Fondation *Cartier* pour l'art contemporain



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MALICK SIDIBÉ, MALITWIST

OCTOBER 20, 2017 > FEBRUARY 25, 2018

In 1995, the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain presented the first solo exhibition of the Malian photographer Malick Sidibé outside of the African continent. One year after the artist's death on April 14, 2016, the Fondation Cartier pays tribute to him with Mali Twist*, a large retrospective exhibition accompanied by a catalogue. The exhibition is conceived and directed by André Magnin, in collaboration with Brigitte Ollier. Malick Sidibé, Mali Twist brings together for the first time his most exceptional and iconic photographs; period images he printed himself between 1960 and 1980; a selection of "folders" containing his evening shots; and a series of new portraits of timeless beauty. This exceptional collection of black-and-white photographs provides a thorough immersion in the life of the man who was nicknamed "the eye of Bamako." The photographs reveal Malick Sidibé's capacity, starting at the beginning of the 1960s, to grasp the vitality of the youth of Bamako and impose his unique style, recognized today throughout the world.

Exhibition Malick Sidibé, Mali Twist

Exhibition from October 20, 2017 to February 25, 2018 261, boulevard Raspail 75014 Paris fondation.cartier.com

> Press Opening on October 19, 2017

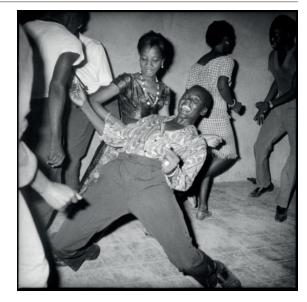
The Nomadic Nights

During the exhibition the Nomadic Nights invite Malian artists, musicians, and thinkers to dialogue with Malick Sidibé's work. Concerts, popular balls, traditional puppets, mobile photo studio, and meetings around music and dance will punctuate the exhibition as many projects and voices that echo the happiness that Malick Sidibé's photographs inspire.

The catalogue

Co-publication Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris / Éditions Xavier Barral, Paris French and English versions 300 colour and black-and-white reproductions Texts by André Magnin, Brigitte Ollier, Manthia Diawara, Robert Storr, and Malick Sidibé

* The title *Mali Tivi*st refers to the eponymous song of Malian singer and guitarist Boubacar Traoré, released in 1963.



Regardez-moi!, 1962. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris.



Un gentleman en position, 1980. Courtesy Galerie MAGNIN-A, Paris.

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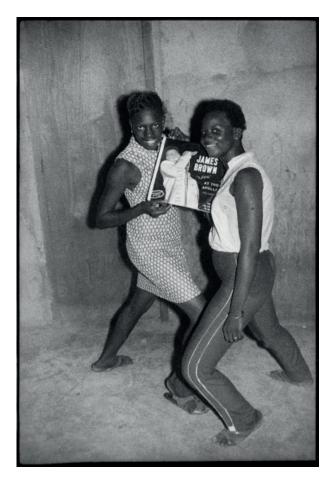
PRESS OFFICER Léa Soghomonian lea.soghomonian@fondation.cartier.com Tel. +33 (0)1 42 18 56 65 Malick Sidibé was born in 1935 into a Peul family in Soloba, a village south of Bamako, near the Guinean border. He was noted for his talents as a draftsman and was admitted to the school of Sudanese craftsmen in Bamako, where he graduated in 1955. He made his initial steps in photography with Gérard Guillat, known as "Gégé la Pellicule" [Gégé the Film] and opened the Studio Malick in 1962, in the Bagadadji district in the heart of the Malian capital. The portraits he produces display the complicity, which he naturally creates with his clients. Malick Sidibé is also very involved in the cultural and social life of Bamako, which has been booming since the country's independence in 1960, and he becomes a key figure, much appreciated by young people. He rapidly becomes the most sought after photographer to cover soirées and dance parties. Here young people become familiar with the latest dances from Europe and Cuba, dress in Western fashion and rival one another to be the most chic. On Friday and Saturday, these evenings last until dawn and extend along the banks of the Niger River. Malick Sidibé returns from these reportages of daily life with snapshots filled with music, authenticity, and shared joys, which make invaluable testimonies of a time filled with hope.

