

GATHERING

Gathering London
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Press Release

Ndayé Kouagou *A Message for Everybody*

29 November 2024 - 22 February 2025

Private view: 29 November 2024, 6-8pm



Stills from Ndayé Kouagou, *A to Z*, 2023. Produced by Gathering. Courtesy of the artist and Gathering.

Gathering London is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by Ndayé Kouagou (b. 1992 in Paris, France), on view from 29 November 2024 - 22 February 2025.

Evolving from self-authored texts which are then expanded upon through performance, film, textiles, sculpture and installation, Kouagou manipulates the language of aphorism espoused by online influencers and self-help gurus.

This exhibition, the artist's first solo presentation with Gathering, will extend across the gallery's two floors and comprise two immersive video installations. On the ground floor, Kouagou will exhibit *A to Z*, an existing video work which premiered at Palais de Tokyo in 2023. The basement will be dedicated to *Here and Elsewhere*, a newly-produced video installation that conceptually continues *The Guru*, a video-performance commissioned by Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris in 2023.

Here & Elsewhere plays with fixed ideas of medium and format, using realistically scaled characters to mimic a human presence and transform video into performance. Based on an imaginary theatre play by the artists, *Here and Elsewhere* sees the central character, referred to by Kouagou as *the Narrator*, address the audience directly, initiating conversation on an undisclosed topic. Playing with the universalism of this never named topic, Kouagou explores the strengths and limits of contemporary communication - particularly the ways in which language is used and twisted to market, sell, obfuscate, connect and inform.

Using screens, plexiglass, resin and aluminium, Kouagou presents the viewer with elliptical statements and open-ended, existentially leading questions, simulating the meandering dialogue that dominates platforms like TikTok and Instagram. Surface and depth, humour and sincerity, clarity and confusion are granted equivalent significance in Kouagou's work as he playfully explores the forms and effects of mediated communication.

About Ndayé Kouagou

Ndayé Kouagou (b. 1992 in Paris, France) Lives and works in Paris, France. He has presented his work, among others, at the Fondation Louis Vuitton (Paris), Wiels (Brussels), Frieze London curated section (London), Centrale Fies (Dro/Italy), Athens Biennale (Athens) and Centre George Pompidou (Paris).

About Gathering

Founded in 2022 in the heart of Soho, London, Gathering is a contemporary art gallery, presenting a diverse exhibition programme of emerging voices alongside established artists, including Emanuel de Carvalho, Tamara K.E., Soojin Kang, Ndayé Kouagou, Wynnne Mynerva and Tai Shani. In 2023, Gathering inaugurated GLASSHOUSE, an alternative strand of exhibitions which fosters emergent creative practitioners alongside Gathering's main exhibitions. In 2024, the gallery expanded to Sant Miquel de Balansat on the island of Ibiza, carrying the cutting edge programming and artist-led ethos of Gathering to an international stage.

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