GOWEN
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

GOWEN AT AKAA ART FAIR

Stand A7
October 23 - 25, 2026
Carreau du Temple, Paris.
VIP Preview Thursday 22nd October
(by invitation only)

Press Release | AKAA Art Fair
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For the 11th edition of AKAA, GOWEN is delighted to present a solo show by Togolese artist **Ako Atikossie** (b. 1980, Zalivé). Introducing a new body of work, the presentation reflects Atikossie's sustained engagement with art, science and philosophy.

Bringing together painting and installation, the exhibition addresses questions concerning society, the terrestrial environment and the cosmos.

Working with geometric structures and suspended canvases, mounted onto shaped stretchers that extend beyond the conventional rectangle, Atikossie develops a distinctive visual language in which abstraction becomes a tool for enquiry. These forms reveal hidden figures found in nature and within visible and invisible space, where the interaction of lines suggests territories beyond immediate perception. While his broader practice frequently incorporates acrylic paint and marker on canvas, the introduction of oil in this new series broadens the artist's approach to colour, light and pictorial depth.

Central to his investigation is the long-standing use of the repeated "minus" sign, incorporated in shifting directions, scales, spaces and dimensions, and functioning as both a formal device and conceptual

Ako Atikossie, *Le règne fongique*, 2026,
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 122.5 x 105 x 10 cm.
Courtesy of The Artist and GOWEN. © Ako Atikossie.

framework. The motif serves as a point of departure and arrival along a journey. In physics, the electric minus, or electron, is a key element in understanding the components of matter in constant motion; elsewhere, the sign can express something lacking or indicate the need to reveal what is absent. Prominent in West African cosmogony, it is also used to interpret the past, present and future of universal matter. In Togo, the form can be found throughout traditional practices, from architecture to ritual representations.

Conceived as an interconnected line of enquiry, the new works address some of the forces governing human and cosmic existence. Atikossie considers whether consciousness can be understood solely as a function of the brain, or whether aspects of perception, sensation, emotion and inner experience point towards processes that remain imperceptible and unresolved. Through abstraction, he gives visual presence to these uncertainties, probing the nature of awareness and the limits of our knowledge.

This exploration extends to the paradox of emptiness. Informed by the concept of the quantum vacuum, the artist approaches apparently vacant space as an active realm containing energy, particles, vibrations and electromagnetic fluctuations. The void becomes an elusive field of potential, capable of fostering the emergence of life, consciousness, memory, silence and other phenomena.

Ako Atikossie, *Au-delà de l'univers observable*, 2026, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 118 x 130 x 10 cm.
Courtesy of The Artist and GOWEN. © Ako Atikossie.

Ako Atikossie, *Impasse métaphysique* , 2026, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 220 x 435 cm. Courtesy of The Artist and GOWEN.
© Ako Atikossie.

His attempt to visualise what cannot ordinarily be seen transforms immateriality into a catalyst for curiosity and discovery.

The recurring number four provides another framework through which disparate systems are brought into dialogue. Biological elements, the fundamental forces of the universe, natural cycles, human experience and spiritual traditions are connected through this symbolic principle. By drawing relationships between these different fields, he examines how multiple forms of understanding might coexist within a shared vision of reality.

Atikossie's paintings prompt viewers to consider the constituent elements of space and earth, as well as the repercussions of scientific discovery on political, environmental and social life. Inviting individual interpretation, the works offer an encounter with the boundaries between the material and immaterial, the perceptible and unknown.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ako Atikossie (b. 1980, Zalivé, Togo) lives and works in Milan. Selected solo exhibitions: OTHERS? 2024 *Patrimoine Geo-métré*, Nashira Gallery, Milan; 2023-24 *Champ de Simulation*, Artphilein La Piscina, Lugano, CH; 2021 *Confini identitari*, La Portineria, Florence, curated by Black Month History Florence, IT; 2018 Museo del Carcere "Le Nuove", Turin, IT; 2015 *Europa o l'assenza*, Cattedrale della Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, curated by Paolo Ferrari, IT; 2015 *L'absence de dialogue*, Supernova Gallery, Pavia, curated by Mariangela Calisti, IT; 2010 *XXI Settimana d'arte*, Centro di Eccellenza Valle delle cartiere di Toscolano Maderno, IT. Selected group exhibitions: 2024 *'Façonner l'invisible'*, HiFlow, Plan-les- Ouates, Geneva; 2023 *Nascosti alla luce del sole*, Nashira Gallery, Milan, IT; 2022 Artgenève art fair, with GOWEN, Geneva, CH; 2021 *Urban environments and imaginary spaces*, Suburbia Contemporary, Barcelona, ES; 2019 *Premio Arte Cairo*, Palazzo Reale, Milan, IT; 2016 La Biennale Arte & Industria. utopia = realtà, Labin, Croatia; 2015 *Shapes*, Circoloquadro Milan, IT; 2015 *Amichevol...Mente*, Galata Sea Museum, Genova, IT; 2014 *Rooms*, Palazzo Bottigella Gandini, Pavia, IT; 2014 *Statements*, Circolquadro, Milan, IT; 2012 *Corpo*, Paesaggio informe, Atelier Chagall, Milan, IT; 2012 *Koiné e discorso sulla realtà*, Palazzo Zenobio, Venice, IT; 2012 Galleria Aldrado Da ponte, Lodi (MI), IT; 2012 *Micr'Art*, Galleria PasspArtout a Pero (MI), IT; 2010 *Etno-Antropologia dell'Arte Contemporanea*, Galleria Accademia Contemporanea, Milan, IT. Prizes: 2019 Finalist of Arte Cairo Editore Prize – Painting section, 2012 Winner of *Maccagno Prize*, 2011 Honorable mention at Biennial of Painting Luigi Brambati – Humanity and Nature, IV Edition Publications *Ako Atikossie - Champ de Simulation*, catalogue published by Artphilein Editions, Lugano 2024, with texts by Samuele Menin and Caterina De Pietri. Ako Atikossie has been represented by GOWEN since 2021.