

JACKSON FINE ART  
ATLANTA

Jackson Fine Art  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
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**SAÏDOU DICKO**  
*The Shadowed People*

Opening Reception  
Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm\*

**SANLÉ SORY**  
*Volta Photo*

Artist Talk with Shanequa Gay  
Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 11am\*

*In the viewing room*  
**SHANEQUA GAY**

Talk with Lauren Tate Baeza  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 11am

**November 5 – December 23**

*\*masks required\**

**Jackson Fine Art** is excited to open the season with **Sanlé Sory's Volta Photo** and **Saïdou Dicko's The Shadowed People**. These two bodies of work come out of the rich artistic landscape of Burkina Faso, formerly known as the Republic of Upper Volta. While these artists share a homeland, their work veers in two directions with Sory encapsulating their country's past and Dicko documenting its present and looking toward its future. Both artists bear witness to powerful expressions of identity in a postcolonial era.

Sanlé Sory's black and white, square images contribute to a strong tradition of West African portrait photography of the 1960s-1980s, placing him firmly alongside Malian photographers Malick Sidibé and Seydou Keita. While Sory's square format portraiture falls within this broader mid-century movement, his work focuses distinctly on the vibrant musical culture of his community. Sory photographed the fashion and nightlife in and around Bobo-Dioulasso, where he still lives, during the period in which the country was reveling in its newfound independence from France. Sory, who was once found burning his archive of negatives due to his perceived lack of interest in his nostalgic images, created a body of work with electric energy that still resonates today.

Saïdou Dicko's colorful collages make use of modern techniques but provide a similarly celebratory feeling. Raised as a sheep herder, Dicko learned to draw by tracing the shadows of animals. He extends this practice to his current work, photographing people of African descent in Paris, where he lives and works, or back home in Ouagadougou, and hand-painting the figures black to obscure their identities. These silhouettes take a postcolonial stance in regaining control of the black body after centuries of exploitation, yet simultaneously provide an open space in which to project oneself, encouraging communion.

Also on view will be a selection of photo-collage works from Atlanta artist **Shanequa Gay**. This will be the gallery's first solo exhibition of the artist's work, in conjunction with Co-Op ArtATL's concurrent exhibition of Gay's paintings. These photocollage studies ground the artist's overall project of interrogating the stained history of our own city with a broader exploration of strong symbols and signifiers associated with Southern Black identity.

On **Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm** we will host a public opening to celebrate the exhibition. Shanequa Gay will give an artist talk the following day, **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am at Jackson Fine Art**. Masks are required for both events regardless of vaccination status.

On the morning of **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am**, Lauren Tate Baeza, the Fred and Rita Richman Curator of African Art at the High Museum, will be speaking about Sanlé Sory's work and discussing more broadly the visual culture of the immediate postcolonial moment.

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## About Sanlé Sory

**Sanlé Sory** was (born in Nianigara, Burkina Faso, 1953) and began taking photographs in 1960. He studied under a Ghanaian photographer and began as a photojournalist and album cover artist before opening his own studio, Volta Photo, in the mid-1960s. He is known for his signature black and white, 6 x 6 format portraits taken on a Rolleiflex in his personal studio. He has exhibited at Morton Hill Gallery, Yossi Milo Gallery, and the Art Institute of Chicago. He has published *Volta Photo 1965-85* (2017), *Volta Photo* (2018), *Studio Volta Photo* (2018).

## About Saïdou Dicko

**Saïdou Dicko** (born in Deou, Burkina Faso, 1979) is self-taught and began photographing in 2005 and was first exhibited at the 2006 Dakar Biennial. Since then, his work has been presented at many international exhibitions, art fairs, and biennials. In 2012, he co-founded the collective "Rendez-Vous d'Artistes," a platform for artistic exchange. Since 2013, he has been curator and scenographer, particularly in Morocco. Fifty percent of all sales of Dicko's work go to his association, Nafore Cellal, which has developed a health center and pharmacy, an organic vegetable garden employing 25 women and 7 men, 2 solar-powered water towers, and 2 manual water pumps in his native Yagma pastoral zone in Burkina Faso. He lives and works in Paris.

## About Shanequa Gay

Shanequa Gay holds a BA from the Savannah College of Art and Design and an MFA from Georgia State University. She lives and works in her native city of Atlanta, GA. An active member of the Atlanta art community, Gay's accomplishments include selection for OFF THE WALL, a city-wide Civil Rights and Social Justice Mural initiative led by the Atlanta Super Bowl Host Committee (2019). Her recent exhibitions include Atlanta Biennial, Atlanta Contemporary (2021); Adorned, Mccoll Center for Arts and Innovation, Charlotte (2020); Holding Space For Nobility: A Memorial For Breonna Taylor, Ackland Museum, Chapel Hill North Carolina (2020); and Lit Without Sherman, Hammonds House Museum, Atlanta (2019). Gay exhibits her works and procures residencies within the United States, Japan, and South Africa. She is a Do Good Fellow recipient and an Emory University Arts and Social Justice Fellow, 2020. Gay looks forward to participating in Le Monde Bossale, Montreal, Canada, in 2021.

## About Lauren Tate Baeza

**Lauren Tate Baeza** is the Fred and Rita Richman Curator of African Art at the High Museum of Art, overseeing a collection that includes a rich variety of West and Central African sculpture, paintings, ceramics, and material culture. She previously served as Director of Exhibitions at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, where she curated the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection and organized numerous temporary exhibits using the visual arts to engage social issues. She speaks, lectures, and consults at universities, nonprofit organizations, and federal departments on a range of cultural and sociopolitical topics related to Africa and the African diaspora; and holds a Master of Arts in African Studies from University of California, Los Angeles, a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies from California State University, Northridge, and studied curation at Sotheby's Institute of Art. Baeza has been featured on NPR and PBS, as well as in Associated Press News, ART PAPERS, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

## Contact

To request high resolution images, please contact Coco Conroy: [coco@jacksonfineart.com](mailto:coco@jacksonfineart.com).

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. For more information about Jackson Fine Art and our artists, visit [jacksonfineart.com](http://jacksonfineart.com).