



# CHÉRI SAMBA



Born 1956 in Kinto-M'Vuila, Democratic Republic of Congo, former Zaire  
Lives and works in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)

**Represented by the Galerie Pascal Polar**

Chéri Samba or Samba wa Mbimba N'zingo Nuni Masi Ndo Mbasi (born December 30, 1956 in Kinto M'Vuila) is a painter from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is one of the most famous contemporary African artists, with his works being included in the collections of the *Centre Georges Pompidou* in Paris and the *Museum of Modern Art in New York*. He has been invited to participate in the 2007 *Venice Biennale*. His paintings almost always include text in French and Lingala, commenting on life in Africa and the modern world. Chéri Samba lives in Kinshasa and Paris.

Chéri Samba was born in Kinto M'Vuila as the elder son of a family of ten children. His father was a blacksmith and his mother a farmer. In 1972, at the age of 16 he left the village to find work as a sign painter in the capital Kinshasa.

In 1975 he opened his own studio. At the same time he also became an illustrator for the entertainment magazine *Bilenge Info*. It is at this time when he develops his signature style of combining paintings with text. His work earns him some local fame. His breakthrough was the exhibition *Les Magiciens de la Terre* at the *Centre Georges Pompidou* in Paris in 1989, which made him known internationally.

## Exhibitions

- 2016 *Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism*, Musée d'art, Tel Aviv, Israël  
*Untitled*, Miami, USA  
*L'instance de la lettre*, Au Médicis, Marguerite Milin Gallery, Paris, France  
*Congo Art Works*. Peinture populaire, Palais des beaux-arts de Bruxelles (Bozar), Belgique  
*Essentiel Paysage*, Al Maaden Art Gallery, Centre d'Art contemporain Africain, Marrakech, Maroc  
*Vivre !!* La collection agnès b. au musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France
- 2015-2016 *Beauté Congo 1926-2015*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
- 2015-2016 *Une brève histoire de l'avenir*, Musée du Louvre, Paris
- 2015 *Picasso Mania*, Grand-Palais, Paris, France  
*Chéri Samba, Quel avenir pour notre art?* Retrospective on 20 years in Galerie Pascal Polar, Brussels, Belgium (Museal Show)
- 2014 *Ici l'Afrique / Here Africa*, Château de Penthes, Genève, Suisse  
*African way*, Chapelle de la Visitation, Thonon-les-Bains, France
- 2013 *Raw Vision*, 25 ans d'Art Brut, La Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, France  
*Peintres reporters de l'urbanité, à Kinshasa*, Latitude 21, Dijon, France  
*Focus sur la collection*, Musée de la Fondation Zinsou, Ouidah, Bénin  
*Mehr Licht*, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
- 2012 *Afrovision*, L'art moderne d'Afrique, Musée d'art moderne, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan  
*Africa/Africa*, Abbaye Saint-André, Centre d'art contemporain, Meymac, France
- 2011 *JapanCongo*, Double regard de Carsten Höller Sur la collection Pigozzi, Le Magasin, Grenoble, France  
Group Show With Kura Shomali, Billie Zangewa..., Galerie Hussenot & Magnin-A, Paris, France  
Riad Al Maaden, Marrakech, Maroc  
The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscou, Russie
- 2010 *African Stories*, Ancienne Banque Du Maroc Marrakech, Morocco  
André Magnin & Leridon Collection, Grand Palais, Paris, France  
*Kinshasa Pop*, exposition collective avec Pierre Bodo, Moke, Galerie Pangée, Montreal, Canada
- 2009-2010 *Africa ? Una nuova storia*, Complesso del Vittoriano, Roma, Italy
- 2009 *Against Exclusion*, 3<sup>e</sup> Biennale d'Art Contemporain, The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture Moscow, Russia
- 2008 « *Black Paris, black Brussels* », Musée d'Ixelles, Bruxelles
- 2007-2008 *Why Africa ?*, La collezione Pigozzi, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Torino, Italy  
*Popular Paintin From Kinshasa*, Tate Modern, (Room 10), London, UK
- 2007 *The Venice Biennale*, Italian Pavillon, Venice, Italy  
*Black Paris*, Museum Der Weltkulturen, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2006-2007 *100% Africa*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain  
*Collection de la Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain*, MOT, Tokyo, Japan
- 2005-2006 *African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection* : Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA  
Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, USA
- 2005 *Arts of Africa*, The Contemporary collection of Jean Pigozzi, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco  
Les débuts de Chéri Samba, Kunstverein, Braunschweig, Germany  
*J'aime Chéri Samba: A sélection of paintings from the exhibition at the Fondation Cartier* : Texas Southern University, Houston, USA

