



*Calabasses*, 2015, calabashes, buckets and paint.

## Pascale Marthine Tayou

16 October – 21 November 2025

Private View: 15 October, 6 – 9pm

38 Dover Street, London W1S 4NL

Robilant+Voena is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by Pascale Marthine Tayou in their London gallery. The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Galleria Continua, coinciding with a major retrospective at their gallery in Les Moulins, France, and features new works alongside examples of some of the Cameroonian artist's most celebrated series from the past ten years. This is the first time that Tayou will have a solo gallery presentation in the UK, where he has previously been recognised with solo institutional exhibitions at the Serpentine Galleries (2015), and MK Gallery (2007–8), as well as an Artist Room at Tate Modern (2023–24). Robilant+Voena's exhibition offers an exciting opportunity to see work by this renowned international artist in London, who was recently awarded the Grand Prix de Sculpture from the Académie des Beaux-Arts in France.



*Alphabête B*, 2016, wood and mixed media, 125 x 150 cm (49 1/4 x 59 in.)

Opening during Frieze Week, Robilant+Voena will dedicate its London gallery to a selection of paintings, sculptures and installation works by Tayou. The selection reflects the artist's multifaceted practice, working across media and transferring his visual investigations effortlessly between themes as wide-ranging as consumerism, colonialism, the environment, cultural identity, and childhood to name but a few – always taking himself as a person as the starting point for his works. Reflecting Tayou's belief in the intertwined nature of life and art, many of the works incorporate

ephemera, found materials, and cultural artefacts representing his Central African heritage and his experiences living, travelling and working across the globe.

The artist's mastery of storytelling and visual subversion is a constant through the works in the exhibition. Large-scale works such as *Dirty Mirror* (2015), *Calabasses* (2015) and *Step by Step* (2023–25) incorporate common objects to engage with issues such as self-perception and rampant consumerism, while *Flipflop Chalks* (2025) recasts the traditional use of the medium into a pastel-hued field that ebbs and flows between painting and sculpture. The selection also includes two examples from Tayou's *Alphabête series* (both 2016), which shows the plurality of the artist's speeches and examines the differences between oral and written traditions, and *Invasion* (2024), which comprises a map of Africa peppered with darts bearing the flags of European colonizing nations. New iterations of the monumental cloud-like sculpture *Coton Tige*, first conceived for the Serpentine Galleries in 2015–16, appear at once both childlike and violent, speaking to histories of oppression and exploitation. Also on display are examples of the artist's distinctive **crystal and wooden masks**, symbolising the ancestral spirits in Tayou's practice, and also suggesting the complexity of modern identity.

In addition to **solo exhibitions at museums and institutions internationally**, including at the Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi (2023); Mu.ZEE Ostend (2018 and 2019); BOZAR, Brussels (2015); MACRO, Rome (2012); MUDAM Luxembourg (2011); and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2002), the artist's work features in **prestigious collections worldwide** including Buffalo AKG (Albright-Knox Art Gallery), Buffalo; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland; MAC Lyon; MACRO, Rome; MAXXI, Rome; MUDAM, Luxembourg; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Pinault Collection, Paris; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Abu Dhabi; SMAK, Ghent; Tate Modern, London.



**Pascale Marthine Tayou** was born in Nkongsamba, Cameroon in 1966. Since the beginning of the 1990s and his participation in Documenta 11 (2002) in Kassel and at the Venice Biennale (2005 and 2009), Tayou has been known among a wide international public. His work is characterized by its variability, since he does not confine himself in his artistic work to one medium, material or subject. Instead, each artwork uses the artist himself as a person as their point of departure. Even at the very outset of his career, Pascale Marthine Tayou changed his name to incorporate a feminine ending, thus distancing himself from the importance of artistic authorship and male/female ascriptions.

The variability of his practice applies also to geography and cultural origin. His works not only mediate in this sense between various experiences, perspectives and backgrounds, but are produced in the knowledge that they themselves are social, cultural, or political constructions. His work is deliberately mobile, elusive, and linked to the idea of travel and of coming into contact with that which is other to oneself, and is often so spontaneous that it seems casual. All works by Tayou have a recurrent feature in common: they dwell upon an individual moving through the world and exploring the issue of origins and related expectations.

The artist lives and works in Ghent, Belgium and in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

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*Step by Step*, 2023-25, wooden canes, wooden and metal knobs, 211 x 461 x 5 cm (83 1/8 x 181 1/2 x 2 in.)

### Notes to editors

Robilant+Voena is a partnership of art dealers Edmondo di Robilant and Marco Voena. They launched R+V in London in 2004. Further gallery spaces were opened in Milan in 2009, and Paris and New York in 2020. R+V has distinguished itself as one of the leading international art dealers in Old Master paintings, as well as 20th-century Italian art. In recent years, the gallery's dual specialisms in European Old Master paintings and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Italian art have been complemented by a carefully curated programme of contemporary projects, working with artists whose practices build upon the artistic inheritance of the past.

R+V is committed to excellence across all its activities. The gallery strives to create dynamic, thought-provoking exhibitions that juxtapose the old and the new, creating unexpected links between artists working across the centuries and drawing out eternal themes through art.

The gallery has sold paintings and works of art to many important private and royal collectors and museums including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery London, the Gallerie dell'Accademia Venice, the Pinacoteca di Brera Milan, the Musée d'Orsay, the National Gallery of Stockholm, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and the Museum of Western Art Tokyo. R+V is represented at the most prestigious fine art fairs in the world, and is committed to its active exhibitions program and the publication of books and scholarly catalogues.

## Current and upcoming exhibitions

### New York

*Robert Zeller. The Fragment is the Whole*, 12 September – 16 October

*Daniel Ambrosi: Central Park*, 24 October – 4 December

### Milan

*A Mysterious Vision. The Uncanny and Lingering Influences of Surrealism in Contemporary Art*, 9 September – 17 October

*Philippe Pastor. North Pole*, 5 November – 16 January

### Art fairs

Frieze Masters, 15 – 19 October, Stand D2

Abu Dhabi Art, 19 – 23 November

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