

Vitshois Mwilambwe Bondo
MY NEW WORLD



Untitled, 2008. Mixed media on canvas, 200 x 250 cm.

PRESS RELEASE

Gallery **MOMO** is proud to present **Vitshois Mwilambwe Bondo's, MY NEW WORLD** opening **Thursday 5 May 2011 @ 18h30 – 20h00** and **concluding 30 May 2011**.

In my current work, I interrogate the meaning of contemporary society, the cross-cultural nuances and encounters that take place, as well as the dialogues between people from different parts of the world.

The images created on my canvases in this body of work are a compilation of various body parts from different images cut out from popular fashion magazines published in South Africa as well

as internationally. These compositions are also inspired by the various countries I have travelled to and worked in around the globe.

My art provides the creative space for experimentation, a territory in which I try to bring painting, installation, performance and the act of joining images recycled from fashion magazines and photographs together. I use all the means of expression available to me as a vehicle, a lens through which I highlight the political and economic situation in our world. In this way staging interventions through my artwork.

My technique of using cuttings to compose figures, bodies, portraits and heads is a way for me to recreate the human body and construct a new society and to question the multiplicity of races and the various challenges arising from this multiplicity. The body is mutilated and chaotic, confronting us with the anarchic situation reflected in current political and socio-economic trends in Africa and worldwide.

My art is neither limiting nor restrictive; instead, it reflects the openness and dialectical denial of physical, geographical and mental boundaries. Globalization leads to continuous random exchanges. It is an expression of resistance to homogenization, to the creation of a world of uniform people, but also a reaction to the confusion of aesthetic codes and cultural references. My approach is meant to present and examine the problems of Africa in particular and the world in general. I create art to conscientize, to show things in a different way, through elements simultaneously hidden and revealed.

Through art I seek to represent the violence that has rocked the African continent and the rest of the world and the law by which the strong dominates the weak through guns trade and exploitation. My work is also a reflection on the positive and negative effects of a modern society dominated by multinationals and by powerful people who apply justice according to their interests, neutralizing the weak through the use of violence and war.

Wars, massacres, mutilation of populations, injustice, religious and ethnic conflict, child soldiers, human rights violations, acts of violence committed on women and children – these are universally topical issues that are reflected in my work.

In my art I question the catalysts of these global conflicts and their impacts particularly on the African continent and the world in general. I search myself asking questions about society, the cultural encounter of humans as well as the dialogue between different people. I try to make sense of my current realities, investigating various means of expressing this reality through the hybridity of my artistic journey and utilising the image of new territories to research a true mobile identity.

My creative vision is to awaken consciousness through my art, through the subtle decomposition of body parts in recombined compositions, assemblage and acts of joining, I veil and reveal at the same time. My work is a mirror of the negative effects of a contemporary world, dominated by political, religious and ethnic conflicts.

Please feel free to contact Gallery MOMO on +27 11 327 3247, or e-mail karen@gallerymomo.com. High resolution images and more information on the artist are available on request.