



ARTISTIC PORTFOLIO

# MATHIEU JOSSET

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# BIOGRAPHY

Mathieu Josset is a self-taught artist from Île-de-France. Passionate about music from an early age and a musician himself, he develops a highly colorful and vibrant visual language in his textile works, using wax, bazin, and madras fabrics. His dynamic compositions have been featured in several group exhibitions in France, Senegal, Monaco, and Morocco.

In 2021, Mathieu Josset was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the International Center for Contemporary Art and Cultures in Dakar. The following year, he participated in a group exhibition at the International Art Market of Dakar, organized during the Dakar Biennale of Contemporary African Art. In 2023, as part of the Caravane Arkane Afrika project, he took part in an artist residency and the International Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Bab Rouah Gallery in Rabat. That same year, he installed a large textile artwork in the hotel hosting the grand runway show of Dakar Fashion Week.

The artist held his first solo exhibition, Vibrations Textiles, at Galerie L'Entracte in Ville d'Avray at the end of 2024.

## ARTISTIC APPROACH

My textile work is based on chromesthesia, the association between music and color. Immersed in African, Jamaican, and Caribbean sounds since childhood, I translate the rhythms and pulses of music into vibrant and contrasting colors. During several travels, I was deeply influenced by the colors and patterns of garments worn in West Africa. This is why my palette is primarily composed of wax, bazin, and madras fabrics, which I particularly appreciate for their diverse cultural uses and traditions.

My first creations were characterized by a repetition of the intrinsic patterns found in these fabrics, combined with color gradations. They were inspired by Santiago Montoya's work, which explores the repetition of colors and forms using banknotes. To create these compositions, I folded straight fabric strips and arranged them on a rigid background, forming undulations reminiscent of waves.

From the outset, I aimed to exploit the unique properties of these fabrics: wax and madras allow me to weave a network of recurring motifs, while the subtle color variations of bazin bring nuance and depth to my pieces. The textile undulations hold multiple layers of symbolic meaning, always linked to African and Caribbean culture and memory. These vibrations evoke both the global trajectory of afrobeats and the Atlantic Ocean, which separates Caribbean people from their African ancestors.

Using this unique folding technique, I also explored the theme of body liberation. In several portraits of Black women, Afro hairstyles are composed of fabric strips floating like butterflies. I depicted Ebonee Davis, the American model who has fought for her right to wear her natural Afro hair in the fashion industry, Adama Paris, the creator of Dakar Fashion Week, and Jocelyne Beroard, the legendary zouk singer from Martinique. These women inspire me deeply, and I wanted to pay tribute to their strength and courage.

Gradually, I transitioned from folding to knotting the fabric, enhancing the relief and texture of my artworks. I explored scale and perception in my "Grand Faces" series. Each piece is composed of hundreds of colorful fabric strips of varying lengths—up close, the visitor sees a dense, intricate textile composition, while from a distance, the image emerges clearly. This new approach also brings greater expressivity to the faces, playing on the contrast between light and shadow. The eyes and their contours are emphasized through variations in fabric density, giving each portrait an intense gaze.

Recently, I began knotting wax and bazin strips directly onto large-scale nets to achieve greater flexibility and transparency, much like Simon Berger in his large-format installations.

Lately, I have been deeply inspired by the monumental textile works of Olga de Amaral. I now wish to explore new formats by detaching my artworks from the walls, creating suspended, moving frescoes.

At the same time, I am developing a multidisciplinary and audiovisual project called Vibrations. The first video in this series combines dance, music, and textile art. The soundtrack—a fusion of afrobeats, amapiano and reggae—accompanies the choreography of three dancers performing in front of my artworks. I aim to expand this concept in Jamaica, Senegal and many places, incorporating the suspension of fabric in the environment and having dancers wear my textile pieces as part of the performance.





