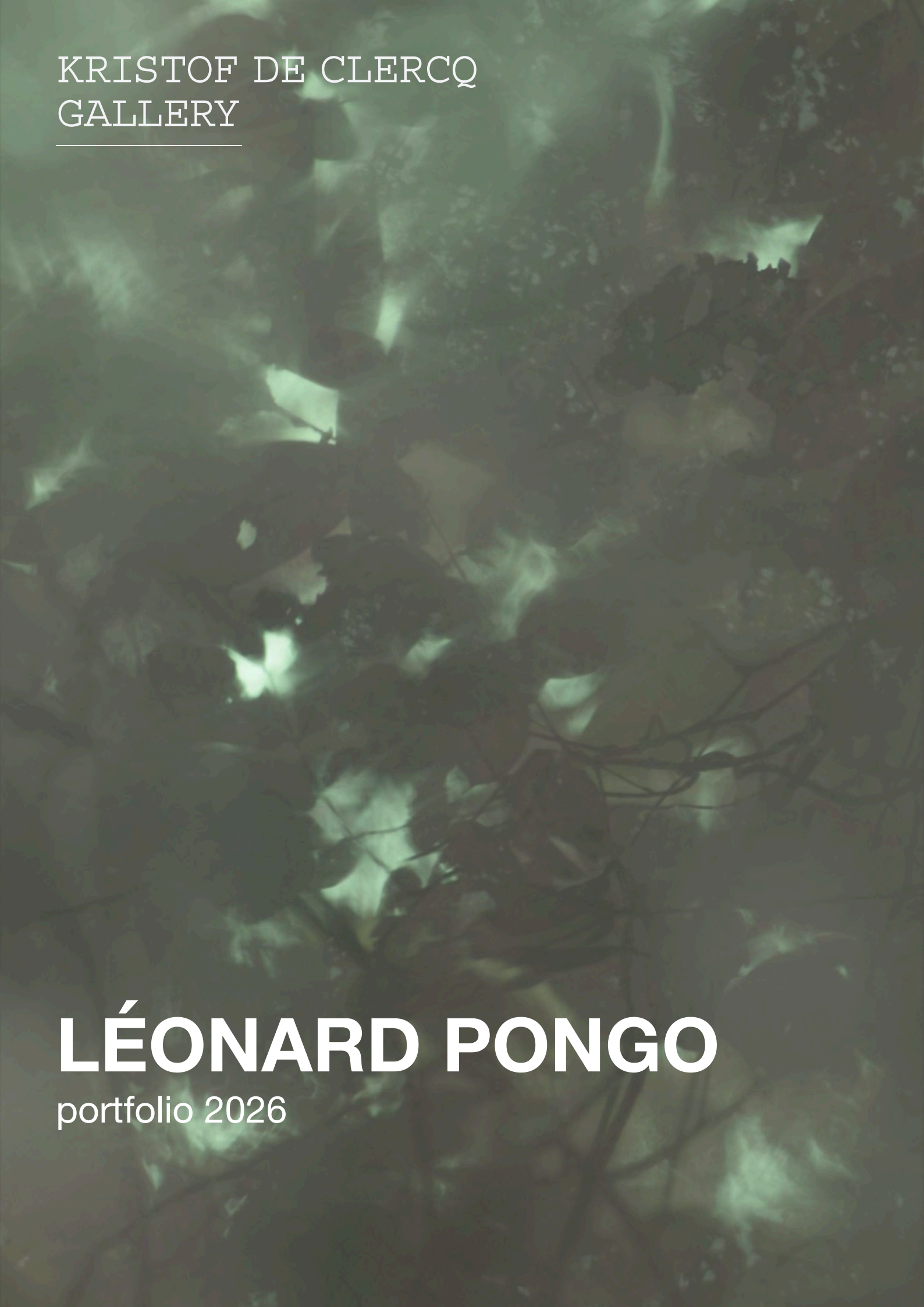


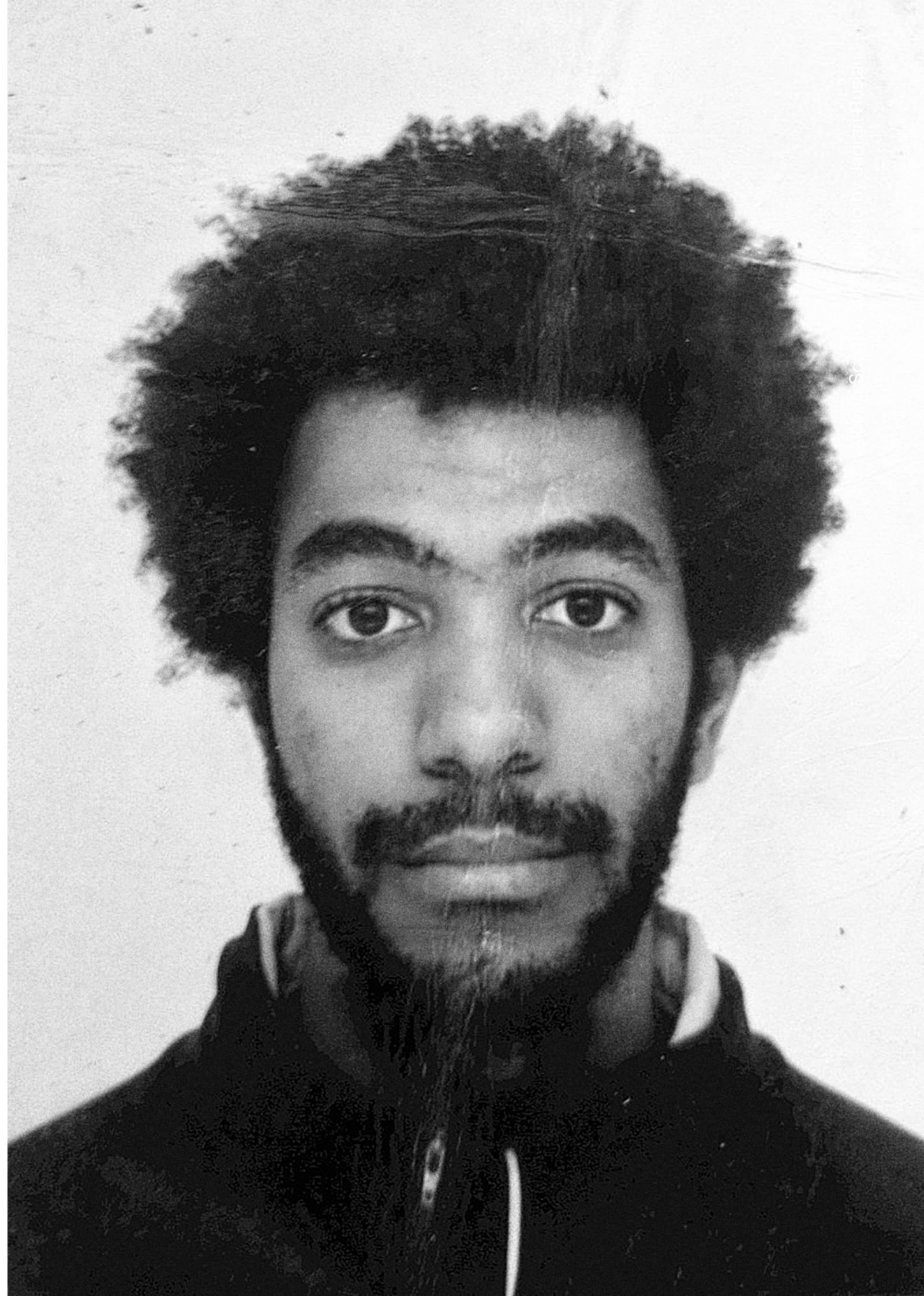


KRISTOF DE CLERCQ
GALLERY

LÉONARD PONGO

portfolio 2026

BIOGRAPHY



Léonard Pongo (b. 1988, Liège, Belgium) is a visual artist working between Belgium and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rooted in the Congolese diaspora, his multidisciplinary practice draws on Congolese land, cultures, philosophies, and crafts — exploring and challenging the complex perceptions of the DRC and the African continent more broadly.

Pongo began his career as a documentary photographer and gradually expanded his approach to incorporate snapshot, diary, and abstract photography, experimenting with printing techniques, moving image, mixed-media installations, and textile. His work weaves allegorical and poetic narratives around identity, place, and transformation. His long-term projects include *The Uncanny*, an exploration of urban Congolese society, and *Primordial Earth*, an ongoing visual and conceptual investigation of the DRC's landscapes that constructs an allegorical narrative about creation, apocalypse, and the enduring power of the natural world.

