

Biography

Armand Boua, born 1978 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

He lives and works in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Armand Boua illustrates his works based on the lives of street kids who testify to the violence and political struggles in West Africa. He wants to show the lives of these street children in a way that not so many people can relate to. Working in Abidjan, the economic capital at the crossroads of urbanisation and industrialisation, Boua experiences the Ivorian landscape with heightened sensitivity. His observations of children are drawn largely from street scenes where urban migrations create ethnic, linguistic, cultural and social entanglements that have come to enrich and problematize the region in equal measure. Children abduction in Ivory Coast remains a chilling real issue with myths of human sacrifices and other rituals fulling the market for organs of the young, who also fall victim to sex trafficking, illegal adoption rings and plantation labour.

Boua's subjects could be victims of such exploitation, or symbols of hope and innocence. The severity of this crisis foreshadows the practice of the street-based artist, who sees the atrocities of man echoed in everyday life and gives them shape through painting and emotive movements. Having studied in the National School of Fine Arts and the Technical Centre for Applied Arts both in Abidjan, he immersed himself deeply in the artistic world, depicting the real issues of the young volatile children. His principle is one born out of an engagement with found material, to which he applies his signature forms that invoke images and scenes in remembrance. Boua is noted for his textured and layered compositions, using tar and acrylic on found cardboard boxes. Each layer is applied and then scrubbed and stripped back, leaving abstract forms that come in and out of focus. He achieves a careful balance between his heavy gestures and violent execution and the gentle treatment of his subject matter.

When it comes to his paintings, Armand describes the plight of his subjects: "I wanted to show their suffering, their way of life, so that people are finally aware of this painful reality they pretend not to see."

Education

National School of Fine Arts, Abidjan, CI
 Technical Center of Applied Arts, Abidjan, CI
 Ste Mary Training Institute, Abidjan, CI
 Museum of Civilization, Abidjan, CI

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019** *Yopougon, Adjamé, Liberté*, Cecile Fakhoury, Abidjan, CI
 Cape Town Art Fair, LKB/G, Cape Town, ZA
- 2018** *Brobrosseurs*, Cecile Fakhoury, Abidjan, CI
Dans Le Djassa, LKB/G, Hamburg, DE
Mogo de Poy-City, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2017** *Children of Africa*, AKKA Project, Dubai, AE
Clache Moi, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2016** *Forgotten People*, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York, US
Les zinzins, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2015** *Djossi a Yopougon*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2014** *Enfants de la rue*, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2019** *Kubatana*, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, NO
- 2018** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
 1718, LKB/G, Hamburg, DE
Rassemblement, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
Talisman in the age of difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
Artistic Surgery for Broken Faces, PIASA, Paris, FR
- 2017** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, US
Devil in disguise, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
 VOLTA, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York, US
- 2016** Art Miami, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, Miami, US
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
Le penseur, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2015** *FLAUNT: Africa New Wave*, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York, US
Past Perfect / Future Present, Christie's Curate, London, UK
Studio Lumiere, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, US
PANGAEA II: New Art from Africa - Latin America, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2014** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
- 2013** *Art and Nature*, 4th Edition, Katadji, CI
- 2012** *Un regard sur Abidjan*, Société EIFFAGE, SN
- 2010** 1st Edition of Salon International des Arts Plastiques, Abidjan, CI
 9th Edition of DAK'ART, Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, SN
 4th Edition of Festival d'Essaouira, MA
- 2007** 1st Edition of Brush of Africa, Stockholm, SE
 1st Edition of Festival des Arts Visuels, Abidjan, CI

Collections

Saatchi Gallery, UK
 The Franks-Suss Collection, HK
 Tiroche DeLeon Collection, IL
 Minneapolis Institute of Art, US

Selected Auctions

- 2018** PHILLIPS: New Now, New York, US
- 2017** PIASA: African Contemporary Art, Paris, FR
 Sotheby's: Modern and Contemporary African Art, London, UK
 Christie's: Contemporary African Art, London, UK
 PIASA: African Contemporary Art, Paris, FR
 AMREF Health Africa. Artball: Contemporary African, New York, US