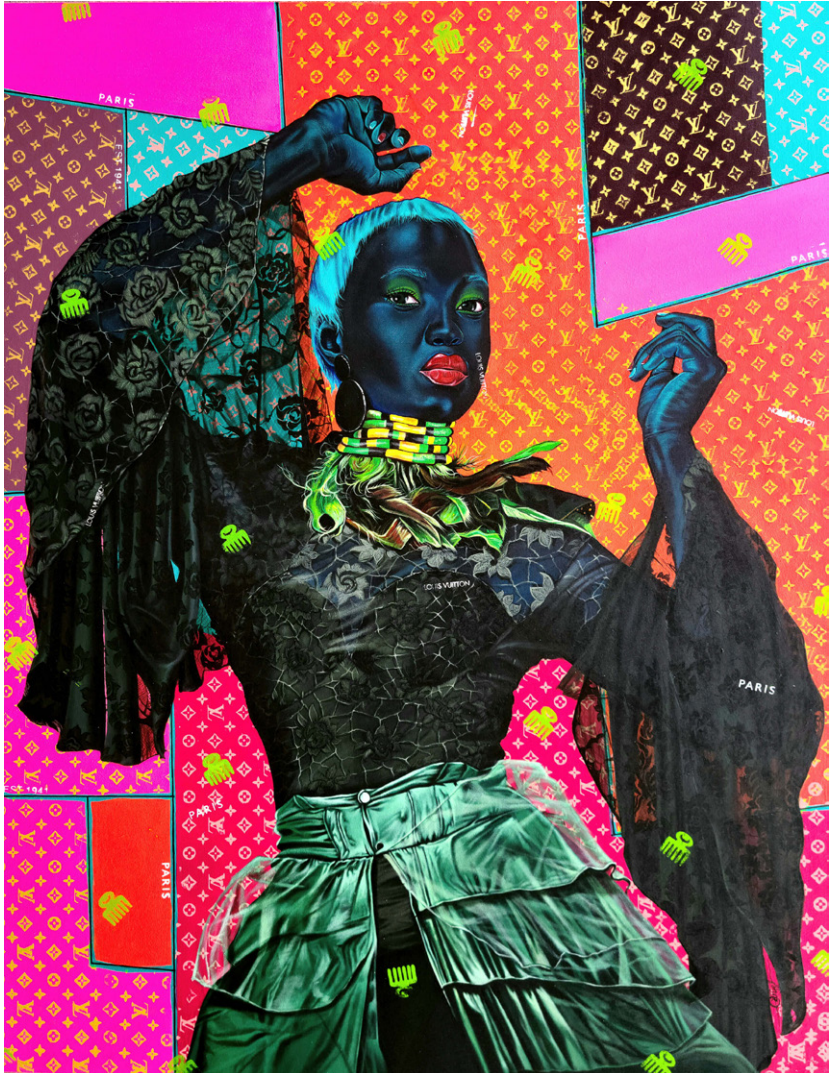


ANJEL



AFRO SEDUCTION

OOA Gallery - 7/5 - 20/6/21 - Barcelona, Spain
1-54 New York '21 - 17/5 - 23/5/21 - New York, USA



ANJEL (Boris Anje)

Born in 1993 in Bamenda, Cameroon
Lives and works in Douala, Cameroon

Afro Seduction – Anjel

by Paul Laster

Celebrated for his lively Neo-Pop Art paintings of contemporary African dandies, the Cameroon artist Anjel, who was born Boris Anje in 1993, continues his colorful exploration of fashionable black scenesters in the exhibition “Afro Seduction,” his second solo show with OOA Gallery.

Working from hand-picked photos of stylish young men and women, Anjel modifies their outfits by changing the colors and textures, alters the light sources to deepen the shadows and heighten the reflections, and contextualizes his striking black subjects in the realms of global consumerist culture and African symbolism.

“I want to give value to the black body,” Anjel declared from his studio in the Cameroon coastal city of Douala. “I’m trying to give some kind of attention, some kind of attraction, to the person of color.”