Primordial Earth received the CAP International Prize for Contemporary African Photography (2023), was shown at Tate Modern as part of *A World in Common* (2023–24), and formed the basis of solo exhibitions at Bozar (Brussels, 2021) and Mu.ZEE (Ostend, 2022), among others. In 2025, his work was shown at the Jeu de Paume (Paris) and at the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University. Roger Ballen personally selected him as one of the *Future Greats 2025* in *ArtReview*. His first monograph, *The Uncanny*, was published by Gost Books in 2023.

His work is held in public and private collections worldwide, including Mu.ZEE, KANAL – Centre Pompidou, the Cera Collection at M Leuven, FOMU via the collection of the Flemish Community, the Chazen Museum of Art (United States), the Sindika Dokolo Foundation (Angola), Fondation H (Madagascar/France), the Ekard Collection, and the Collection of Friends of S.M.A.K.

Léonard Pongo has been invited to participate in the *61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia - In Minor Keys*, by Koyo Kouoh, and he is currently developing new work for a major solo exhibition scheduled for fall 2026 at FOMU (Antwerp).

Beyond his artistic practice, Pongo is committed to education and mentorship. He teaches Documentary Photography at the Kinshasa Academy of Fine Arts (ABA), is an associate researcher at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, and co-directs The Photographic Collective, a platform supporting lens-based artists from and in Africa. He also co-mentors the FAM mentorship program for women artists alongside Otobong Nkanga at MINO Lab in Antwerp.

THE UNCANNY

project statement



The Uncanny explores Léonard Pongo's relationship to Congo and the internal process he underwent while trying to understand the region, his heritage, and the complex realities faced by its people. Through the development of the project, he gradually confronted the limitations of photography—particularly the challenges of grasping and conveying the layered complexities of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Pongo began the project as an attempt to reconnect with his Congolese roots. His first visit to the country took place in 2011, when he stayed with members of his extended Congolese family, many of whom he had never met before. His arrival coincided with DRC's second democratic elections, both presidential and legislative.

Aware of the implications of photographing in Congo as someone trained in Europe, Pongo was acutely conscious of the biases and limitations that shaped his initial perspective.

He began with the intention of documenting the elections and their impact on Congolese society. However, the deeper he delved into the work, the more conflicted and frustrated he became. He soon realized that a traditional documentary approach failed to center the right subjects or reflect the immediate realities on the ground.

His images, shaped by a Western gaze, inadvertently displaced Congolese voices from their own narrative. After weeks of grappling with this tension, Pongo came to accept that he could not determine which stories mattered most, and that his own perspective alone could not produce a meaningful Congolese account.

This realization led him to shift his approach toward a more personal and intuitive visual language. He began documenting the evolution of his relationship with the environment, allowing the agency and vision of others to guide him through their realities rather than directing the narrative himself.

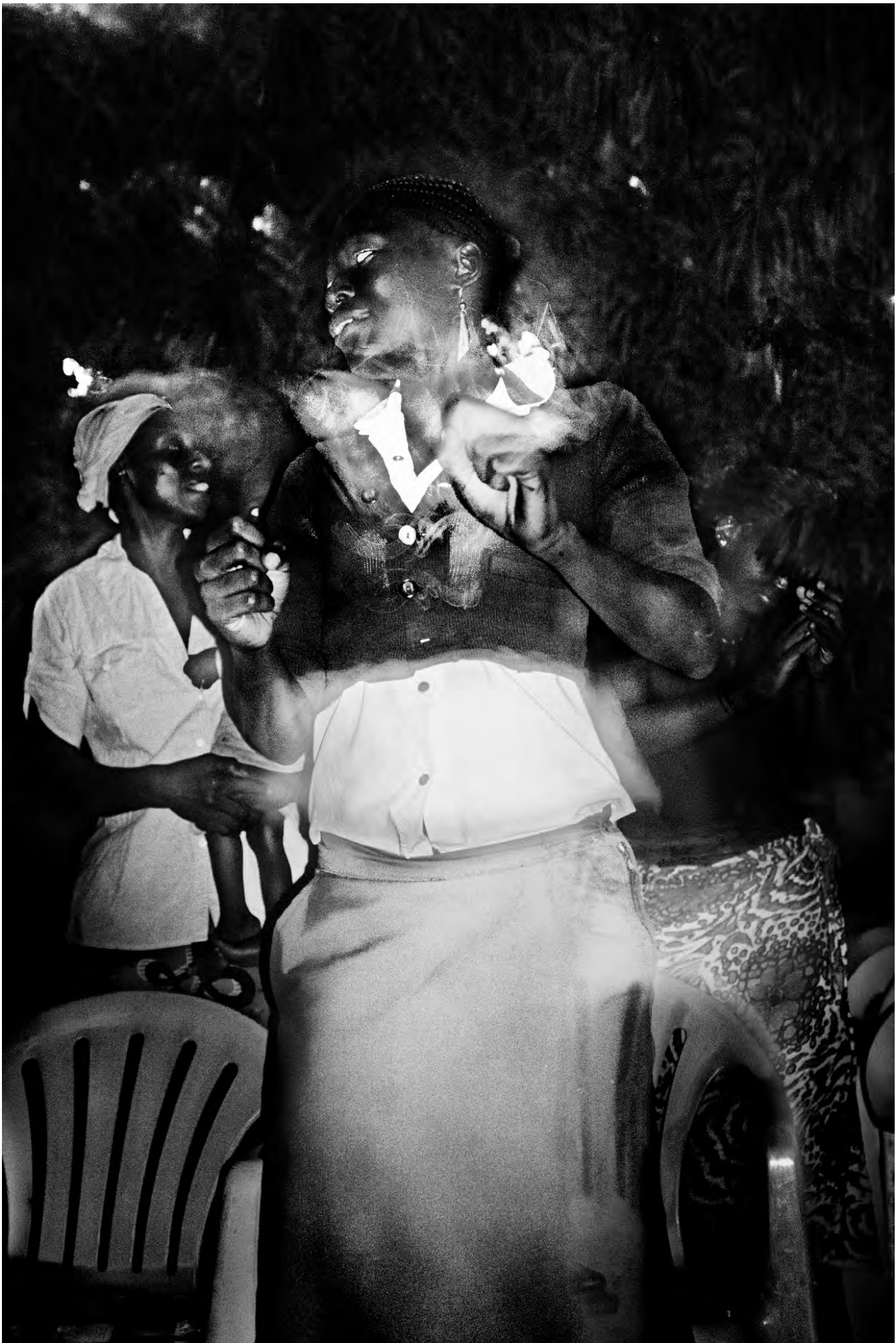
By merging documentary photography with a diaristic sensibility and abstract elements, Pongo developed a visual language to convey a deeply personal experience of a vibrant, overwhelming, and often elusive environment.

His images privilege emotion over fact, inviting viewers to engage with the visceral and affective dimensions of the Congolese context. Central to this work is the notion of Uncanniness — *Das Unheimliche* — which permeates Pongo's pseudo-documentary experience of living in the DRC.

