



Ako Atikossie

# PATRIMOINE GÉO-MÉTRÉ

June 7th - September 13th, 2024

Opening June 6th, 2024

6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

via Valpetrosa 1, Milan

## THE EXHIBITION

Drawing a line on a sheet of paper is certainly the easiest and most intuitive thing to do, a simple gesture within everyone's reach. Perhaps, the first drawing in the history of mankind was a mark traced in the sand by one of our ancestors millions of years ago. A stroke, however, in its simplicity, has an intrinsic power and complexity and it can have multiple meanings: representing a minus, a letter 'i' or 'l', or indicating a direction. Besides, geometry itself defines it as an infinite sequence of points.

Maybe not infinite, but incalculable are the traits outlined by the Togolese artist, based in Milan, Ako Atikossie for his first solo exhibition at Nashira Gallery.

The new production, conceived and realized specifically for the gallery, will be exhibited in the space, consisting of wide-ranging works with which the visitor will feel invited to confront himself and called upon to dive in, allowing access to Atikossie's world and artistic research.

*As he says: "In my research, I explore various orientations of the minus sign, creating shapes, spaces, and geometric dimensions. I consider the electric minus, represented by the electron, as a symbol that helps us understand and investigate the fundamental building blocks of matter. In West African cosmogony, the minus sign holds significance as it is used to interpret the past, present, and future of the Universe's matter".*

As a result, the artist uses lines as the primary symbol in his paintings. He multiplies it in order to use it as a tool for studying scientific and natural events, as well as the forces that govern matter and all that it is made of, including humans and the Earth.

If Atikossie in the *Champ de simulation* cycle of works in 2023 focused on studying the underwater environment, its shape, composition, seabed, and the creatures that occupy it, now in *Patrimoine Géo-métré* Ako shifts his focus to the land and its morphology - from the stratifications of rocks, sediments, minerals, crystals and fossils to the laws of tectonics and plates - because the earth and its raw materials are both a universal good and keepers of memory and time.



Ako Atikossie with his artworks creates a poetic story using visual and artistic representations of the world. Reflections that visually give life to multicolored swirls of signs, mystical journeys of abstractions and explosions of tones that catch the eye, giving us vertigo due to the lack of reference points. The impression is also heightened by the absence of defined forms, not only in the subjects, but also in the canvases themselves, which are not squared, but are freely shaped by the artist, precisely to accommodate the energy of the strokes. Overlays of colors that represent the complexity of territories, of the forces that regulate the unfolding of life on earth, fragile worlds in which the slightest change in a single element may cause the entire system to collapse.

The focus is on Africa, a land - that of the artist - geologically multifaceted, with very different habitats ranging from vast deserts to endless forests, with volcanoes, immense rivers and lakes, unique fauna and flora and an abundance of raw materials. A unique ecosystem to be protected and preserved for the future of mankind, and which until now has too often been read as mere territory to be plundered.

Ako Atikossie's works are thus not merely an evocative transposition of the world into art, but are also a reflection and denunciation of human shortcomings in the preservation and healthy evolution of the earth over time. The latter is, after all, in perpetual motion and every state it crosses is transitory. Humans, simultaneously frightened and fascinated by the constant changes, grasp its chaotic sense of dynamism.

The artist, with his works filled with numerous strokes and with the creation of imaginary spaces with geometric patterns, conveys the same perception to the visitor. A whirlwind of color, an incredible perception of movement.



## BIOGRAPHY

Ako Atikossie (Zalivè, Togo - 1980) lives and works between Milan and Lomé, in Togo.

Ako Atikossie's painting and installation technique analyses the potential relationships between technology, matter and natural resources, expressed through an abstract language. In his artistic practice he studies and explores the transformations and new scenarios of contemporary sciences, with a particular and personal focus on the African continent.

**Main solo exhibitions:** *Champ de Simulation*, Artphilein La Piscina, Lugano (2023-24); *The Minus Sign*, Suburbia Contemporary on Artsy (2021); *Confini identitari*, La Portineria, Florence (2021); *Suite proporzionale*, Calisto Cafè, Valiate (2019); The Prison Museum "Le Nuove", Turin (2018); *Europa o l'assenza*, Fabbrica del Vapore's Cathedral, Milan, curated by Paolo Ferrari (2015); *L'absence de dialogue*, Supernova Gallery, Pavia (2015)

**Main group exhibitions:** *Nascosti alla luce del sole*, Nashira Gallery, Milan (2023); Art Genève, Gowen Contemporary Gallery (2022); Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Suburbia Contemporary, Cape Town (2021); *Urban Environments and imaginary spaces*, Suburbia Contemporary, Barcelona (2021); Cairo Arte Editore Prize, Palazzo Reale, Milan (2019); The Biennale Arte & Industria Utopia = reality, Labin Istria, Croatia (2016); *Shapes*, Circoloquadro, Milan (2015).

## FOR INFO:

[info@nashiragallery.com](mailto:info@nashiragallery.com)

[www.nashiragallery.com](http://www.nashiragallery.com)