

Victor Fotso Nyie Rêve Lucide

Opening Thursday 22 June 2023, 3–11pm

22 June — 9 September 2023

Tuesday–Saturday: 10am–2pm / 3–7pm

P420 is pleased to announce the opening in the gallery of *Rêve Lucide*, the first solo exhibition by the Cameroonian sculptor Victor Fotso Nyie (Douala, 1990; lives and works between Faenza and Rieti, IT).

The exhibition features a series of terracotta sculptures created between 2021 and 2023, arranged in a nonlinear and nonhierarchical manner, peacefully resting on brick-built plinths and a cumulative bed of soil: a constellation that evokes a soundless environment halfway between a lunar landscape and a sacred burial ground. Through his sculptural language impregnated with magic realism, Fotso Nyie employs clay as a vessel for storytelling, where the encounter with the spirits of the ancestors happens through the dimension of dreams — an oneiric realm where personal and collective memories intertwine with uncanny visions, hinting at a future time.

His anthropomorphic figures are rendered in double-baked clay of a dark tone with a smooth waxed finish, embodying a powerful iconography aligned with the new contemporary figuration and imbued, at the same time, with references and sensibilities sourced from Pan-African vernacular culture, particularly the spiritual knowledge of West Africa.

Interweaving a biographical narrative with the collective unease surrounding the displaced heritage of African art and artifacts, Fotso Nyie's sculptures are primarily self-portraits that imaginatively blend with figures shaped as traditional African sculptures, unfaithful reproductions of the wood statuettes that he collects from flea markets or that he observes in the archives of ethnographic museums.

At a time in which museums are rising up across Africa to repatriate artifacts trapped in European ethnographic museums, the powerful body of works presented in *Rêve Lucide* etches tales of fragility and resilience that envision a process of collective healing and an imminent reconciliation with ancestral values.

A critical essay by Mariella Franzoni accompanies the exhibition.

Recent exhibitions:
Ipercorpo 2023. InPresenza, XIX Festival Internazionale delle Arti dal Vivo, EXATR, Arena Forlivese, Forlì, IT (2023); *Lo davamo per scontato*, Palazzo Ducale, Genova, IT (2023); *The way back home*, Centro Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, IT (solo, 2023); *Una Boccata d'Arte - Tesori e meraviglie*, Rocca San Giovanni, Chieti, IT (solo, 2022); *ALTROVE -*

viandanti, pellegrini, sognatori, Museo Diocesano, Faenza, IT (2022); *Golden Hour*, Bloom Galerie, Saint-Tropez, FR (2022); *Sediments. After Memory*, Mattatoio, Rome, IT (2022); *Memoriae*, Off Gallery, Bologna, IT (solo, 2022); *Radici aeree*, Pinacoteca di Pieve di Cento, Pieve di Cento, Bologna, IT (solo, 2022); *12 Artists of Tomorrow*, Muciaccia Contemporary, Rome, IT (2022); *Gettare il Sasso e*

Nascondere la Mano, Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Parigi, Paris, FR (2022); *Quella terra tra le mani*, Galleria Comunale d'Arte della Molinella, Faenza (RA), IT (solo, 2022); *Les Filons Géologiques: Transafrique*, BHMF & BHMB, Palazzo d'Accursio, Bologna, IT (2021); *Rimembranza*, Palazzo Turchi di Bagno, Ferrara, IT (solo, 2021); *Mediterranea 19 Young Artists Biennale*, School of Waters, Repubblica di San

Marino, SM (2021); *Resilienza*, Museo MAGA, Gallarate, IT (solo, 2021); *MCZ Territorio*, Victor Fotso Nyie, Museo Carlo Zauli, Faenza, IT (solo, 2021); *MAD per Black History Month Florence 2021*, Le Murate, Firenze, IT (2021); *MediTERRAneo - XXVII concorso di ceramica contemporanea*, Chiostro del complesso conventuale del Paolotti, Grottaglie (TA), IT (2020).

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