

# SADIKOU OUKPEDJO

## Biography

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"Man started eating other animals to show his authority over them, to dominate them. And he ended up forgetting that he too was an animal. That's what I want to show." Sadikou Oukpedjo

This is what the artist Sadikou Oukpedjo said a few years ago about his work. The artist questions the viewer about the ambiguity of the relationship between man and his animality. He paints a series of works in which hybrid figures, half human - half animal, merge and confront each other.

From childhood onwards, her pronounced taste for manual creations was apparent. In an interview with France Info, he said: "When I was

very young, I drew a lot and made my own toys because there was no one to give them to me. My father made cars out of sheet metal and cans, things out of clay, with sticks. Having noticed his talent, his teachers entrusted him, while he was still in primary school, with the task of drawing maps of geography or organs of the human body. These works were useful to the artist, allowing him to refine his sense of portraiture.

When he arrived at the college, Sadikou Oukpedjo discovered, thanks to one of his teachers, a very special art form, where matter, volume and relief are essential. This is sculpture. He then developed this artistic practice thanks to the courses of the renowned Togolese artist, Paul Ahyi. With him, he learnt to work with wood and ceramics. He later moved to Mali where he continued his training with the Beninese artist Ludovic Fadaïro. In 2013 the artist finally chose to settle in Abidjan and to devote himself mainly to painting.

## Collections

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**Centre Pompidou**, Paris - France, **Mohammed VI Museum**, Rabat - Maroc, **Tiroche DeLeon Collection**, Jaffa - Israël, **Fondation Blachère**, Apt - France