THE UNCANNY

selected works

All images in the series	Untitled from <i>The Uncanny</i> series
Technical details	Giclée carbon ink print on Hahnemuhle Fineart Baryta paper
Editions	60 x 40 cm in editions of 7 + 2 AP 165 x 110 cm in editions of 3 + 2 AP





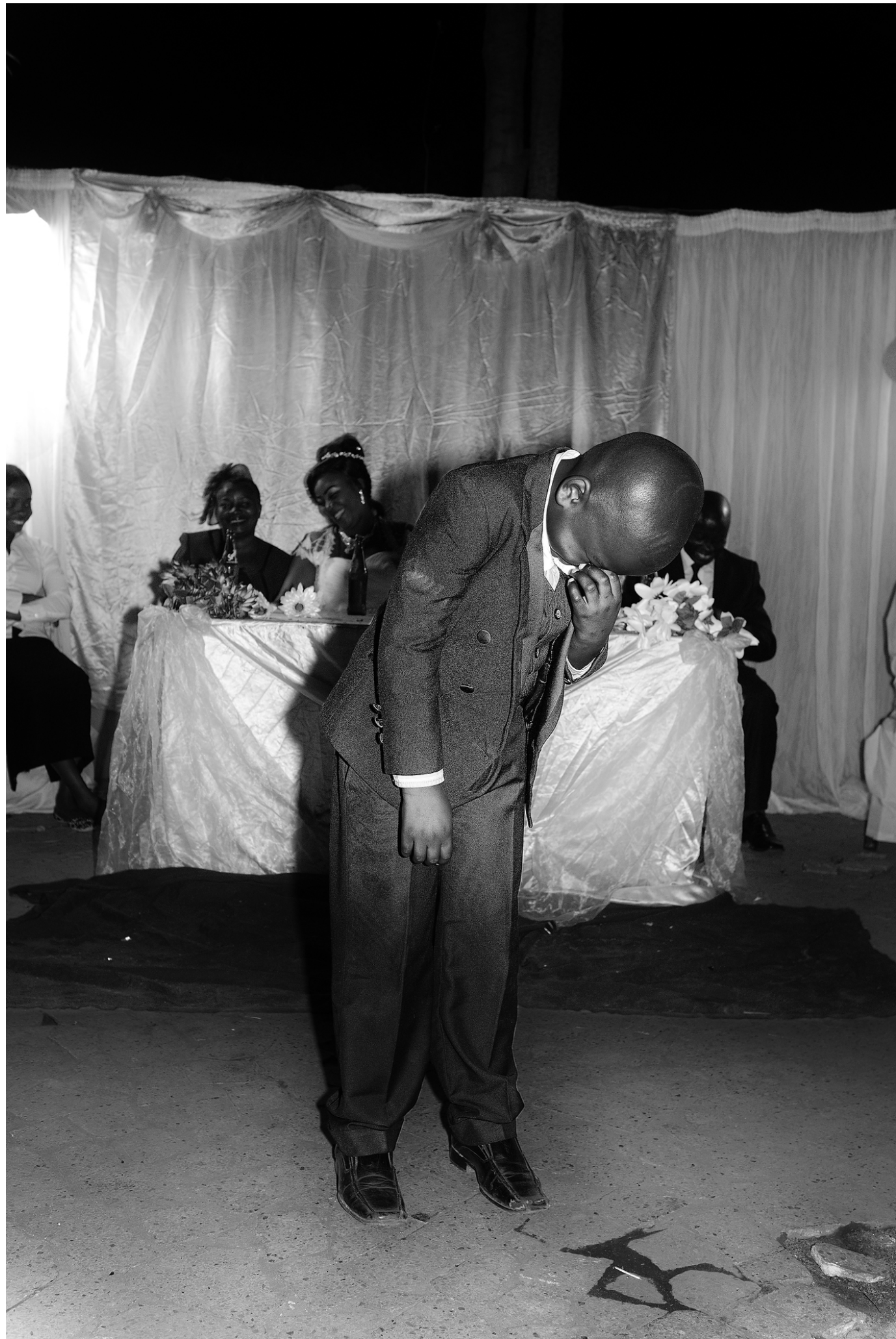
















THE UNCANNY

exhibition views

Léonard Pongo



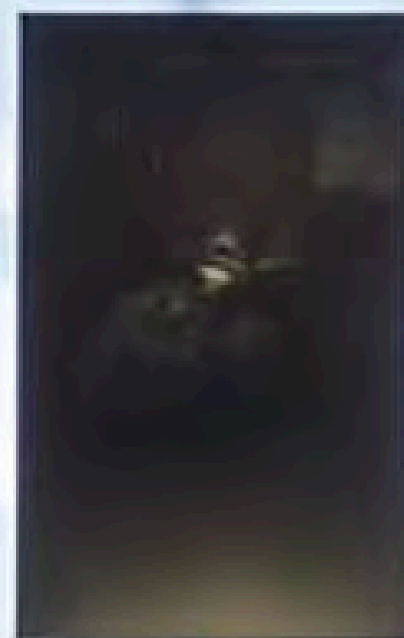
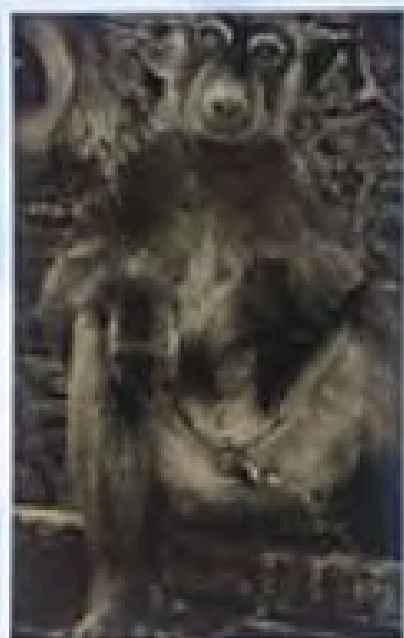
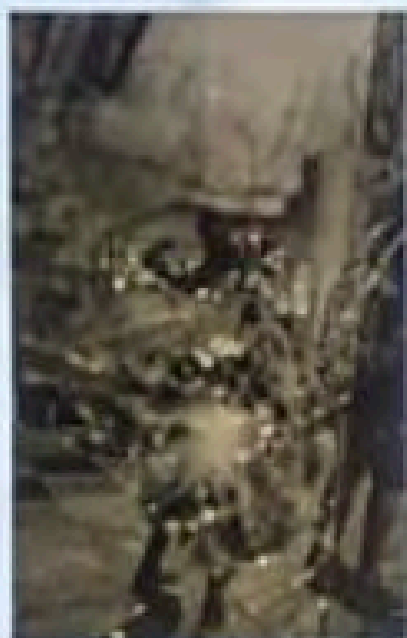
ÉDITION
POPCAP
CONTEMPORARY
AFRICAN
PHOTOGRAPHY





2017

Tempelhof, Berlin
Gemischte Gefuehle
image © David Brandt



2017

Tempelhof, Berlin
Gemischte Gefuehle
image © David Brandt

2018

The 3rd Beijing Photo Biennial, CAFA Art Museum
Confusing Public and Private







2019

IncarNations: African Arts as Philosophy, the Sindika Dokolo Collection
Bozar, Brussels, Belgium



2021

My whole body changed into something else
Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town/Johannesburg, SA

