



THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET

EXHIBITION

# THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET

24th March – 10th May

Sena Tues



GALLERY SOVIEW

SENA TUES is an artist who is distinct from the others, and this difference is as remarkable for his mastery of his art as for the purpose behind his work. At a time when portraitists were abundant, he distinguished himself from other painters with an approach that was more internalized than illustrative.

What truly sets him apart from his contemporaries is his relationship with the material; his unique way of using collage and assembling it with painting. The layering, the sharp brush strokes, are embedded in the depths of the characters. This creates a strange intensity that arouses our curiosity.

In this series of portraits, SENNA TUES invites us to delve into the other side of the mirror, to imagine the other side of a personality, to connect with that invisible part that we all keep hidden inside us. He excels at the point of exerting a fascination on our minds, from which we cannot detach. This is his strength, playing with seduction and mystery.

If flowers are omnipresent in his paintings, it is necessary to dismiss the idea that they serve only as pageantry or decorative elements from the outset. Flowers have a language and many of them have meaning in mythologies. This communion between a natural element and the human heart is thus not coincidental for the artist; it adds more mystery and intensity to his characters, and reveals that sensitivity cannot be the prerogative of women.

In African, Latin, and Arab societies, the male representation is often imbued with gravity and virility, as if the man were devoid of any form of attention, calling into question his strength and his dominance. There is no doubt that SENNA TUES breaks away from these codes to reveal the tenderness that lies within each of us. He highlights this sensitivity with a subtlety that invites us to reflection.

Indeed, as I mentioned earlier, the painting goes beyond what can be seen at first glance, to what each face expresses. Who are these men? What is their story? What secrets do they keep? What do their penetrating gazes reveal? It is to this journey into the unconscious or the experience of its protagonists that SENNA TUNES invites us.

It is said that what is suggested is more powerful, deeper than what we see. And why does one person hold a variety of flowers different from others? Aesthetic concern is not the simple plausible explanation of the artist's work. Like Pedro Almodóvar's great film, "The Flower of My Secret," SENNA TUES questions his double, the one who lives and sleeps in him while reminding us that we too cohabit with our shadow parts.

Filled with uncertainties, wounds of the soul, doubts and routs, pomp and failure, our lives bend to pretense. In Almodóvar's movie, the main character writes sentimental novels to escape his own despair and everyday reality. For SENA TUES, each portrait is a novel, that of our lives and that of the man he is.

I am not here to unveil "the secret" behind SENA TUES's artworks, but it is obvious that a large part of himself lives in his characters. Everyone will try to unravel the mystery in their own way; the genius of an artist is precisely to exacerbate our imagination as much as to immerse us in it.

He unfolds his series of paintings as a mosaic scenario, where each of them is an episode of his life, where joy rubs shoulders with sadness, and where fate defies the past. He skillfully plays with appearances to keep us alert.

SENA TUES is indeed a different artist, deeply human, touched by grace and pain yet sensitive to a world where feelings are often flouted and where the deep meaning of a friendship is only due to the fragility of a flower.

GALLERY SOVEW is pleased to present SENA TUES's first solo show, thanks to the director, BARBARA KOKPAVO, for choosing to bring his talent to light. I can only congratulate the cultural actors who dare to promote innovative artists and who give meaning to their artistic approach.

I would also like to thank ALAIN MUTOMBO CANONNE, general delegate of the NGO "Solidarité Laïque", for choosing to use one of SENA TUES's paintings to illustrate a campaign for peace in the world, which also helped to give great visibility to this outstanding artist.

**Floréal Duran**

Founder of "Les Enfants Terribles - Paris"

**Translation : Ifedolapo Onikoyi**