

PASCAL MARTHINE TAYOU

CURATED BY JÉRÔME SANS

MAY 2 - AUG 22, 2018

Colorful Line

OPENING MAY 2, 6-9PM



Kids Mascarade, 2009, C-print mounted on Dibond, 29.5X39.4 in (70X100 cm)
Courtesy of the artist and GALLERIA CONTINUA, San Gimignano / Beijing / Les Moulins / Habana

Richard Taittinger Gallery is excited to present **Colorful Line**, a solo exhibition of works by the acclaimed artist **Pascale Marthine Tayou**, curated by **Jérôme Sans**. This exhibition will be his first solo show in New York in almost 20 years.

The exhibition *Colorful Line* has been conceived as a journey within Tayou's universe: a deliberately mobile, heterogeneous work. Deeply linked to his own "voyager mind", Tayou's work comes into contact with what is other to the self. His objects, sculptures, installations, drawings and videos have a recurrent feature in common: they dwell upon an individual moving through the world and exploring the issue of global village. His work is the perfect consequence of how diversity and plurality are at play, forming our global realities.

For more than twenty years, Pascale Marthine Tayou has created his own vocabulary out of images and forms from the West and beyond: from society's rejects and waste, national and economic symbols, and artistic references. Tayou expresses himself with simple materials, as a lush "anti-production" of the western worlds. He embraces the world's connected realities, bringing together non-tangible impressions and materials, fragments of moments he collected from the succession of places he inhabited, whether for an hour or for ten years. His works, a profusion of materials and information, hang in fragile balance, all the while preserving their own logic.

Thus, the exhibition resembles a joyfully chaotic complex of disparate items gleaned from all over the globe by the artist, emitting sounds and images. The title is an echo to the continuing problem of racial discrimination in the United States ("Color Line" was originally used as a reference to the racial segregation after the abolition reference to the racial segregation after the abolition of slavery) and of these cultural associations as well as the reference to color, which crosses throughout Tayou's work.

This exhibition features a range of artworks, including some

new works produced specifically for this show. Made from crystal, the *Poupées Pascale* (2010, 2012, 2015) are robust in form but fragile in their chosen use of material. The figures are reminiscent of traditional African sculpture though the stylized naïve face carvings, which are adorned in simple household objects such as leather samples, buttons, dusters, but also evoke Western tourist souvenir gifts through the chosen medium. *Jpegafrika/Africagift* (2006) is a pyramid pile of the 54 African flags, as a sculptural metaphor of the different cultural identities of the African continent. With this sculptural metaphor, the artist broaches the different cultural identities of the black continent. He regards the flag of his native land as nothing less than a "self-portrait". Some new works produced for this show include a series of neons as well as a huge Teddy Bear wearing Bogolan textiles (bogolan are considered as a powerful object, impregnated with vital energy) like a contemporary totem from Pascale Marthine Tayou's universe, or an African-American wise man looking at the changing world.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pascale Marthine Tayou (b. 1966) lives and works in both Ghent, Belgium and Yaoundé, Cameroon. His multifaceted works are known for their variability, as they are not confined to one medium or social topic. Tayou has participated in many well-renowned international exhibitions, including Documenta 11 in 2002 and the Venice Biennale in 2005 and 2009. His work is currently being exhibited at The Bass Museum of Art in Miami, Florida. Recent solo exhibitions include Galleria Continua, France in 2017; the Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles in 2014; Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria in 2014; Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Cameroon in 2014; MARCO, Rome, Italy in 2012; REVURE NOIR Expressions Contemporaines d'Afrique et du Monde Paris, France in 2011. His work is featured in the collections of the ARKEN Museum for Moderne Kunst, Denmark; the Bandjoun Station, Bandjoun, Cameroon; the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; the Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria; SMAK, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Belgium.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Internationally renowned curator, art critic, art director and museum director **Jérôme Sans** was the co-founder and former director of the acclaimed Palais de Tokyo in Paris until 2006, and from 2008 to 2012, he was the former director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing (UCCA). He has curated many international exhibitions, including the Taipei Biennale (2000), the Contemporary Art Biennial of Lyon (2005), the Nuit Blanche in Paris (2006), the Milan Triennial (2010), and more recently, the exhibition *One Way: Peter Marino* at the Bass Museum in Miami, Florida (2014-2015).

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#ColorfulLine #PascaleMarthineTayou #RichardTaittingerGallery

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