THE UNCANNY

monograph

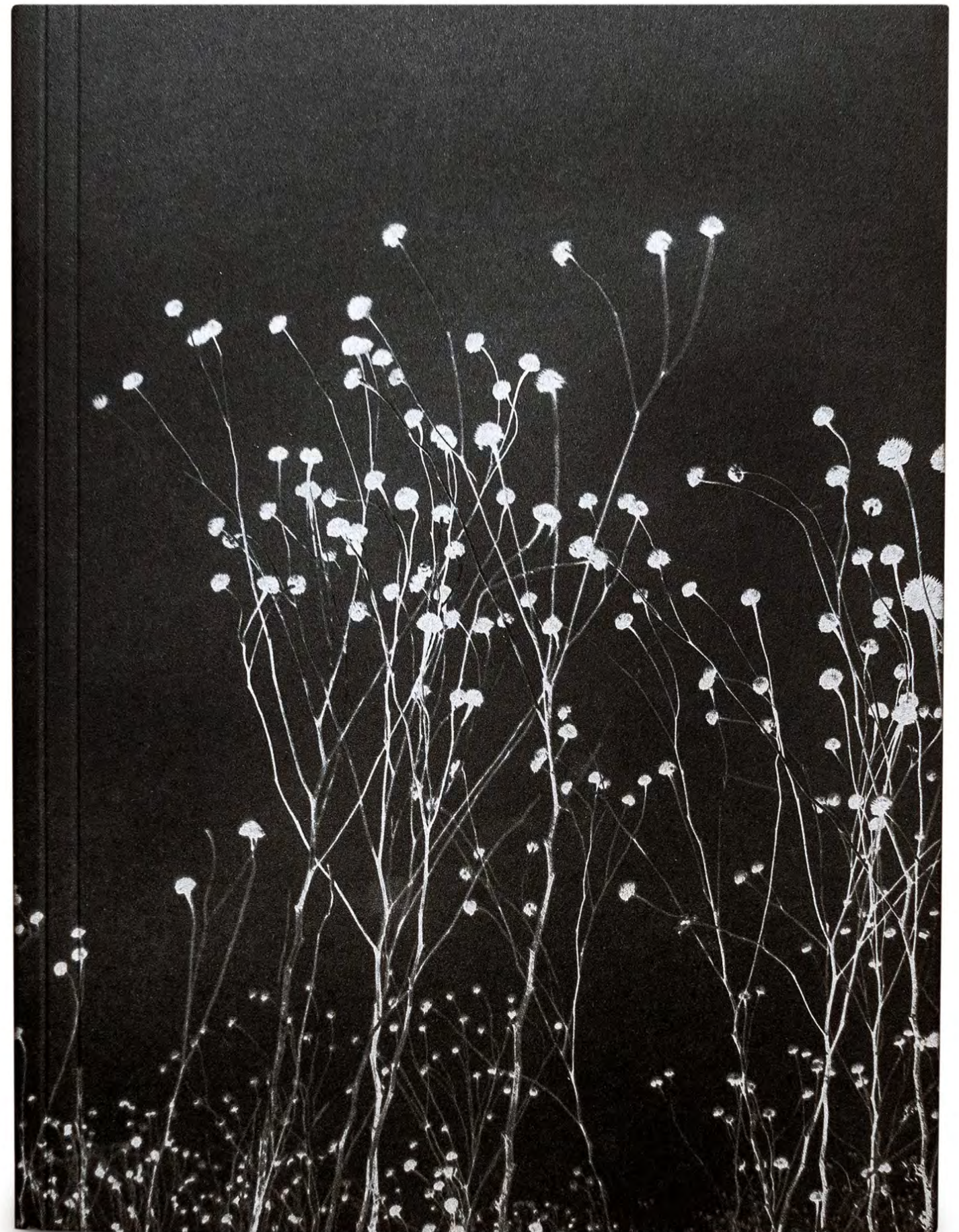
August 2023

The Uncanny

Published by GOST Books

Essay by Nadia Yala Kisukidi

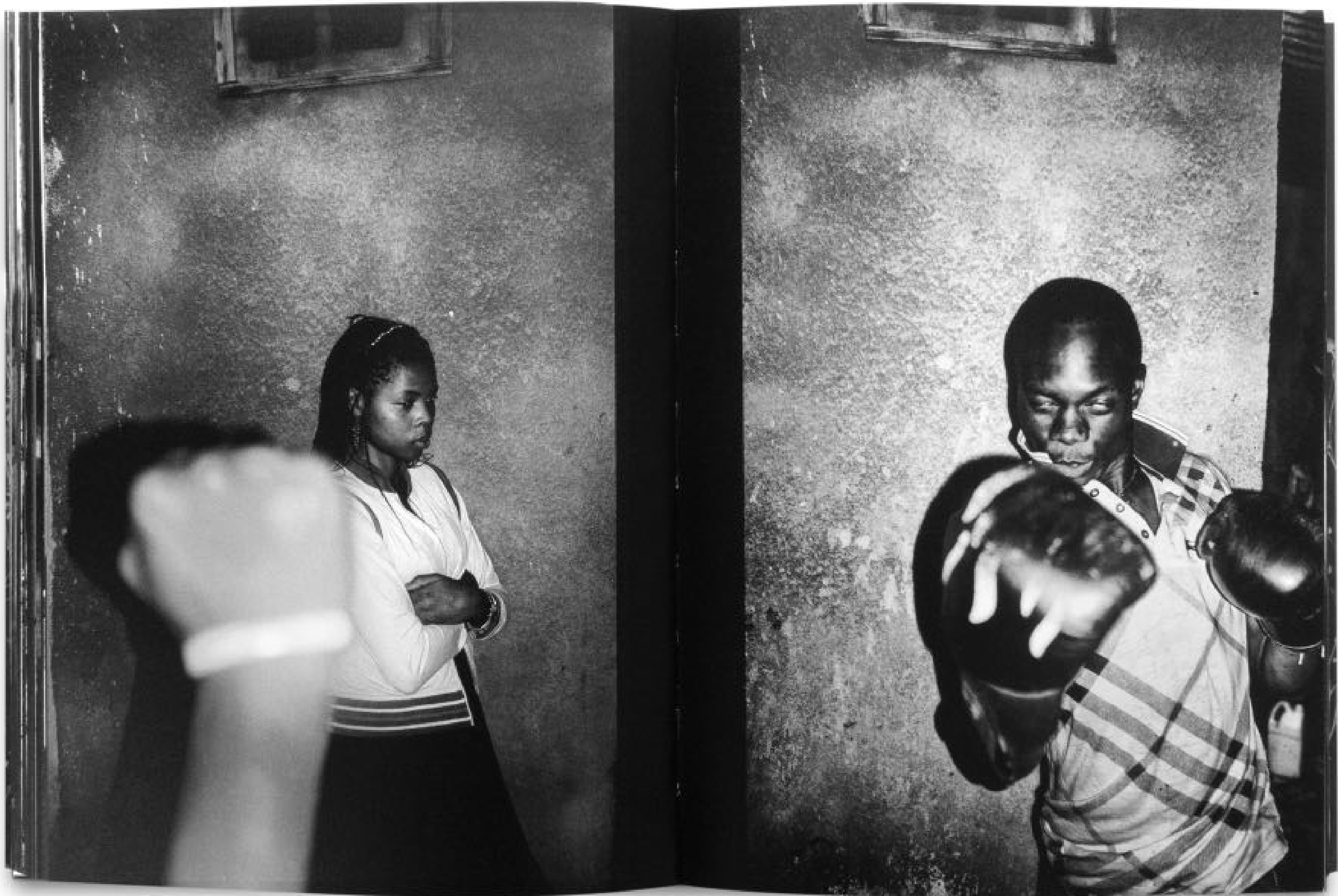
gostbooks.com/products/the-uncanny











PRIMORDIAL EARTH

project statement



Primordial Earth is an ongoing project by Léonard Pongo that marks a continued departure from traditional photographic narratives. In this body of work, Pongo uses photography not merely as a documentary tool but as a medium for traversing the Congolese landscape and crafting visual objects inspired by Congolese traditions, symbolism, craftsmanship, and mythologies.

The project portrays the country's diverse natural environments as an active, sentient force—a character with its own will and power. The landscape becomes a living manuscript, telling a universal story of humanity and the planet, with Congo positioned at its spiritual and symbolic core. The spaces depicted function as an allegorical narrative structured around the themes of genesis, apocalypse, and eternal return.

Through visual evocations of the different phases of life's evolution, the work interrogates humanity's relationship with nature and envisions an endless cycle of life, death, destruction, and regeneration rooted in the Congolese soil.

To express this vision, Pongo employs a range of materials—from photographic prints to textile weaving and printing—drawing direct inspiration from traditional Congolese crafts. These elements are merged with contemporary techniques to create immersive, tactile experiences within site-specific multimedia installations. In doing so, Pongo invites viewers to engage with a reimagined landscape that exists at the intersection of myth, memory, and materiality.

