

EXHIBITION

INNER CITY BLUES

23 November - 11 January



DAOUDA TRAORE



GALLERY SOVIEW

Les rues rêves aussi Daouda Traoré , 2024

Building Community to Nurture Hope

The recent crisis that shook Mali (2021), awakening memories and echoing the persistent sociopolitical instability in the Sahel region—encompassing Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, and the Central African Republic, countries frequently plagued by armed conflicts that jeopardize their development — serves as the background for Daouda Traoré's second solo exhibition at Gallery SOVIEW.

Using a series of situations that highlight the denial of human dignity as a starting point, the artist, with a subtly humanistic lens, positions himself as an observer of his era. An era that is, in many ways, fast and furious. This era reminds us, with a touch of irony, of Bob Marley's well-known anthem of peace, where he proclaimed in 1979, *So much trouble in the world*. Forty-five years later, the song remains disturbingly relevant, its message as timely as ever.

Inner City Blues plunges us into the half-shadowed, half-expressive universe of Malian youth, and by extension, African youth, who find themselves grappling with doubt and uncertainty about their future. Beyond conflicts driven by diverse vested interests, the governance of African states has become a pressing issue, sparking intense debates. The title of the exhibition is borrowed from a song co-written by Marvin Gaye and James Nyx Jr in 1971, which captured the psychological and emotional state of those living in American ghettos during a grim economic period that was even harsher on Black communities. The contexts may differ, but the psychological tension feels strikingly similar.

One of the key elements highlighted in Traoré's work is the impact of this instability on urban youth. Idleness is spreading, and a sense of despondency takes root. The "blues" becomes palpable. Against the background of political rhetoric that often amounts to little more than empty words, the artist raises his voice against the institutional demagoguery of governments. Through his "illegible poetics" and alternative "vision of humanity's history," he aims to awaken the minds of young people who urgently need to be made aware of their agency.

Fortunately, according to Traoré, a glimmer of hope persists (hence the recurring presence of lamps in his work, symbolizing a call to light or its continual pursuit). This hope is amplified by a significant advantage that today's youth possess: they are hyper-connected to the world. This connectivity offers them the intellectual mobility to build communities across borders.

Ultimately, *Inner City Blues* invites us to reflect on human potential — how to find our motivation, individually or collectively, and harness our inner strength in times of chaos. More than that, it positions itself as an exhibition grounded in positivity, reminding us that in the land of Ali Farka Touré (1939–2006) and the Dogon people, the essence of humanity is the same as anywhere else on this blue planet.

[1] *So much trouble in the world*, de l'album *Survival* - Bob Marley and the Wailers, Tuff Gong, Jamaïque, 1979.



The street dream too
(La rue rêve aussi)

Mixed media, fabric collage, rice bag, leatherette, woollen thread, newspaper on canvas
200x180 cm

2024

10 000 €



The street vibrate too
(La rue vibre aussi)

Mixed media, fabric collage, rice bag, leatherette, woollen thread, newspaper on canvas
150x150 cm

2024

6 500 €



The street read too I
(La rue lit aussi I)

Mixed media, fabric collage, rice bag, leatherette, woollen thread, newspaper on canvas
100x100 cm

2024

3 500 €



The street read too II
(La rue lit aussi II)

Mixed media, fabric collage, rice bag, leatherette, woollen thread, newspaper on canvas
100x100 cm

