

Goodman Gallery is pleased to announce the representation of Beninese artist Pélagie Gbaguidi in collaboration with Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel.

Gbaguidi describes herself as a contemporary 'griot' - a West African storyteller - which she defines as someone who functions as an intermediary between individual memory and ancestral past.

Born in Dakar and based in Brussels, her work recontextualizes archives and official histories to reveal processes of forgetting. By doing this, the artist produces an anthology of the signs and traces of trauma centred around colonial and postcolonial history. The materially embodied images created by Gbaguidi through painting, drawing, performance and installation seek to break out of binary thinking, archetypes and simplifications.

This announcement is on the heels of Gbaguidi's participation in The Centre for the Less Good Idea residency at Fondation Cartier alongside other artists from Benin, Belgium, Austria and France. The Centre is a Johannesburg-based experimental arts incubator for cross-disciplinary practices and responsive thinking co-founded by William Kentridge.

"I am incredibly proud to be welcoming Pélagie Gbaguidi to the gallery stable. As a significant female voice from the Continent, the performative nature of Gbaguidi's work speaks to the power of embodied ancestral knowledge and her ability to connect the past, present and future in her practice. As a gallery dedicated to spotlighting contemporary and historically important artists from Africa and the Global South more broadly, this is an exciting moment" - Liza Essers

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