PRIMORDIAL EARTH

selected works

**All images in the series
(unless mentioned)**

Untitled from *Primordial Earth* series

Technical details

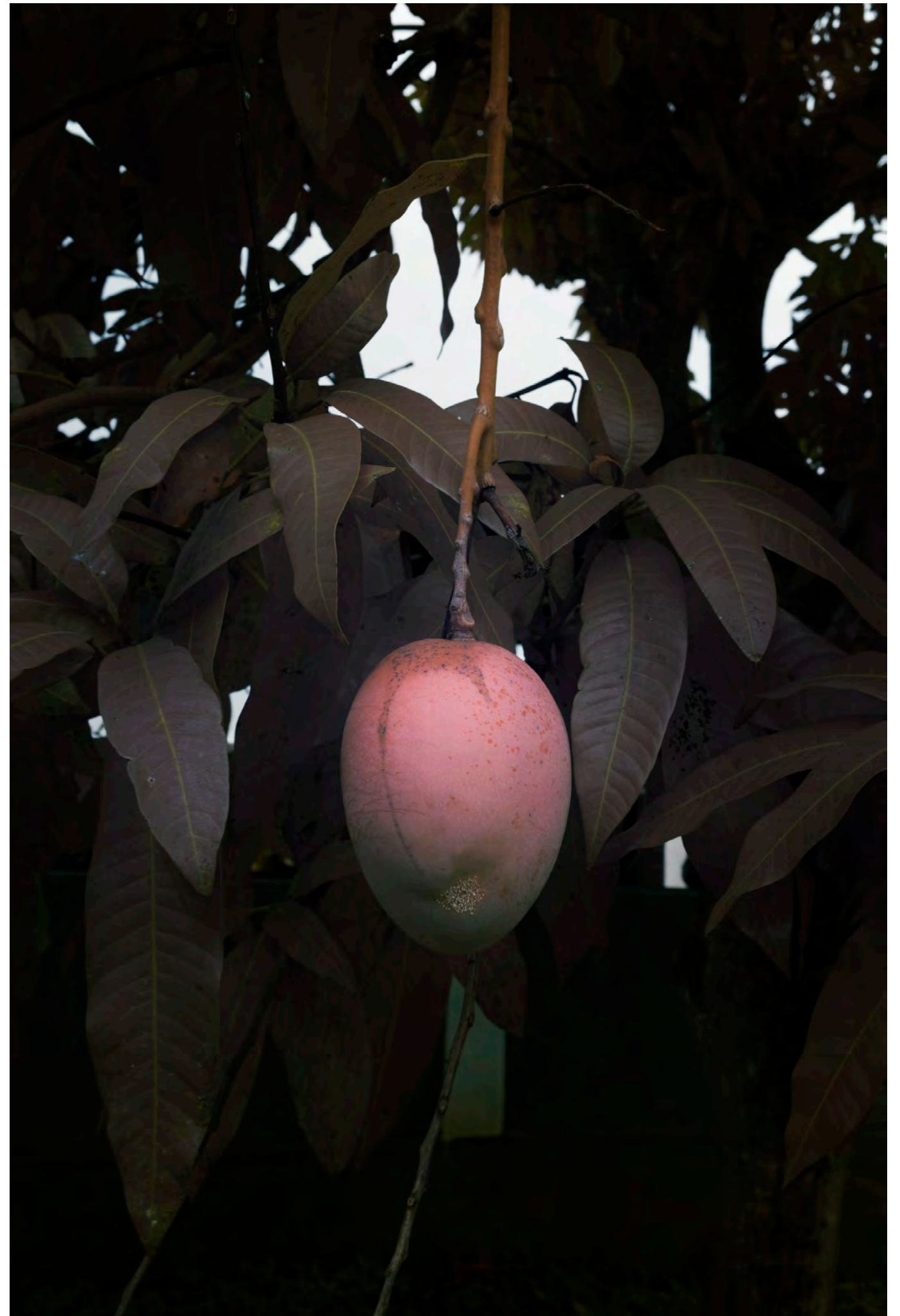
Various techniques, specified below

Editions

Depending on size and material
Wider image selection available on request.
Additional exhibition views available at:
<http://e.pc.cd/8cLy6aIK>
Video previews: <http://e.pc.cd/XWJy6aIK>

Léonard Pongo
Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2019
UV print on translucent plexiglass
40 x 60 x 2 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Mat Ultrasmooth
30 x 45 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)
40 x 60 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)





[previous page](#)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2019

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

110 x 165 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

70 x 105 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

[on the right](#)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2022

UV print on brushed aluminum glued on dibond

180 x 120 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

75 x 50 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)





Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2022

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

165 x 110 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

105 x 70 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2022

UV print on brushed aluminum glued on dibond

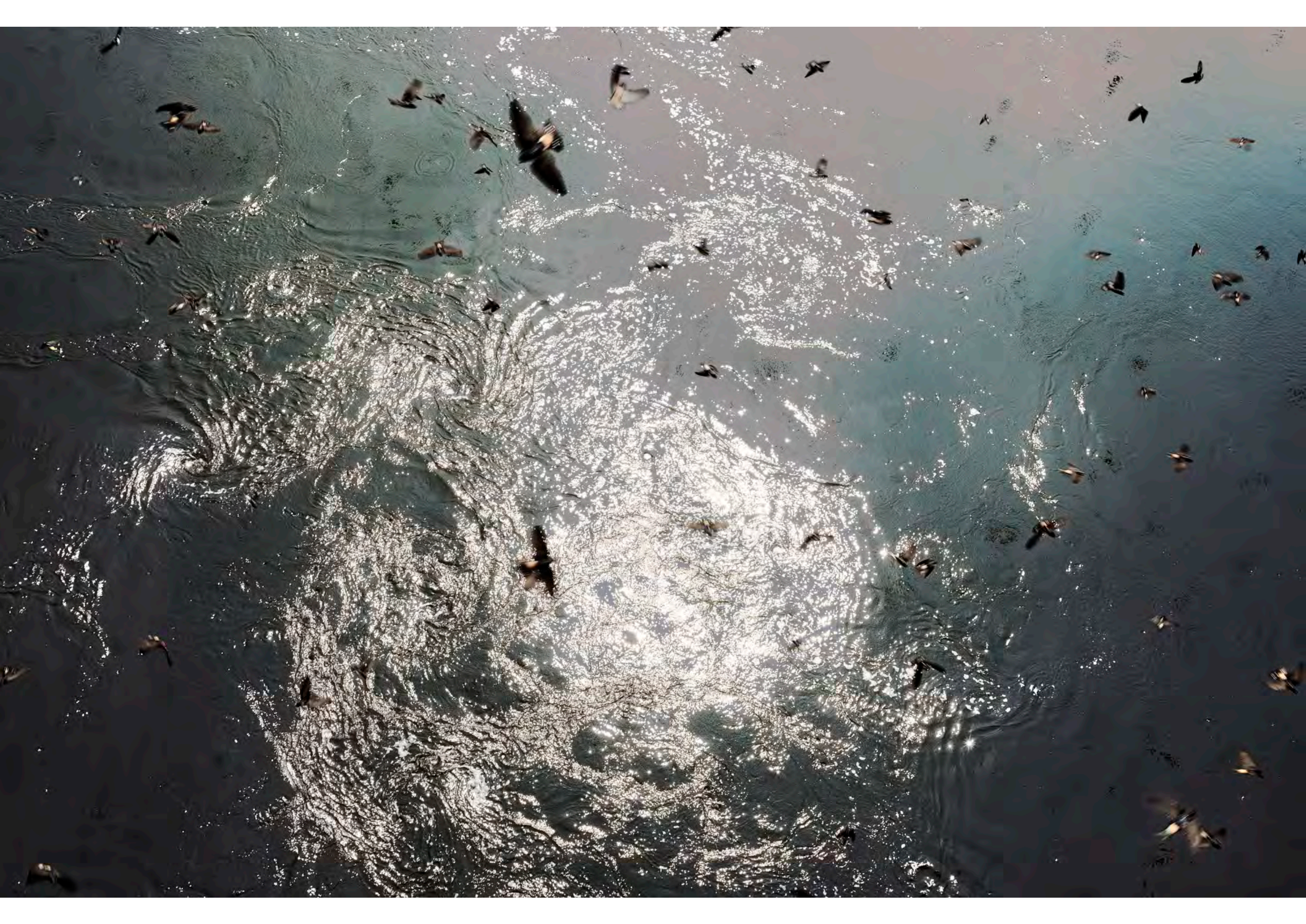
180 x 120 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

60 x 40 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

45 x 30 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)