# LE GRAND BAL

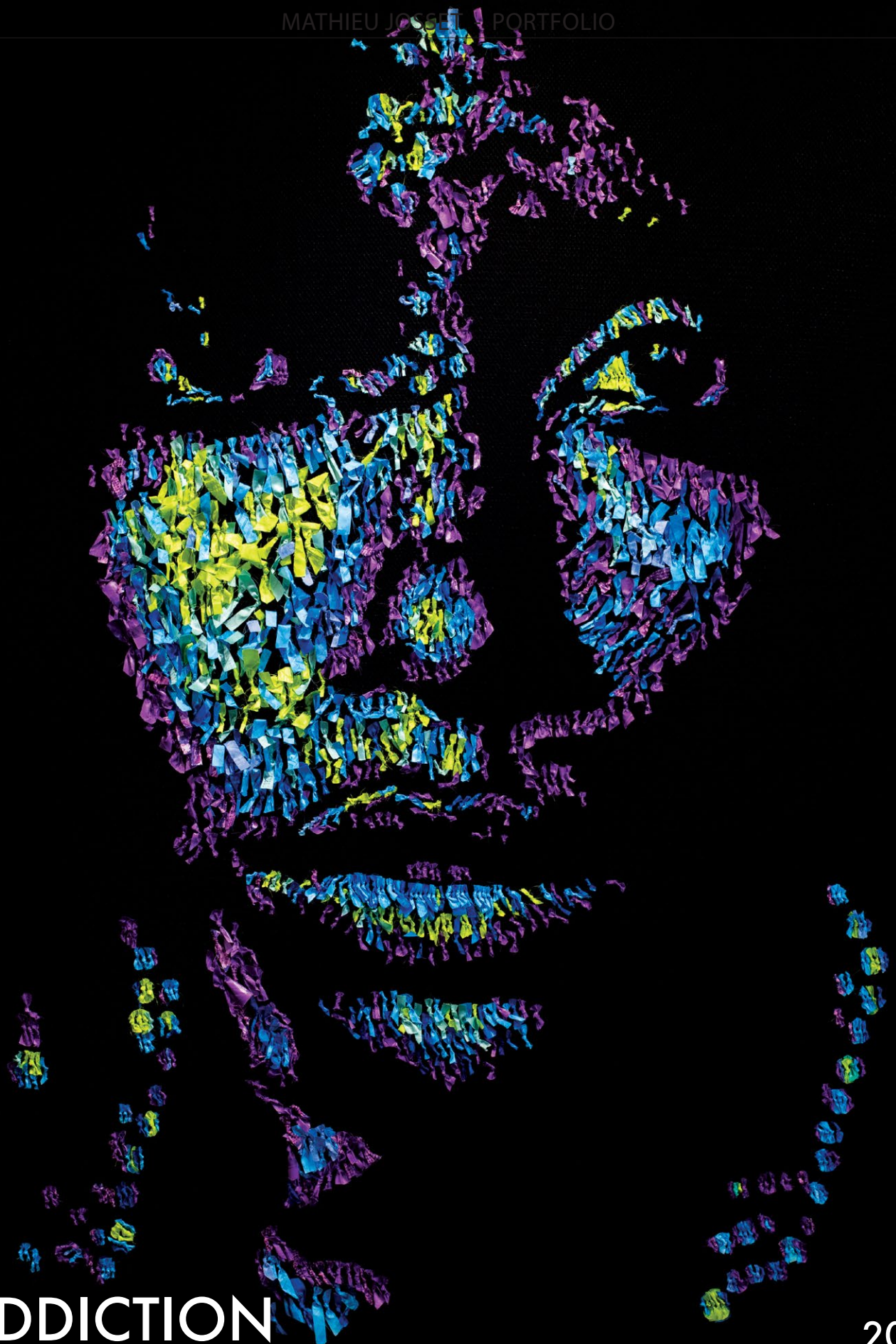
2023

220x250 cm

Fabrics -Bazin, wax

Art piece made for the Dakar fashion week 2023





# ADDICTION

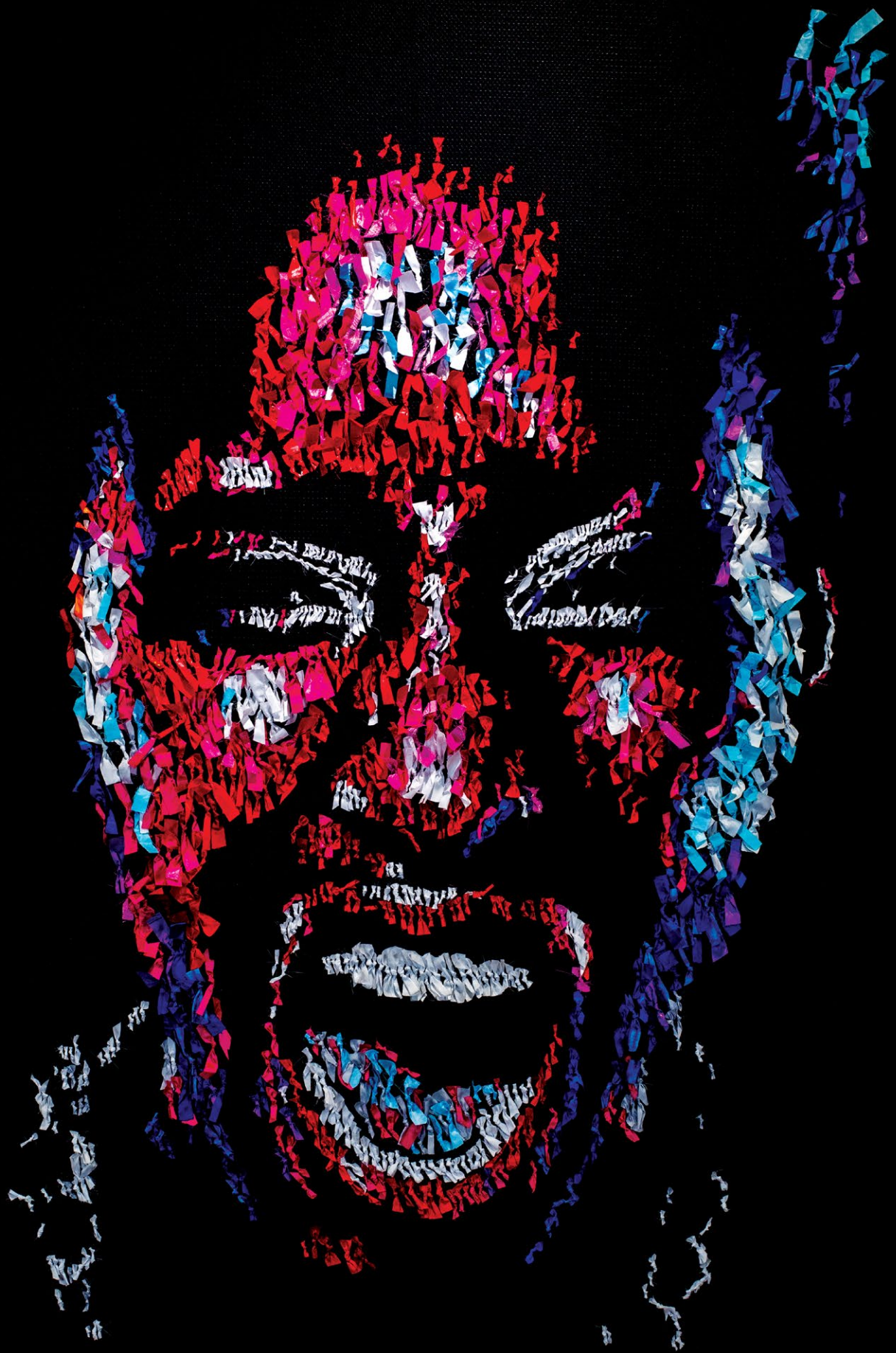
140x180 cm

Fabrics -Bazin, wax

2023

*M Josset*





# COUP DE GUEULE

2023

140x180 cm

Fabrics -Bazin, wax





# BLACK HIBISCUS

110x110 cm

Fabrics -Bazin, wax

2024





# BLACK HIBISCUS - Details

2024

110x110 cm

Fabrics -Bazin, wax





ADAMA

110x150 cm

Photography on akyprint, bazin & wax fabrics

2023





# ENERGY

100x100 cm

Fabrics - wax, bazin, madras , pmma extra clear

2021





# PARTY GIRL

150x150 cm

Fabrics - wax, bazin, madras

2024





WHO AM I - Left part

188x140 cm

2019



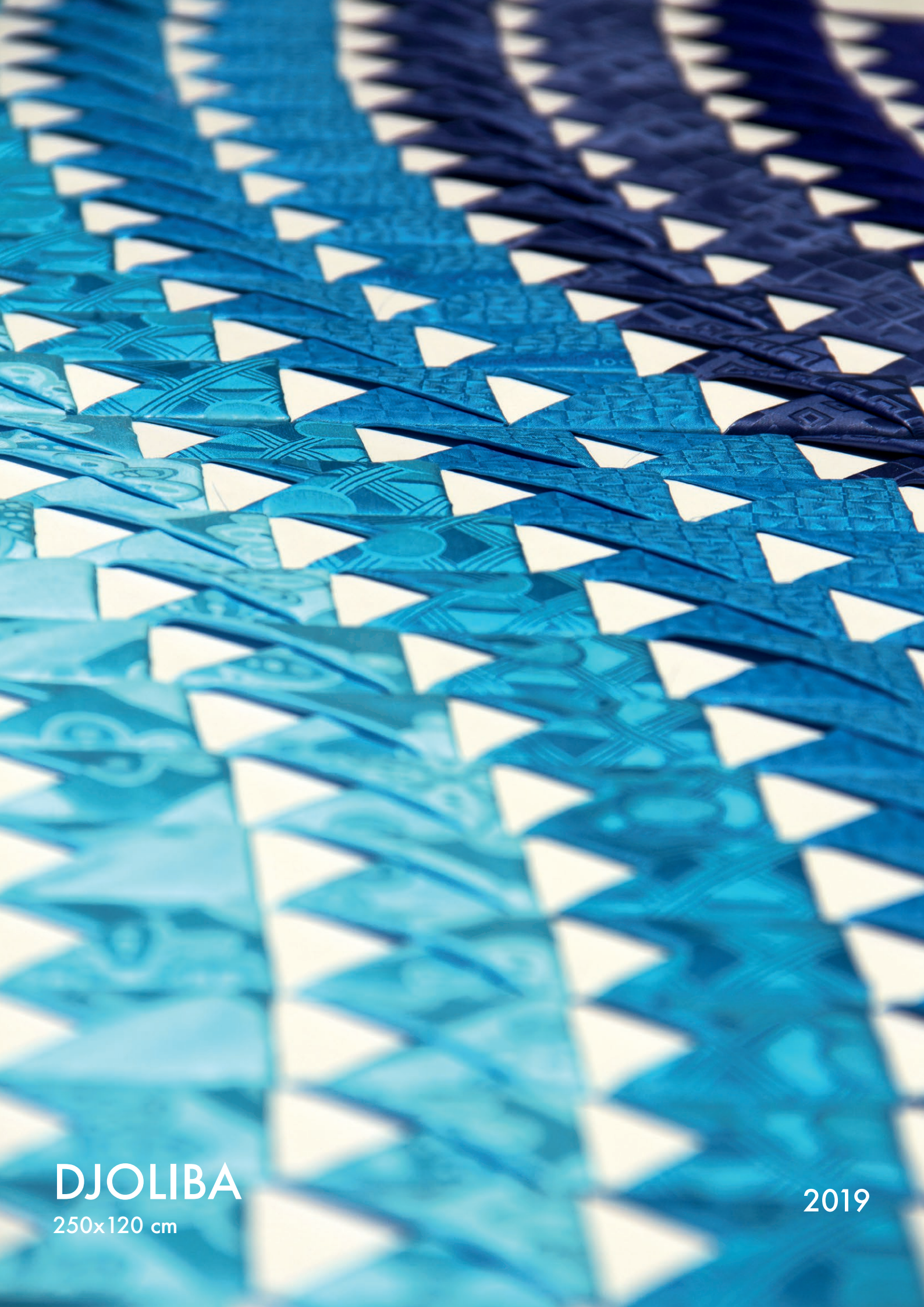


WHO AM I - Right part

188x140 cm

2019





DJOLIBA  