New to Anjel’s recent body of work is his use of symbols from the Adinkra alphabet, which is a contemporary way of writing some of the languages spoken in Ghana and Ivory Coast, including Akan, Dagbani, Ewe and Ga. The Adinkra symbols are sometimes utilized in the logo designs of entrepreneurial brands, where the symbols are used to represent sayings, proverbs or concepts, such as wisdom, strength, unity, wealth, love and peace.

In his canvases *The Power of Love I and II* (2021), a shirtless black man sports the Adinkra symbol that relates to the title of the paintings like a tattoo on his pumped-up chest. Assuming a thuggish pose with his blue jean jacket hanging off his shoulders and his Calvin Klein briefs exposed by his open pants, he proudly confronts the viewers, as more power of love symbols float around him like kisses being blown in his direction by devoted fans.

THE POWER OF LOVE I | 2021

160cm H x 140cm | Acrylic, wax transfer and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



PARIS

PARIS

PARIS

Calvin Klein

THE POWER OF LOVE II | 2021

160cm H x 140cm | Acrylic, wax transfer and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



PARIS

Calvin Klein

ST 1941

1941





Similarly, the paintings *Gods Supremacy I and II* (2021) depict a blouseless black woman in a green jean jacket and hot pink slacks. An Adinkra symbol implying the supremacy of god is silkscreened in white—bouncing around the composition like shifting targets in a shooter video game. Enveloped in fashion logos, the pictured temptress primps her sizable Afro with both hands in the first version and holds her balance on one leg while elegantly touching her hair and elevated high heel shoe in version two.

GODS SUPREMACY I | 2021

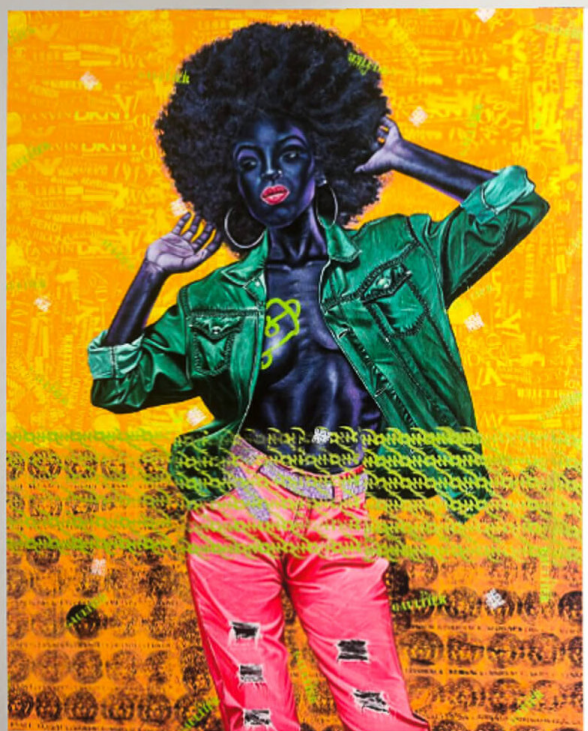
160cm H x 130cm | Acrylic, wax transfer and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



GODS SUPREMACY II | 2021

160cm H x 130cm | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







A handsome black male, flaunting a blue jean jacket with pictures of the musician and Pan-Africanist Fela Anikulapo-Kuti on it, is also repeated in the paintings *Duafe of Fela* (Beauty of Fela) and *Greatness is Within* (both 2021), which graphically mix fashion logos and African symbols in contrasting pink and green colors in the surrounding ground.

DUAFA OF FELA (BEAUTY OF FELA) | 2021

140cm H x 110cm W | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



GREATNESS IS WITHIN | 2021

130cm H x 110cm W | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



GREATNESS
IS
WITHIN YOU



"Another fashionable dude—wearing a black and white outfit, gold chains and a bucket hat—shoots the peace symbol like he's just jumped out of a limo and stopped to pose on a step-and-repeat stage in the dynamic Ying and Yang (2020)."
Paul Laster



Meanwhile, another fashionable dude—wearing a black and white outfit, gold chains and a bucket hat—shoots the peace symbol like he’s just jumped out of a limo and stopped to pose on a step-and-repeat stage in the dynamic *Ying and Yang* (2020).