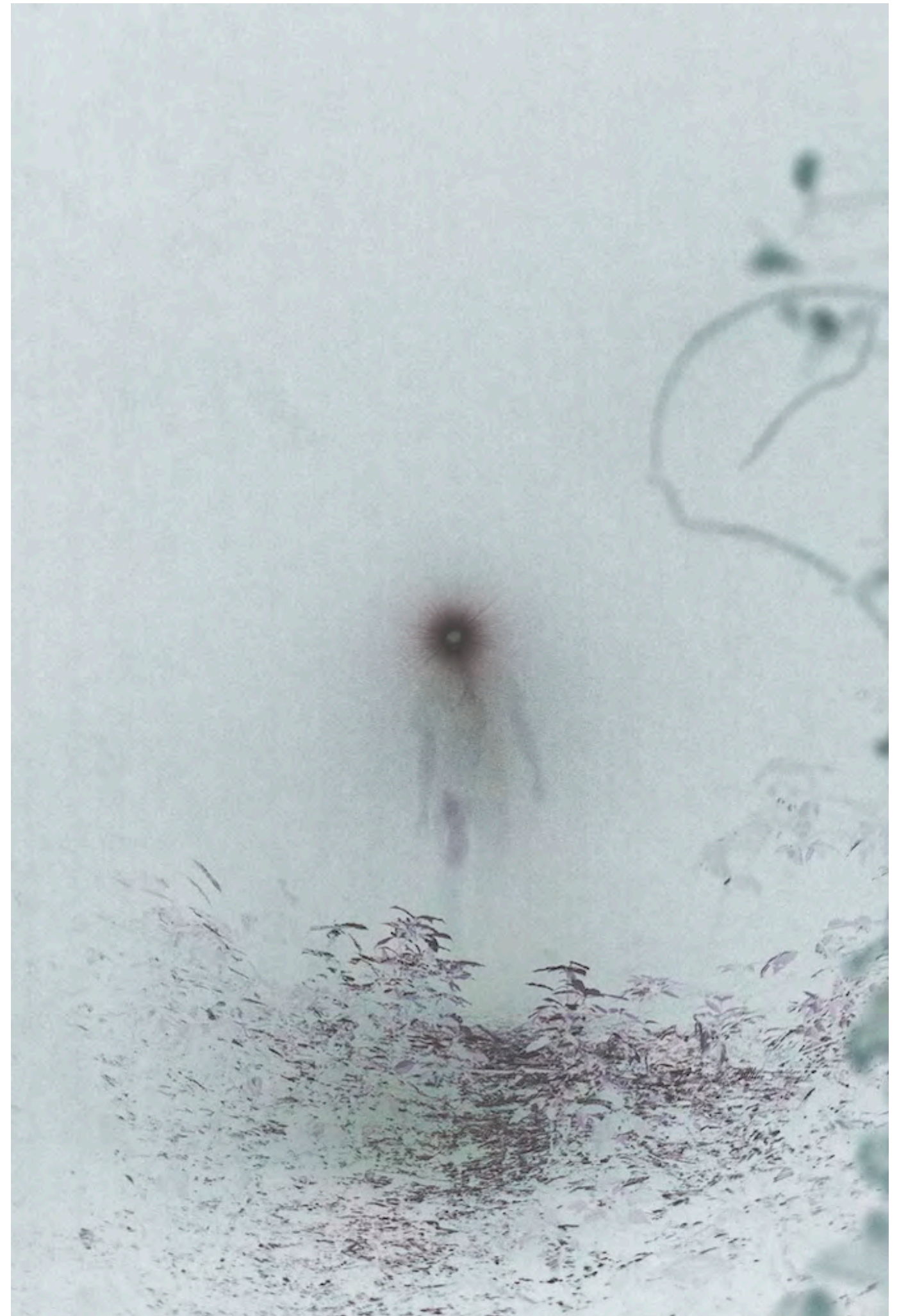


[previous page](#)

Léonard Pongo
Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2017
Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth
110 x 165 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)
70 x 105 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

[on the right](#)

Léonard Pongo
Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2019
Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth
105 x 70 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)
60 x 40 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)





[previous page](#)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2020

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

110 x 165 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

70 x 105 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

[on the right](#)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2021

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

105 x 70 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

60 x 40 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

[next page](#)

Léonard Pongo

Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2019

Giclée print on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Matt Ultrasmooth

110 x 165 cm (edition of 6 + 2 AP)

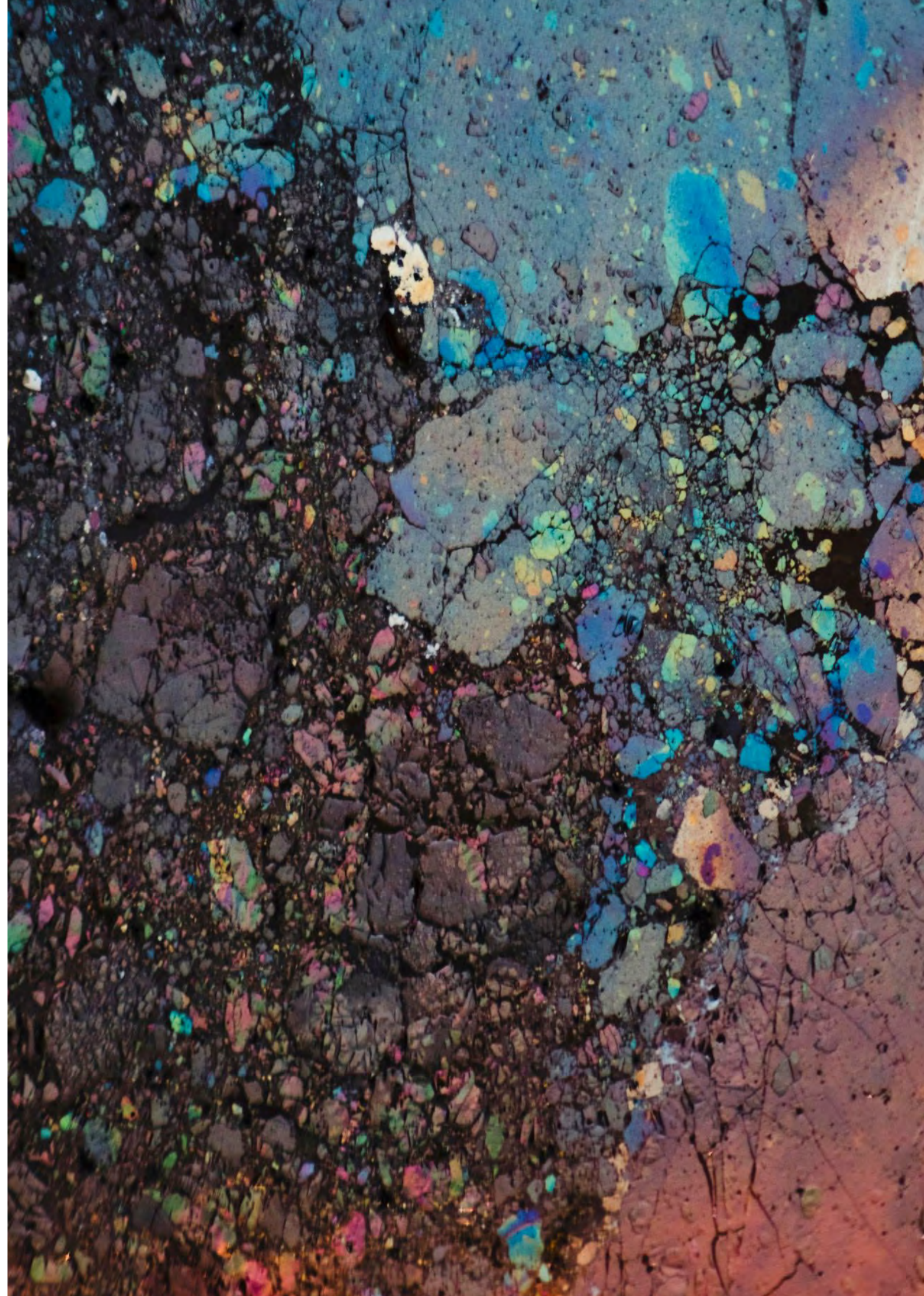
70 x 105 cm (edition of 7 + 2 AP)