2024

3 500 €

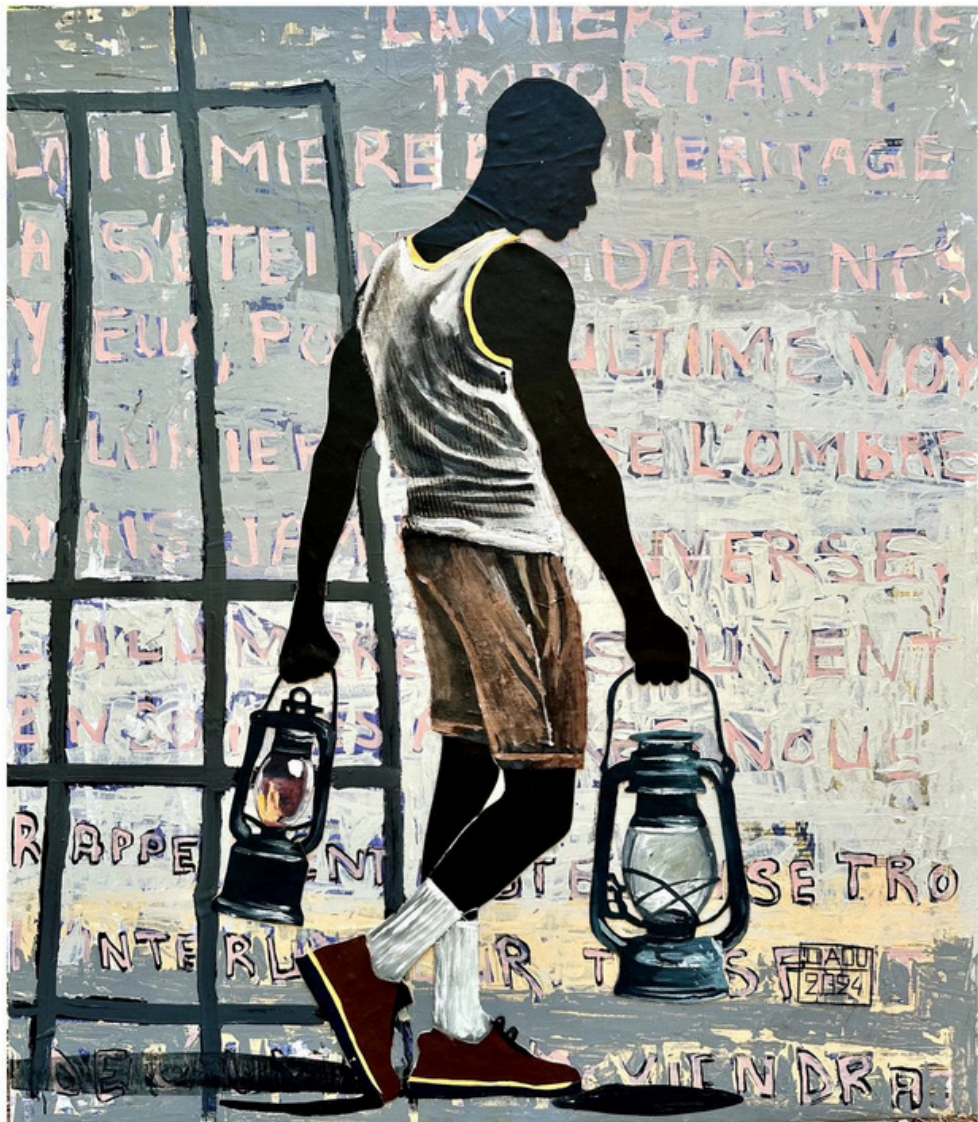


The street seek the light too I
(La rue cherche aussi la lumière I)

Mixed media, fabric collage, acrylic, leatherette, newspaper on canvas
120x120 cm

2024

4 000 €

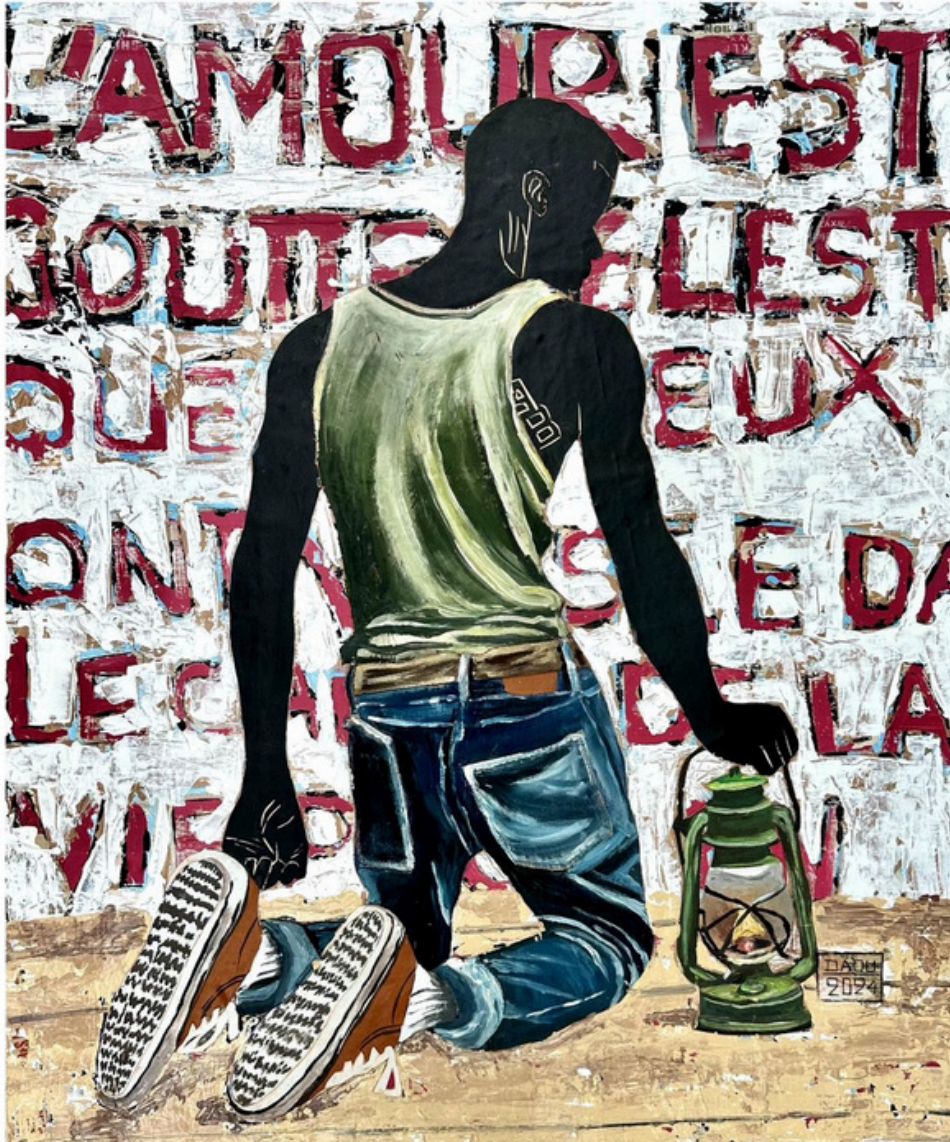


he street seek the light too II
(La rue cherche aussi la lumière II)

Mixed media, fabric collage, acrylic, leatherette, newspaper on canvas
120x140 cm

2024

4 500 €



he street seek the light too III
(La rue cherche aussi la lumière III)

Mixed media, fabric collage, acrylic, leatherette, newspaper on canvas
120x140 cm

2024

4 500 €



GALLERY SOVIEW

SOLO SHOW

INNER CITY BLUES

23 November - 11 January

Opening: Saturday 23 November

Time: 10:00 AM

Address: 13 Mulberry street East Legon

Gallery Soview is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 AM to 6 PM,

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