Korèdugaw, a tradition of initiatory wisdom figures within Malian society. His research into their symbolic and ethical universe informs not only the aesthetics of his work – where satire, sacredness and reinvention intertwine – but also his commitment to reuse and transformation of materials. This principle of recycling, which echoes the Korèdugaw ethos, becomes in Kébé's work both a political gesture and an ecological consciousness, aligned with global urgencies.

Kébé's practice centres on the question of identity and the complex relationship between contemporary African societies and their spiritual and philosophical foundations. Through the exploration of cosmogonies – traditional and speculative – he investigates how ancestral systems of meaning continue to shape modes of perception, behaviour, and presence. His painted worlds are often immersed in maritime symbolism, where figures of African men and women emerge dignified and monumental, carriers of memory, trauma and transcendence.

IBRAHIM BEMBA KÉBÉ | CV

SOLO SHOWS

[**2026**] The Sacred Sites - Silent Presences: Objects, Forms, and Spaces Devoid of Human Figures, French Institute of Bamako (Mali)

[**2025**] When the Sky Split Open, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE (Lisbon, Portugal)

[**2022**] In Search Of Load Balance, Residence La Casa Blanca (Bamako, Mali)

[**2020**] The dance of the Korédougaw, French Institute of Bamako (Mali)

GROUP SHOWS

[**2026**] *Memory in Motion: Identities, Materials and Resonances*, Art of Contemporary Africa Gallery, (San Francisco, United States)

[**2025**]
"Beyond Boundaries. A Collective Odyssey", Curated by Graça Rodrigues, Ricardo Barbosa Vicente, and Sónia Ribeiro, Water Museum and Cape Verde Cultural Centre (Lisbon, Portugal).
La Traversée, Dada (Marrakech)

[**2024**] Embodied Narratives, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, (Lisbon, Portugal)

[**2023**] SPIRITUAL RETREAT (duo show), Bla bla bar, (Bamako, Mali)

[**2021**] IN Segou'Art 2021 International exhibition, Niger Festival Foundation

[**2020**] IN Ségou'Art 2020 Bi Mali, Niger Festival Foundation

[**2019**]
Sanou'Arts and Tim'Arts, Bla bla bar, (Bamako, Mali)
Les pinceaux de l'intégration Mali/Burkina Faso", Espace Gambidi, (Ouaga- Burkina, Faso)
QUARTIERLIBRE I, SIIF'ARTS space, (Bamako, Mali)

ART FAIRS

[**2026**] Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE (South Africa)
San Francisco Art Fair (United States)

[**2025**] Part of ARCOLisboa 2025, WAAU – WORLD AFRICAN ARTISTS UNITED, in collaboration with THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, presents "THE MARCH OF THE HEIRS."

[**2024**]
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE (London, UK)
AKAA – Also Known As Africa Art & Design Fair, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE (Paris, France)
RMB Latitudes Art Fair, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Johannesburg.

RESIDENCIES

[**2026**] TranSformS Art Residency (Siby, Mali)

[**2020 - 2021**] Creative residency as part of the Festival "Les Rencontres à l'Echelle" -Friche la Belle de Mai in Marseille, France

[**2019**] Creative residency as part of the "Les pinceaux de l'intégration Mali/Burkina Faso" – Gambidi Cultural Center in Ouaga, Burkina Faso