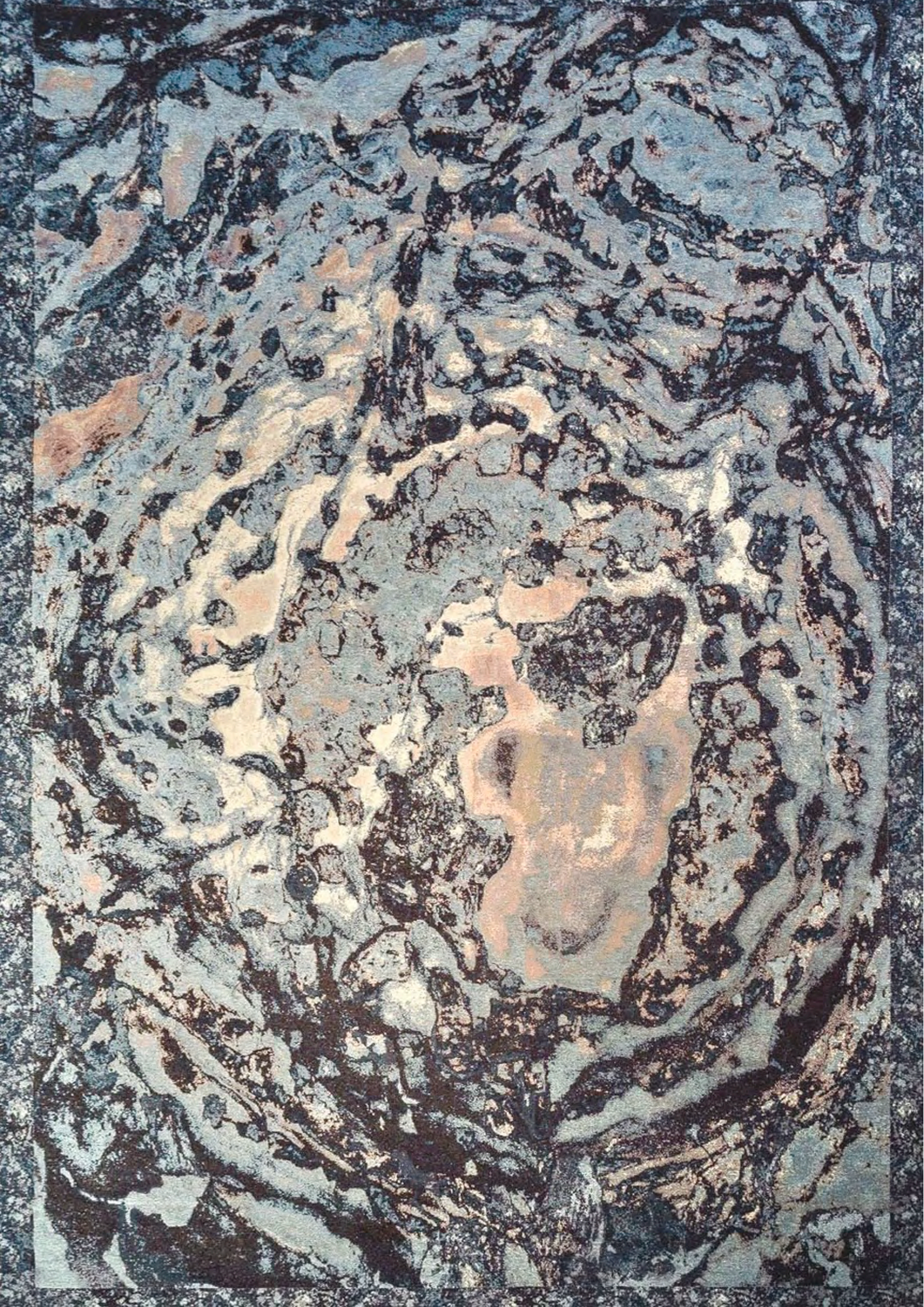






Léonard Pongo
 Untitled (*Primordial Earth*), 2020
 100% cotton (weaving)
 208 x 145 cm (edition of 5 + 2 AP)





Léonard Pongo
Mbanza tapestry (*Primordial Earth*), 2021
woven polyester, viscose and lurex

PRIMORDIAL EARTH

Inhabiting the Landscape (video)





Léonard Pongo

Inhabiting the Landscape, 2021

HD video, colour, sound, no language

8:26 min loop

edition of 7 + 3 AP

<http://trailer.lpongo.com>

Primordial Earth: Inhabiting the Landscape is a short movie that presents the Congolese landscape as an allegory to life and death on the planet and questions the origins of life, offering to see the DRC as its possible origin.

By exploring the diverse landscapes of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the artist Léonard Pongo seeks to create meaning and imagery from representing the country's landscape, inviting us to consider it in ways that go beyond representation. The landscape thus becomes a place of self-reconstruction. It becomes a space of nurture, seeing the land as the root source for a form of consciousness from which tradition, philosophy and conceptions of the world and the universe emerge.

It is by exploring the world around us and through our sensory experience that a vision of the world appears, as we envisage life by becoming one with the landscape.

Using the relationship created with this environment as his starting point, the artist – inspired by Congolese traditions and rooted in Kasai's cultures – offers a reading of the country through a multidimensional allegory based on three central themes: creation/genesis, apocalypse, and the cycle of eternal return. The spaces explored through these images offer a vision of the potential origins of life on Earth. This project questions man's relationship with the land on a symbolic and sensory level, while offering a reading of life, humanity and the planet, with Congo right at the heart of it.

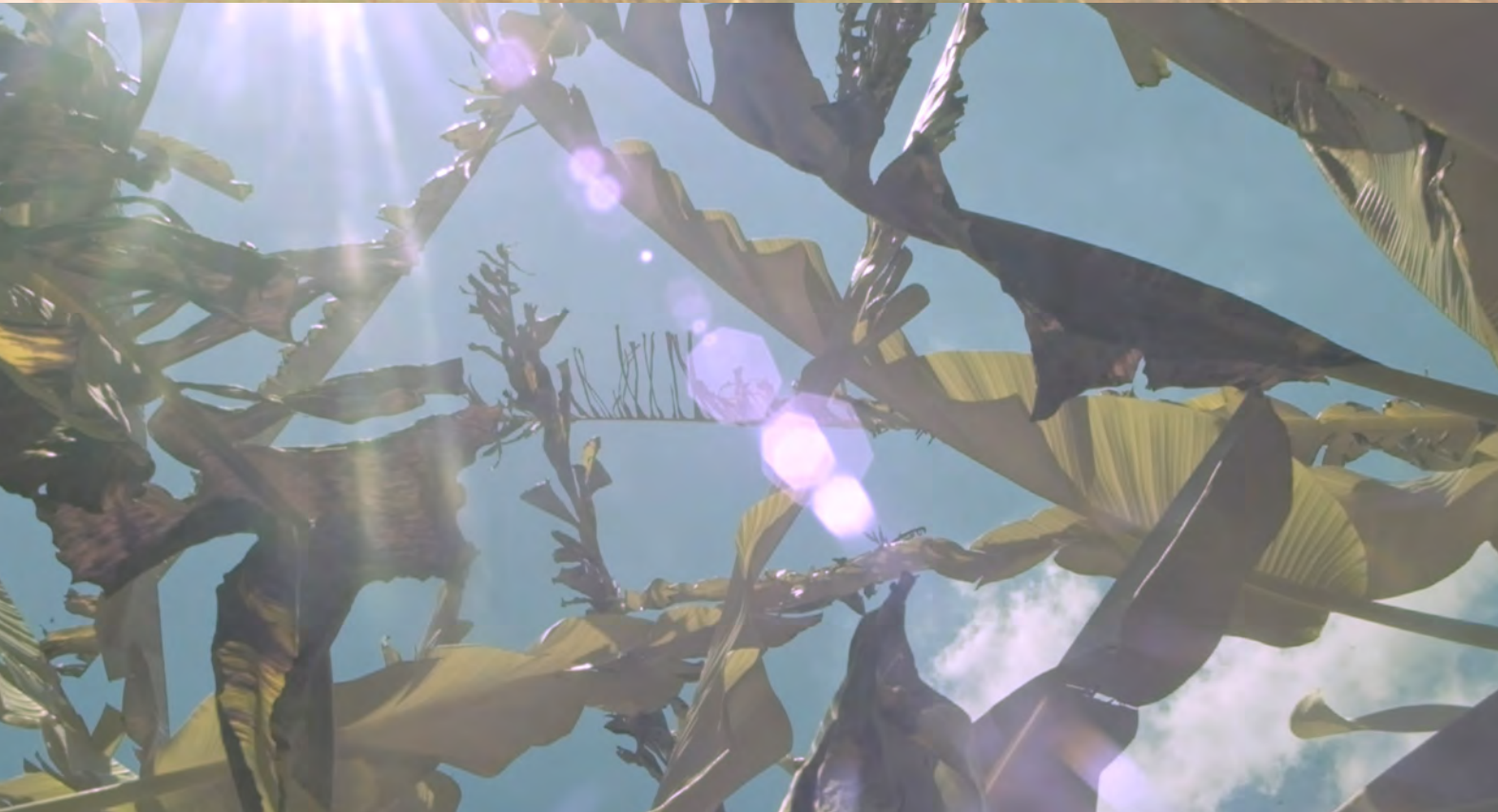
The filming techniques (full spectrum recording) employed enable him to create a visual language that presents an altered vision of the world, far removed from the customary discourse and depictions of Congo, and imbued with a sense of magical beauty and mystical power.

Primordial Earth transforms history into images and presents the landscape as a character endowed with its own power, posing questions about the relevance of humanity.

PRIMORDIAL EARTH

Tales from the Source (video)





Léonard Pongo

Tales from the Source, 2024

medium-length film, HD video, colour, 16:9

39 min

edition of 5 + 3 AP

<https://vimeo.com/872613643>

pw : AOrtsGuest20

Tales from the Source offers a gaze on the landscapes of the Democratic Republic of Congo to translate a sense of its unfathomable power, diversity and knowledge.

