



OPENING
13 March 2025

Duo show
Sur un fil – Lianza & Théo Mwamba
14 March – 26 April 2025

LIANZA & THÉO MWAMBA - *Sur un fil*

Duo show

14.03 to 26.04.2025

Opening on Thursday 13 March
from 6pm to 9pm

The exhibition brings together two young Congolese painters who both tackle human fragility from two very different angles: Théo Mwamba provides a glimpse of the struggle to survive financially in Kinshasa, illustrated by small traders working at night, while Lianza explores mental fragility in artworks with an intimate ambience. Both artists graduated from ABA Kinshasa (School of Fine Arts) in 2022 and are showing their work for the first time in Europe.

LIANZA

**Born on 29 April 1999 in Kinshasa (DRC).
Lives and works in Montreal in Canada.**

Born in Kinshasa in 1999, Exaucé Lianza Bassele studied humanities, specialising in literature, and then enrolled at Kinshasa School of Fine Arts in 2019, graduating in 2022. He demonstrated his technical skill right from his first significant works, producing oil portraits with hazy outlines that express the fragility of the human condition.

Following a period spent seeking out other directions, he returned to this theme, making use of a new medium to give an extra dimension: Lianza paints on rice sacks that he frays once he has finished the portrait. By unravelling the fibres, Lianza seeks to express fragility, the fragments of the self that people lose and keep, the ties that are made and broken. In so doing, apart from the symbolic dimension of the process, he produces a stunning "slatted blind" effect, providing us with a glimpse of the private life of subjects

with a magnetic presence, some of whom are extremely troubling, and whose feelings are elusive and whose enigmatic nature we seek to understand.

Lianza moved to Montreal in 2023. He is working in the city while continuing his studies.

THÉO MWAMBA

Born on 16 September 1997 in Kasai (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Lives and works in Kinshasa (DRC).

Théo was born in Kasai Province and grew up in Lubumbashi, before moving to Kinshasa in 2017 to study at ABA (School of Fine Arts), graduating in late 2022. He worked while studying.

While so many young artists immediately seek to nail down a style, sometimes without sufficient exploration, Théo Mwamba stands out from the crowd by taking the opposite approach: he researched, experimented, and became fascinated by the sheer diversity of worlds that painting enables him to reach. His research has led him to develop a technique of painting on printed canvas, using historical archives or his own photographs.

He quickly made a name for himself with realistic works with strong social connotations. Child labour was his very first topic of interest when he was still a young student. Mwamba used barcodes applied to realistic scenes to symbolise it. The theme of injustice makes another appearance in his second series focusing on DR Congo's colonial past. Mwamba makes use of archive images to pay tribute to the victims of the Congo Free State. His third series saw another change of scene and intention: it was a tribute to the leading figures of the Congolese musical scene. Finally, he has returned to social issues in his current series on the topic of night work, in which a colour range and light effects hold sway.



1. Lianza, *Bokonzi ya se (power on earth)* (2024)
Oil on rice sack
110 x 90 cm
© Lianza



2. Lianza, *Liens* (2023)
Oil on rice sack
150 x 115 cm
© Lianza



4. Théo Mwamba, *Rond-point huilerie* (2023)
Print, oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 100 cm
© T. Mwamba



3. Théo Mwamba, *Mwasi bouliste* (2023)
Oil on canvas
120 x 90 cm
© T. Mwamba

Photos of the works in the exhibition are available on request from:
barlet@galerie-angalia.com.

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