

STEVE TURNER

PRESS RELEASE



Breaking Tradition: Late 20th Century Malian Wedding Textiles

August 3 – September 7, 2024

Steve Turner is pleased to present *Breaking Tradition: Late 20th Century Malian Wedding Textiles*, an exhibition featuring eight brightly colored strip-woven, figurative textiles that, to our knowledge, is the first exhibition to focus solely on the subject. Representing a dramatic break with this centuries old tradition in Mali which historically favored indigo and white cotton or brown wool blankets, these works present a new approach to the genre of wedding textiles. Depicting people and animals, they were used to adorn the walls of houses during weddings and as covers for the newly imported iron beds. Following the 1968 military coup, soldiers also became a prevalent theme. Similar works have been included in overview exhibitions of African textiles, including the often-cited exhibition *Art of African Textiles*, (Barbican Art Gallery, 1995), which featured one of the artists included here, Oumar Boucoum.

Three weavings by Boucoum, member of the second generation of Fulani wedding weavers, are presented in *Breaking Tradition*. Strong examples by five other weavers reveal that the movement was more widespread than previously thought and that more scholarship is necessary. Little is known about the weavers beyond the fact all were men and that all were members of “Maabo,” the Fulani caste of griots and praise singers.

In presenting the first survey of Malian wedding textiles, we acknowledge the inspiration of two New York galleries, Julien Levy Gallery (1931-1949), and Edith Halpert’s Downtown Gallery (1926-1968). Both of these galleries were pioneers in exhibiting contemporary art along with folk art, as does Steve Turner.

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Oumar Bocoum

Two Men And Two Women, c. 1990

Weaving

60 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (152.7 x 275.6 cm)

o.bocoum013746



Oumar Bocoum

Two Men And One Woman, c. 1990

Weaving

61 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 93 inches (156.2 x 236.2 cm)

o.bocoum013748



Oumar Bocoum

Four Men, c. 1990

Weaving

57 x 108 inches (144.8 x 274.3 cm)

o.bocoum013752



Abdoulaye Kida

Two Birds, c. 1990

Weaving

60 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 107 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches (153 x 272.4 cm)

a.kida013756



Musa Kida

Five Men, c. 1990

Weaving

56 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 111 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches (144.1 x 283.5 cm)

m.kida013759



Alaye Kida

Two Soldiers And Two Women, c. 1990

Weaving

64 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 111 inches (164.5 x 281.9 cm)

al.kida013761



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Hamadou Sango

The World Map, c. 1990

Weaving

56 x 102 ⁵/₈ inches (142.2 x 260.7 cm)

h.sango013762



Jara Ila Jiga

Four Men And One Woman, c. 1990

Weaving

59 ¹/₂ x 95 ¹/₂ inches (151.1 x 242.6 cm)

j.jiga013769