Through more than 250 photographs, *Mali Twist* retraces the extraordinary journey of Malick Sidibé. A large part of the exhibition is devoted to the Bamako soirées, which forged his reputation as "reporter of the youth." In these photographs, couples intertwine, dancers vie to outdo one another in elegance, and pose or sway their hips to the sounds of twist, rock 'n' roll and Afro-Cuban music. The ensemble is made complete by the folders which Malick Sidibé designed in order to sell his photographs to clients after the soirées. Amongst his vintage photographs are images which have become legendary, such as *Nuit de Noël* [Christmas Night], *Fans de James Brown* [Fans of James Brown] or *Je suis fou des disques!* [I Am Crazy for Records!].

The exhibition also highlights the diversity of portraits that Malick Sidibé made in his studio. Young people dressed in the latest fashion, a trio on a motorcycle, children in carnival disguises, women of perfect refinement, beaming adolescents; we find all parts of Bamako's society in the portraits which have been gathered for the exhibition. By having them pose against a neutral background or a simple curtain, photographed sometimes in close-up, sometimes from low-angle, sometimes from behind, Malick Sidibé composes for each of his models an authentic and spontaneous equivalent on paper. About thirty of these portraits are shown here for the first time.



Danser le twist, 1965. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris.



Fans de James Brown, 1965. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris.

The many photographs on display in the exhibition, developed by Malick Sidibé in his modest studio in the 1960s and 1970s, constitute the biggest ensemble of vintage prints ever gathered together for an exhibition of the artist's work. They reflect the wealth of a generous work that is as intuitive as it is enlightened. Finally, one of Malick Sidibé's most emblematic series offers an escapade to the shores of the Niger where young people once gathered for picnics on Sundays, and listened to records of their favorite hits, while playing, having fun and swimming, under the watchful eye of Malick Sidibé, the faithful witness to these joyous moments.

Mali Twist has its own original playlist, selected by Manthia Diawara and André Magnin, as well as a photo studio, produced by Constance Guisset that is as rich in fantasy as it is in color.

Finally, the artworks by Congolese painter JP Mika and Ghanaian sculptor Paa Joe, especially created for this exhibition-event, reveal the influence of Malick Sidibé's work on an entire generation of artists. In addition to *Mali Twist*, Cosima Spender's documentary *Dolce Vita Africana* (2008) will be shown on a loop, allowing visitors the opportunity to discover Malick Sidibé's daily life in Bamako and Soloba, his native village.

Contemporary African Art and the Fondation Cartier

Since its creation in 1984 in Jouy-en-Josas, the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain has been committed to accompanying and revealing artists and photographers from Africa, thus contributing to their recognition at an international level. From Malian photographers Seydou Keïta and Malick Sidibé-presented for the first time outside of Africa-to the Congolese sculptor Bodys Isek Kingelez, from the Kinshasa-based painter Chéri Samba to the Nigerian photographer J.D. 'Okhai Ojeikere, all have benefited from memorable solo exhibitions at the Fondation Cartier. Group exhibitions have also provided the opportunity to present numerous works by African artists, such as the drawings by the Ivorian Frédéric Bruly Bouabré in the shows Azur (1993) and Comme un oiseau (1996), the paintings of Mode Muntu in By Night (1996), the paintings of Moke in Un art populaire (2001), an exceptional ensemble of voodoo sculptures from Benin in the Vodun: African Voodoo exhibition (2011), or more recently the vitality of the artistic scene in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the exhibition Beauté Congo - 1925-2015 - Congo Kitoko (2015). The Fondation Cartier's Collection includes many works by these extraordinary artists, testifying to its deep interest in contemporary African



Pique-nique à la Chaussée, 1972. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris.



Mon chapeau et pattes d'éléphant, 1974. Courtesy CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva.

Next exhibition from March 25 to June 17, 2018 JUNYA ISHIGAMI, FREEING ARCHITECTURE

The Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain will present *Freeing Architecture*, the first major solo exhibition devoted to the work of Junya Ishigami. An important and singular figure of the Japan's young architecture scene, Junya Ishigami is the creator of a conceptual and poetic body of work. Winner of the Golden Lion award at the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2010, the defining principals of his work are a harmony with nature, lightness, and constant reinvention.

