

## BARTHÉLÉMY TOGUO

### *Bilongue* (2020)

Art Basel - Unlimited

June 14 - 19, 2022

VIP Preview on June 13, 2022, 3:00pm-8:00pm



Barthélémy Togo, *Bilongue* 2020.

Galerie Lelong & Co., New York and Paris, is pleased to announce an installation by Barthélémy Togo for Art Basel - Unlimited, comprising 45 zingana wood *bas-reliefs* from the artist's *Bilongue* series.

*Bilongue* is a neighborhood in the suburbs of Douala, Cameroon. Togo stayed there in 2015 while preparing his work for the 56th Venice Biennale, curated by Okwui Enwezor. He encountered a vibrant population of people from different backgrounds, "survivors" as he described them, who struggled to earn a daily living and defend their meagre possessions from gangs. To survive and overcome, the residents of *Bilongue*, a sprawling shanty town,

developed strong bonds of solidarity. In their honor, Togo created a Hall of Fame, a portrait gallery that commemorates their lives and struggles. Instead of using photography or painting, Togo created a series of zingana wood *bas-reliefs* that pay homage to the African custom of creating wooden sculptures to commemorate kings and warriors. These 45 panels represent a courageous and determined group of men and women that, in Togo's mind, are the true heroes of Cameroon.

Barthélémy Togo has an ongoing solo exhibition *Urban Requiem* at the Savannah College of Art Design Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia (through July 21, 2022) and his next solo exhibition will open at the Picasso Museum, Barcelona, Spain in fall 2022. The artist currently has works on view in *rīvus* - The 23rd Sydney Biennale, Australia; *Forger / Out of the fire*, *Dak'Art*, the Dakar Biennale 2022, Sénégal; and *WITNESS: Afro Perspectives from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, El Espacio 23, Miami, Florida.

### About the Artist

Working across painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, performance, and installation, Barthélémy Togo addresses enduring and immediately relevant issues of borders, exile, and displacement. At the core of his practice is the notion of belonging, which stems from his dual French/Cameroonian nationality. Through poetic, hopeful, and often figural gestures connecting nature with the human body, Togo foregrounds concerns with both ecological and societal implications. Recently, his works have been informed by movements and humanitarian tragedy including #BlackLivesMatter and the refugee crisis. He states, "What guides me is a constantly evolving aesthetic but also a sense of ethics, which makes a difference, and structures my entire approach."

In 2008, he founded Bandjoun Station in his native Cameroon to foster contemporary art and culture within the local community. The community center includes an exhibition space, a library, an artist residency, and an organic farm.

Toguo has participated in numerous international biennials, including the Sydney Biennale (2011, 2022); Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India (2018); Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (2018); 56th Venice Biennale (2015); Havana Biennial (2012); 11th Biennale de Lyon (2011); and Dakar Biennale (2000, 2010, 2016, 2018). In 2016, Toguo was shortlisted for the Prix Marcel Duchamp and he presented the installation *Vaincre le virus!* at the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Solo museum exhibitions have been held at the Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art, Georgia; Centre d'art La Malmaison, Cannes, France; Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, France; Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York; and Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France. His works are included in public collections worldwide, including the Tate Modern, England; Centre Pompidou, France; Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, France; Studio Museum Harlem, New York; and MoMA, New York. In 2011, Toguo was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Literature in France.

Toguo was born in M'Balmayo, Cameroon, in 1967. He currently lives and works between Paris, France and Bandjoun, Cameroon.

To view and download images of the artist and artworks, please visit: <https://bit.ly/toguounlimited>

For press enquiries, please contact Grace Hong, 212.315.0470 or [grace@galerielelong.com](mailto:grace@galerielelong.com).

Join in the conversation with Galerie Lelong & Co. (@GalerieLelongNY), Facebook (Galerie Lelong & Co., New York), Instagram (@galerielelong) and via the hashtag #BarthelemyToguo

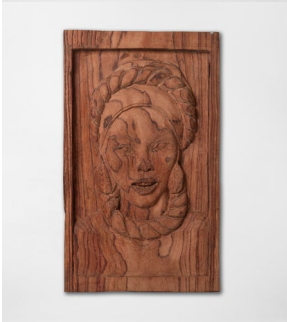
## SELECTED IMAGES AND CREDIT LINES



Barthélémy Toguo  
*Bilongue*  
Zingana wood  
Various dimensions  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co.



Barthélémy Toguo  
*Bilongue 31, 2020*  
Zingana wood  
67 x 42 cm  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co



Barthélémy Toguo  
*Bilongue 32, 2020*  
Zingana wood  
68 x 40 cm  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co



Barthélémy Toguo  
*Bilongue 48, 2020*  
Zingana wood  
65 x 46 cm  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co



Barthélémy Toguo  
*Bilongue 56, 2020*  
Zingana wood  
67 x 46 cm  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co

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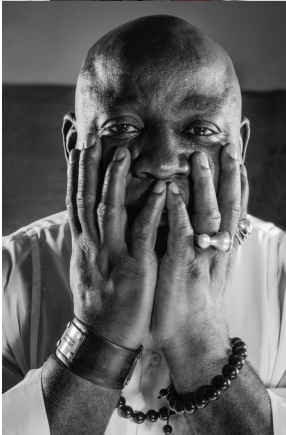
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Barthélémy Toguo in his studio, 2016  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co.



Barthélémy Toguo in 2017  
Photo: Fabrice Gibert  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co.



Barthélémy Toguo, 2019  
Photo: Zacharie Ngnogue  
Courtesy Bandjoun Station and Galerie Lelong & Co.

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