

Light Bodies

VOLTA NY
March 5-8 – 2015

SEATTLE
March 20- May 1 – 2015

Maimouna Guerresi

Maimouna Guerresi is an Italo-Senegalese multimedia artist working with photography, sculpture, video, and installation.

With her very personal language, she combines African and Asian themes and motifs with Western classical traditions and spiritual iconography. Through this hybrid expression she's able to communicate the sensitivity, discomfort and the beauty of diversity, interpreting the best contemporary multiracial problematic.

Light Bodies is the title of the new solo exhibition of Maimouna Guerresi, curated by Mariane Ibrahim and presented at Volta NY and Mariane Ibrahim Gallery in Seattle.

The exhibition is a journey through the different interpretations of the spiritual and mystical body, seen as a container of energy that expands and turns, mutating into an architecture, a temple and a still unknown cosmos where the body is no longer a prison of the soul, but rather a temple to house and augment the Divine. Light Bodies is a retrospective of the artist's works related to the symbolic representation of the body seen as mystical suspended and light; the polyhedral artistic expressions of Maimouna Guerresi are shown in this exhibition by a body of works that includes different media.

On the occasion of the Volta NY art fair, the sculptor Supha and the photographic installation Black Cosmos were exhibited; Supha is a spectacular sculpture suspended from the ceiling featuring a meditating character, a long white cloth tied at the waist like a belt, falls to the ground, as a channel of energy that unites heaven to earth.

The installation Black Cosmo is a series of photographs in a rounded form printed on plexiglass and placed on the wall as to draw a constellation, aiming to reflect the movement of the female figure present in the pictures that shows a black dress while she's photographed in various stages of a rotation as the mystical dance of the Sufi.

In Seattle the exhibition is amplified, including the artworks Milky light, Giants Illumination 1-3-4, Red Table and First lesson; Milky light is a video installation showing three large bowls filled with milk, where in each bowl, hands of different ages and skin color are constantly collecting the milk, almost as an hypnotic rhythm, as a metaphor of the well of infinite light, accompanied with an immersive music produced by the sound of a lute that imitates the sounds of water circles. For the series of pictures Giants, the artist was inspired by the mystical characters of the muslim Africa.

These characters are represented as large and imposing figure wearing baggy cloaks that shows only their hands and face, transforming the body into an empty space, as to create a new and unknown dimension that attracts but at the same time inspires awe.

In opposition to the statutory works of Giants, the photographic works Lighting 1-3-4, represents the movement swirling of bright light bodies, as if they were dissolving into space.

The exhibition ends with the photographic triptych Red Table and the polyptych First Lesson, a continuation of the series M-eating, in both works the scene takes place around a red table. The central theme of these works gravitates on the concept of the conflict between aggregation and isolation. The characters have a look absorbed and distracted despite the context of conviviality that hosts them. The meeting at the table becomes an occasion to reflect on contemporary man and his relationship with the society.

Some recent exhibitions

2015 *Light Body* Solo exhibitions at Volta New York and in Seattle with Mariane Ibrahim Gallery.

2014 M.I.A Minneapolis Museum U.S, exposed and acquired for the collection of the Museum a sculpture installation. *1:54, African Contemporary art Fair*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery London./ *2ème Biennale Internationale de Casablanca*, Casablanca ,Morocco./ *Abkja (hidden area)–performance -Sconfinamenti #2*, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, creative direction of Elizabeth Mambro / Franco Laera, Festival dei due mondi Spoleto 57, Rocca Albornoze , Spoleto Italy./ *Doppio Sogno*, showcasing the large bronze sculpture “*The Light Signs*”, curated by Luca Beatrice & Studio Copernico, Polo Reale di Torino Italy/ *Within/Beyond,Borders*, curated by Delphine Munro, European Investment Bank, Banco del Portugal, Lisbon..

2013- *Ici, là et au-delà* Institut des Cultures d'Islam (ICI), curated by Michket Krifa, Paris,France./ *Paris Photo*, Tasveer Gallery, Grand Palais, Paris, France/ *M.eating*, Camhane Art Center, collateral event Istanbul Biennial, Turkey / *Concava*, FAR Museum Contemporary Art, curated by V. Aguglia, M. Gigliuto, Laura Serani ,Massimo Pulini, Rimini, Italy/ *Black Portraiture*, organised by Harvard University and New York University, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, France./ *Chobi Mela, VII International Festival of Photography*, Shilpaka Academy in Dhaka/ *Inner Space*, The Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata, and Tasveer Gallery, Bangalore, India/ *Mystic Black Body*, curated by Celine Duval, Stimultania Pôle de la Photographie, Strasburg, France

2012- National Institute of Design, Paldi, Ahmdabad, Gujarat India/ *Africa: See you; see me - African Influence on Contemporary Photography*, curated by Awam Ampka, National Museum, Lagos Nigeria and Goethe Institute, 10th Biennial Dak'art, Dakar, Senegal./

2011- *ARS 11*, KIASMA, curated by Jari-Pekka Vanhala, Helsinki Museum, Finland. *Pudeurs et colères de femmes*, Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium. .Solo exhibition Istitute de Culture de France,Fez Morocco/ 2010 *Monography . la Centrale Electrique , Belgium / L'Orient et L'Occident desorientés?*, curated by D. Hennebert, Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium/ *Barakat: the gift, contemporary art from del middle west and Africa*, curated by Gaia Serena Simionati, Stux Gallery, New York. / *Africa: See You, See Me*, curated by Awam Ampka, Museo de Citade Lisbon, Portugal. Paris Photos , Galleria Photo & Contemporary, Paris. 2009 Maïmouna exhibit a her first monograph in Africa at the Biennial “Les Rencontres de Bamako 2009” National Museum ,Mali ./ *Teatri possibili*, curated by Andrea Busto, Palazzo Ferrero, Biella, Italy.

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