NOMADIC NIGHTS

During the exhibition, the Nomadic Nights invite Malian artists of all generations to dialogue with Malick Sidibé's work. Concerts, popular ball, traditional puppets, and mobile photo studio punctuate the exhibition as many projects and voices that echo the happiness that Malick Sidibé's photographs inspire.

Saturday, October 21 at 8:30pm MALI TWIST

An evening of talks, readings, and songs in tribute to Malick Sidibé and the Bamako nightlife of the 60s and 70s. With agnès b., Manthia Diawara, Abderrahmane Sissako (TBC), exhibition curators André Magnin and Brigitte Ollier, as well as Fousseni, Karim, Mody, Oudya, and Zakaria Sidibé. An evening event hosted by the journalist Soro Solo.

Friday, October 27 at 8:30pm BOUBACAR TRAORÉ dit KAR KAR, *Mali Blues*

Iconic musician and talented guitarist Boubacar Traoré goes back to the origin of the blues music that had the youth of Mali dancing in the 60s.

From Thursday, November 2 to Sunday, November 5 FATOUMATA DIABATÉ, *Le Studio photo de la rue*

In tribute to the practice of studio photography that was so dear to Malick Sidibé, artist Fatoumata Diabaté will set up her own traveling studio within the *Mali Twist* exhibition. Take home your own portrait!

- Sessions from 12 midday - 2pm, 3pm - 5pm and 6pm - 8pm.

Friday, November 10 at 8:30pm OMAR VICTOR DIOP & ADAMA PARIS, *Dakar-Bamako*

Express
Drawing inspiration from the historic Dakar-Bamako

railway line, photographer Omar Victor Diop and fashion designer Adama Paris pay tribute to Studio Malick's "élégants" by presenting a collection of looks specially created for this Nomadic Night.

Monday, November 27 at 8pm

TOUMANI DIABATÉ, Du Passé au présent, pour le futur

Toumani Diabaté, master of the kora, brings together Malian musicians from across the generations to celebrate the musical vitality of the "Mali Twist" era.

Monday, December 4 at 8pm SONGHOY BLUES, *Résistance*

Young Malian rock-inspired group Songhoy Blues mix African rhythms and electric riffs for a Nomadic Night of music and dance.

From Tuesday, December 12 to Friday, December 15 YAYA COULIBALY, *Carte blanche*

- Tuesday from 7pm to 10pm: Grande Parade Yaya Coulibaly's giant puppets come alive to the sound of drumming: animals and human figures go on parade as part of an amazing night-time exhibition, led by dancers from the Sogolon company.
- From Wednesday to Friday from 3pm:

L'atelier de Yaya Coulibaly

Yaya Coulibaly will be installing a pop-up production workshop as part of the *Mali Twist* exhibition and show the public how he makes his puppets.

Thursday, January 11 at 8:30pm INNA MODJA, Swinging Bamako

Photographed for the first time by Malick Sidibé at three years old, the singer and actress Inna Modja recalls the legendary Bamako orchestras with whom she grew up and learned music, all as part of the "Swinging Bamako" evening event.

Monday, January 22 at 8pm ROKIA TRAORÉ, *Mali'k Groove*

Accompanied by the Fondation Passerelle choir and orchestra, the mesmerizing Rokia Traoré gives a musical performance incorporating songs and fashions familiar to Bamako nightlife in the 70s and 80s.

Monday, February 5 and Tuesday, February 6 BALLAKÉ SISSOKO, *Carte blanche*

- Monday at 8pm: Mélodies Mandingues
 Ballaké Sissoko, accompanied by various young musicians, blends the Bambara language with the chords of the kora in this musical tribute to Malick Sidibé.
- Tuesday from 7pm to 10pm: *Intermède Bamakois* Using the national instrument of Mandinka culture, kora players will give a wonderful evening's recital as part of the *Mali Twist* exhibition.

Saturday, February 17 at 8:30pm TARAS ORCHESTRA, *Bal poussière*

Making its debut in France, the Taras Orchestra is swapping the "maquis" (popular Bamako bars) where its Latino rhythms can usually be heard every Thursday night, for a concert in the tradition of 60s dances—complete with salsa, rumba, and the twist.

Full program available on fondation.cartier.com/nomadicnights