YING AND YANG | 2020

140cm H x 110cm W | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



Pushing his imaginative painting style even further, *The Black Widow* (2021) presents a dramatic dark skin seductress with short blue hair striking a pose in a black sheer lace top and a green satin and chiffon skirt. Lifting her arms in a dance-like move, she visually stands out against a geometrically divided background of Louis Vuitton logos and bold colors. Overlaid with wax transfer images of a wide tooth comb, which is the Adinkra symbols for beauty and personality, the painting says black is beautiful with an exclamation point.

THE BLACK WIDOW | 2021

140cm H x 110cm W | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - **SOLD**



PARIS

EST. 1854

LOUIS VUITTON

PARIS

PARIS

LOUIS VUITTON

LOUIS VUITTON

PARIS

PARIS

1941



LOUIS VUITTON



LOUIS VUITTON

LOUIS VUITTON

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Anjel

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Going deeper into the realm of Afropunk, Anjel takes the ideas that he explored with a new generation of sapeurs, who were inspired by old school Congolese dandies, to exciting new heights. Employing gorgeous black bodies decked out in stylish street fashions as the subjects for his vibrant paintings, he creates complex canvases that open our minds while equally enticing our eyes.

Paul Laster

New York Desk Editor | ArtAsiaPacific

Contributing Editor | Whitehot Magazine of Contemporary Art

Writer | Time Out New York|Galerie|Art & Object | Sculpture |

Cultured | Harper's Bazaar Arabia | Architectural Digest |Surface

|Garage | ConceptualFineArts

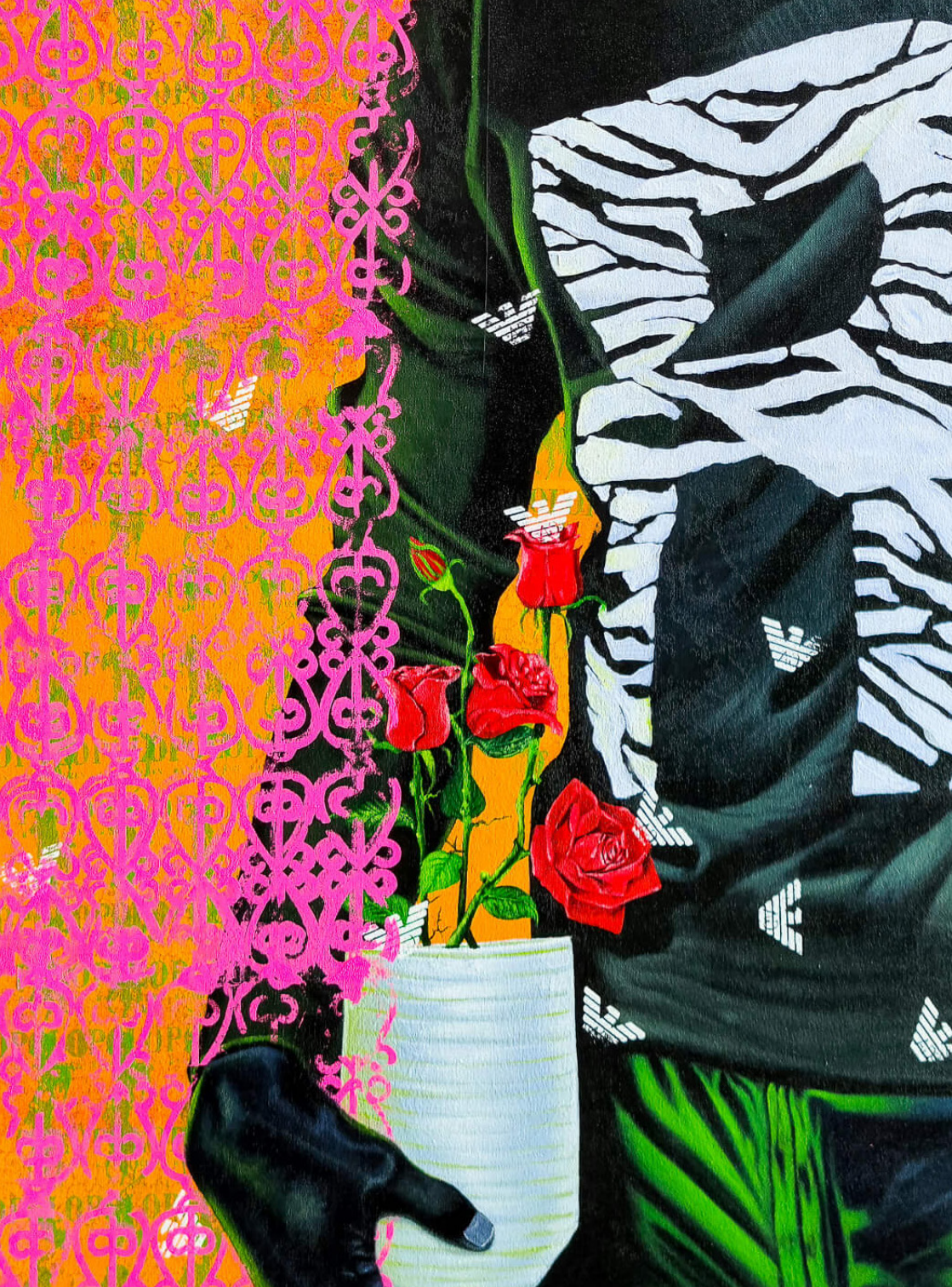
RED ROSES OF HOPE | 2021

140cm H x 110cm W | Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



SHOWS & ART FAIRS

- 2021** | Solo show "Afro Seduction" – OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain
1-54 New York Online Art Fair, powered by Christie's – OOA Gallery – New York, USA
- 2020** | Solo show - Black is Beautiful – OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain
