

A SECRET SPACE

Evans Mbugua was born in Kenya forty years ago and today lives in France where he obtained a degree in Graphic Design from the “Ecole Supérieure d’Art des Pyrénées”. In full possession of his creative faculties, Evans does not settle for the “effective” artistic formulae which has been proven by his audience and collectors worldwide. He is constantly reinventing his pictorial universe and the work he presents to us today is further proof of this.

His world is always colorful, full of energy, joy of life and dedicated to the human being.

He had accustomed us to great, vivid compositions, adding painting by hand on perspex to the digital printing on paper of his motifs which form a kind of weft. But the artist reflected not only upon the motif, but also about the material, paper, and its infinite stratification in layers of minute finesse. Paper is one of the most important inventions of the human being and has been one of the most important vectors of knowledge.

Working with the thoroughness that characterizes him by undoing some of the printing from the thickness of the paper, he manages, by using absolute precision in his gesture, to create new characters, new silhouettes emerging from this empty space.

In this way, he penetrates another world which he makes us discover with him, passing from the outside to the inside, from the visible to the hidden, from the revealed to the protected, from the obvious to the intimate.

This secret space hidden under the printed layer, peeled off like a skin, reveals other impalpable universes that extend the artist’s quest for identity, while exploring the portrait with its exterior and interior aspects.

A true initiatory quest in which we follow him without hesitation!

Sylvain Sankalé, *art critic*