- 2004-2007 Africa Remix : Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, German, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Hayward Gallery, London, UK
- 2004 J'aime Chéri Samba, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris (solo)
- 2003 Africanische Reklamekunst. Iwalewa-Haus der Universität, Beyreauth  
Chéri Samba moto na Tervuren, Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, Belgique (solo)  
Kin moto na Bruxelles, Hôtel de Ville, Bruxelles
- 2002 Money and Value, Expo.02, Bâle  
Kinshasa Congo. Fabien Rigobert / Moke, Chéri Samba, Espace Croisé, Centre d'art contemporain, Roubaix  
Painting on the Move, Kunstmuseum Basel, Bâle  
Iconografias Metropolitanas, Bienal de São Paulo 25, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2001 An/Sichten: Malerei aus dem Kongo 1990-2000, Museum für Volkerkunde, Vienna, Austria
- 2000 Chéri Samba une fois encore à Kinshasa, Centre culturel Le Zoo, Kinshasa (solo)  
Painting on the Move, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland  
Kunst Welten im Dialog, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
- 1999 Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aix-la-Chapelle (solo)  
Kunstwelten im Dialog, Museum Ludwig, Cologne
- 1998 IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Stuttgart (solo)  
Dakar Biennale (3) Dak'Art 98, Dakar, Senegal  
Chéri Samba, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart, Germany  
Africa Africa: Vibrant New Art from a Dynamic Continent, Tokyo, Japan
- 1997 Übersee-Museum, Brême (solo)  
Chéri Samba, Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris France.
- 1996 Neue Kunst aus Afrika, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin
- 1995-1996 An Inside Story: African Art of Our Time : Setagawa Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Tokoshima Modern Art Museum, Tokoshima, Japan  
Himeji City Museum of Art, Himeji, Japan  
Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama, Japan  
Marujame Inokuma-Genichiro, Japan Museum of Contemporary Art Japan, Marujame, Japan  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Gufu, Japan
- 1994 Le Grand Maître de l'École de Kinshasa, Galerie des Extravagances, Centre d'Art et de Plaisanterie, Montbéliard
- 1993 Africa Art Now: Urban Culture from Africa, Setagaya Museum and The Japan Foundation, Tokyo
- 1992 Kunsthalle Basel, Bâle (solo)  
Chéri Samba / Matrix117, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford (Connecticut) (solo)  
Stadtmuseum München, Munich (solo)
- 1991 - 1992 Africa Hoy, exposition itinérante : Centro Cultural de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico ; Groninger Museum, Groningen ; Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Grande-Canarie
- 1991 60 ans de la peinture zaïroise, Institut Goethe, Kinshasa  
Formas de dissidencià: Chéri Samba, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelone (solo)  
Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art, Center for African Art and the New Museum for Contemporary, New York [Includes Espace lyonnais d'art contemporain, Lyons, France)  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (Illinois) (solo)
- 1990-1991 "Cheri Samba a retrospective": Provincial Museum Voor Moderne Kunst, Ostende, Belgium.  
Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK.
- 1990-1991 "Cheri Samba" Trixster, Portikus, Frankfurt Germany
- 1990 Chéri Samba, le peintre populaire du Zaïre, Provinciaal Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Ostende (solo)  
Annina Nosei Galerie, New York, USA (solo)  
Galerie Jean-Marc Patras, Paris, France (solo)
- 1989-1990 La Grande Exposition publique de Chéri Samba, façade de l'atelier de l'artiste, Kinshasa (solo)
- 1989 Galerie Jean-Marc Patras, Paris, France (solo)  
Magiciens de la Terre, M.N.A.M. Centre Georges Pompidou, et Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris
- 1988 3e Festival de Saint-Herblain, Château de Saint-Herblain, Saint-Herblain (solo)
- 1984 Centre culturel français, Lubumbashi, République du Zaïre (solo)
- 1981 Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Kinshasa
- 1980 Centre Culturel Francais, Kinshasa
- 1978 Art Partout, Académie des beaux-arts, CIAF, Congrès international des arts africains, Kinshasa
- 1975-1978 La Grand Exposition publique, facade of his studio, Kinshasa, Zaïre

### **Collections**

Musée National d'Art Moderne - Paris  
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

MoMa, New York, USA  
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA  
Musée royal d'Afrique centrale, Tervuren, Belgique.  
Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France  
CAAC - The Pigozzi Collection, Genève, Suisse  
Collection Sindika Dokolo, Luanda, Angola  
Collection Fondation Alliances, Marrakech, Maroc