1-54 New York Online Art Fair – OOA Gallery – New York, USA
- 2019** | Art X Lagos – OOA Gallery – Lagos, Nigeria
AKAA Art Fair – Didier Claes – Paris, France
- 2018** | Group show "Extravagance" - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain
Group show – Beirut Art Fair – OOA Gallery – Beirut, Lebanon
Group show – Sahm workshops - OFF Dak'Art 2018 – Dakar, Senegal
Douala Art Fair – Douala, Cameroon
Group show "Cameroun: une vision contemporaine, Acte VIII" - World Bank – Yaounde, Cameroon
Group show "Carnival" - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain



2017 | Group show with the Bonapriso artists

Group show “Équilibre” - SAANA Gallery – Utrecht, The Netherlands

Group show “Prix Orisha” - Appartment Gallery – Paris, France

Group show “Art 2017” - Doual’art – Douala, Cameroon

Group show “African Colours” - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain

Group show “The Congo dandies” - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain

First price “Pascal Martin Tayou” - Jeunes Espoirs 2017 – Doual’art – Douala, Cameroon

Group show “Je te présente ma ville” - IFC Congo

Group show “Les ateliers Sahm” - Congo

2016 | Group show, French Institute, Congo

Group show, Sahm Ateliers, Congo

Group show, Festival Cot’Art Bonapriso, Douala, Cameroon

Artistic residency, Sahm Ateliers, Cong

First prize - painting, Ateliers Sahm

Best painter - Fouban Institute of Fine Arts (IBAF), Cameroon

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Private collection - Italian Art Critic

Private collection - Cotco Finance Director

Permanent collection – World Bank – Washington, USA

Private Collection Murcia Street Art Project – Francisco Hernandez – Murcia, Spain

Private Collection – Pascale Richetta – Paris, France

Private Collection – Hervé Broncard Collection – Paris, France

Private Collection – Franck Gueguen – Paris, France

OOA | OUT OF AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART

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