

KASSOU SEYDOU

HERE COMES THE SUN

The artist's new series of works is situated at the junction of land and sea, perhaps in that area known as the foreshore, sometimes covered or uncovered by the tides, which carry with them the destinies of their travellers and the anonymous memories of their wrecked victims. Kassou Seydou's paintings also carry these stories, in a meticulous disorder of upside down figures, emerged or immersed, in cold and warm colours, curves and solids. The spectator plunges with him into this plastic jungle, a dreamlike universe to which the eye gradually gets used to, finding signs or guessing a narrative. Beneath the foam of the sea, those whose gaze crosses our path ask us: what world are these tragedies the witnesses of? When will the waiting end?

Kassou Seydou seeks to question the foundations of the journey, especially when it takes the form of emigration, and even more so when the latter is clandestine and dangerous. What extreme is reached when the only remaining life force is that of risking death? From his studio in Keur Massar, where the artist has lived since 2016, the artist observes, listens and wonders. His paintings lead us, with their hypnotic spirals, beyond morality and judgement, towards an introspection of feelings and collective human consciousness.

The village of *Thiaroye*, for example, on the outskirts of Dakar, is sadly known for the massacre of African soldiers recently demobilised by France. It is a place of symbols (injustice, lack of recognition, the futile journey), but it is also a seaside village, a place of tourism, a place of daily life and fishing. The town of *Thiaroye* thus bears witness to these links between arrival and departure, between land and sea, in the manner of communicating vessels, and also bears witness to the coexistence in our time of two parallel realities of travel and crossing.

In his studio, Kassou Seydou paints under the sun's rays in Keur Massar, a suburb of Dakar. The bright natural light is a tool influencing both the construction of the pictorial space and the intensity of the colours. The sun as an all-powerful filter in art as well as in life.

Finally, Kassou Seydou's message remains no less universal, like the signs borrowed from various cultures, Chinese, cabbalistic, whose symbolic and signifying force goes beyond mere geographical location. The message is indeed one of anchoring and transmission. As a meditative image, his works are a time of thought, a parenthesis to reinvent our being in the world, with others and for others; with the world and for the world.