

## About Traoré : Shaping the environment

Following in the footsteps of his ancestors, Abou Traoré goes beyond the automatisms of local craftsmanship to question and broaden his use of bronze, moving towards contemporary creation. Through his work, he aims to ease tensions and remind us of the values of living together, tradition and respect for the environment.

Abou Traoré works with lost-wax bronze in the traditional way. He follows and carries out each stage in the production of the work. Each of his pieces is unique. Some of them may have been made in other versions, but no more than three.



His approach is based on research into Bobo tradition, delving into the spirit of the zoomorphic masks typical of this people. Abou Traore also seeks to achieve a form of syncretism between tradition and modernity. Using small wax sketches as a basis for reflection and artistic development, he researches, strips down and reflects in volume. His inspiration comes from this manual process. It revolves around the spirit of the animal and seeks to move from this schematic representation to abstraction.

Abou Traoré has shared his technique and approach with a number of bronze craftsmen in Bobo-Dioulasso, where he has given artistic impetus to young artists. He continues his research with the pleasure of doing this craft, while reminding us that he knows nothing and continues to learn. Abou Traoré affirms the need to remain present in Burkina-Faso to work and develop a specific art rooted in its territory.

# About Traoré

**Born in 1960 in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso**  
**Lives and works in Bobo-Dioulasso**

Born in the former Upper Volta, Abou Traoré comes from a line of blacksmiths - a symbolic and social status that goes beyond the technical dimension of the work. He inherited the ancestral lost-wax technique from his father, Assane Traoré, and began his training at the age of 10 in the family workshop. He has been casting and sculpting under his own name since 1983, the year he broke away from the productivism that reigned in the workshop to focus on artistic creation. He has also made improvements to the bronze-making technique in the Koko district of Bobo-Dioulasso (Bronze smiths' quarter).

His encounter in 1984 with Swiss and French sculptors from the Groupe Fuzion, such as Pierre Jaggi, marked a turning point in his work. He joined the group from 1984 to 1991 and exhibited with them in France and Switzerland. In 1991, he was noticed by Pierre Gaudibert, then head of the Musée des Arts Africains et Océaniens in Paris, who mentioned him in his book "Art africain contemporain". In March 2001, he took part in a symposium with artists from CCA Terre Blanc (France) in Bobo-Dioulasso. This encounter reoriented his work towards greater abstraction. Since then, Abou Traoré has exhibited in Africa and around the world. The government of Burkina Faso has also commissioned several works from him.

## Awards

**1990**

1st prize, Semaine nationale de la culture (SNC Bobo-Dioulasso) - Burkina Faso

## Exhibitions (selection)

**2024**

"Au pays des Hommes intègres" - Galerie CHRISTOPHE PERSON, Dakar  
Galerie Revel - Bordeaux

**2023**

Biennale Internationale de Sculpture BISO - Ouagadougou  
Moogoo Fine Art - Francfort  
"Ombres et Lumières", Institut Français - Ouagadougou



**2022**

Art Salon - Annecy  
"Feel the Spirit", Brussels African Art Center - Brussels  
Salon ArtExpo - Chambéry

**2021**

Biennale Internationale de Sculpture BISO (OFF), Ateliers Maaneere - Ouagadougou  
"Akili-Ko", Institut Français - Ouagadougou

**2020**

Galerie Art-Z - Paris

**2019**

Biennale Internationale de Sculpture BISO (OFF), Agence Deneulin - Ouagadougou

**2018**

"Grafic Africa", Le CUBE-Piasa - Paris  
Salon ArtExpo - Chambéry

**2017**

Duo show with Leslie Amine, INSA - Lyon

**2014**

"Bobo ville ouverte", Institut français - Bobo-Dioulasso

**2012**

Atlanta AKWABA Arts Festival - Ghana

**2008**

OFF Dakar Biennale, Galerie Terang'art - Dakar

**2004**

International Salon of Arts and Crafts - Ouagadougou

**2003**

OFF Dakar Biennale, Galerie Terang'art - Dakar

**1994**

Ouag'Art - Ouagadougou

**1993**

Biennale de Marseille - France

**1991**

Château de Rolle, with Groupe Fuzion - Switzerland

**1990**

Musée Provincial du HOUET - Bobo-Dioulasso

**1988**

Centre Culturel Henri MATISSE - Bobo-Dioulasso

**1987**

Saison artistique des Grands Marais, with Groupe Fuzion - Sandillon, France

**1984**

La Roche-Vineuse - France