250x120 cm

2019





# SKANKIN' SWEET

150x150 cm

Fabrics - wax, bazin

2024



# Self-taught visual artist

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## Solo shows

Vibrations textiles, L'Entracte gallery, Ville d'Avray - November 2024

## Group exhibitions

Espace Namouna - Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, French riviera, august 2024

Palais Miramar - Cannes, France, june 2024

Caravane Arkane Afrika, Internationale Contemporary Art exhibition, Galerie Bab Rouah, Rabat - Maroc, march 2023

Marché International de l'Art de Dakar(MIAD), Biennale de Dakar - Dakar, may 2022

Inauguration of the International Center for Contemporary Art and Cultures of Dakar- Sénégal, december 2021

Palais Miramar - Cannes, France, june 2021

Auditorium Rainier III - Monaco, september 2019

## Artistic Projects

Creation of the [VIBRATIONS](#) video clip combining dance and textile art – Ville d'Avray, november 2024

Four-Hand Artwork, private event at Le Méridien Beach Plaza – Monaco, june 2024

Textile installation for the grand runway show of Dakar Fashion Week – Senegal, december 2021

## Residencies

Artistic residency as part of the Caravane Arkane Afrika project – Rabat, Morocco, march 2023

## Awards & Distinctions

Winner of the Miramar Prize, Palais Miramar, Cannes - French riviera, june 2024

Ville d'Avray City Prize, Ville d'Avray, France, april 2023

Guest of honor at the inauguration of the International Center for Contemporary Art and Cultures of Dakar - Sénégal, december 2021

**Languages**    Native French, professional English

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