The scenery is presented as a character acting as a living entity and inhabited by the symbolism of Congolese traditions. The visual approach borrows techniques from multispectral imaging, resulting in an otherworldly experience with surreal lights and colour.

Combined with an original musical composition by Bear Bones, *Lay Low*, we enter into a sensory dialogue with the landscape, an intelligent, ageless being in constant transformation that challenges our perception.

PRIMORDIAL EARTH

exhibition views



2019

Primordial Earth
Exhibition at FOMU, Antwerp, Belgium



2019

Primordial Earth

Monumental installation at Lubumbashi Biennale 2019
3 x 4,5 m prints on banners installed on artificial beach
Lubumbashi, DRC



2019

Primordial Earth

Monumental installation at Lubumbashi Biennale 2019
3 x 4,5 m prints on banners installed on artificial beach
Lubumbashi, DRC



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at the Agprognostic Temple, Tour & Taxis,
Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at the Agprognostic Temple, Tour & Taxis,
Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at the Agprognostic Temple, Tour & Taxis,
Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at the Agprognostic Temple, Tour & Taxis,
Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Bozar, Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Bozar, Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Bozar, Brussels, Belgium



2021

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Bozar, Brussels, Belgium



2022

Primordial Earth
Solo exhibition at Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium



2022

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium



2022

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium



2022

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium



2022

Primordial Earth

Solo exhibition at Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium



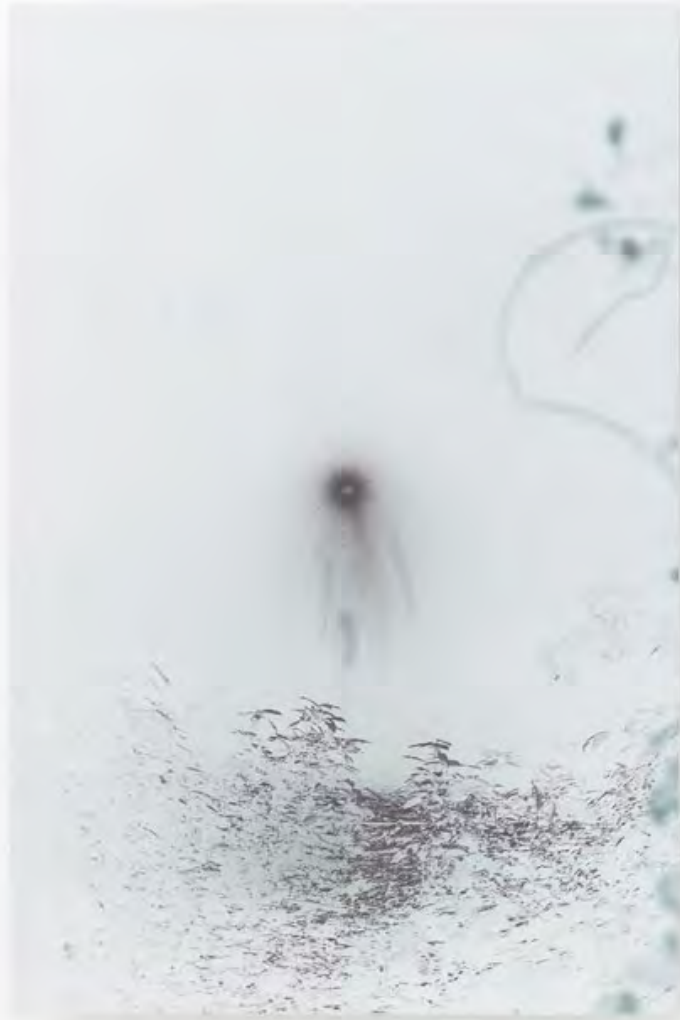
2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



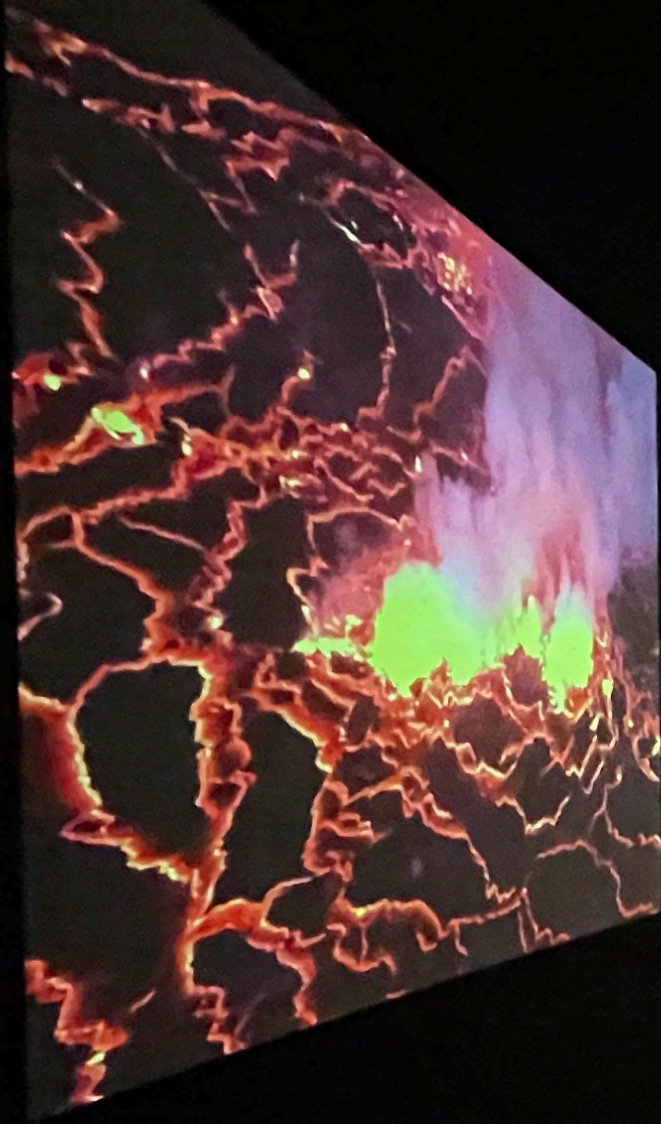
2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



2022-23 *Primordial Earth*
Solo exhibition at Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium



Textual information, likely a wall label or artist statement, displayed on the left wall of the gallery space.



2023

Primordial Earth

A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography (curated by Osei Bonsu), Tate Modern, London, UK



2023

Primordial Earth

Solo booth at Art Brussels with Kristof De Clercq gallery, Brussels, Belgium



2023

Primordial Earth

Solo booth at Art Brussels with Kristof De Clercq gallery, Brussels, Belgium



2023

Primordial Earth

Solo booth at Art Brussels with Kristof De Clercq gallery, Brussels, Belgium



2023

Primordial Earth

Solo booth at Art Brussels with Kristof De Clercq gallery, Brussels, Belgium



2025

Primordial Earth

Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants (curated by Jeanne Mercier), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France



2025

Primordial Earth

Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants (curated by Jeanne Mercier), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France



2025

Primordial Earth

Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants (curated by Jeanne Mercier), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France



2025

Primordial Earth

Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants (curated by Jeanne Mercier), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

INHABITING THE LANDSCAPE & THE TRIBUTES

at La Biennale di Venezia 2026 | In Minor Keys



Léonard Pongo, *The Tributes*, 2026, installation for *In Minor Keys* the central exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia at Arsenale

For the *61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia*, Pongo has been invited to *In Minor Keys* — the central exhibition, presented at the Arsenale in Venice from 9 May to 22 November 2026. The exhibition was conceived by the late Cameroonian-Swiss curator Koyo Kouoh (1967–2025), and is being realised in her spirit by the curatorial team she assembled.

In Minor Keys brings together artists whose practices engage with alternative visual genealogies, with the knowledge systems and landscapes that dominant art histories have long rendered inaudible or invisible. Within this context, Pongo's work — rooted in Congolese cosmology, in the relationship between land, memory, and spiritual transmission — resonates deeply with the exhibition's central inquiry: how do we listen to what has been suppressed, and how do we find form for what exceeds the visible?

Pongo presents two large-scale immersive installations, *Inhabiting the Landscape* and *The Tributes*, at the Arsenale. Together they develop his long-standing research into landscape, memory, and spirituality within Congolese cosmologies — traditions in which the earth is understood not as backdrop but as a living carrier of knowledge, ancestry, and cyclical time.

INHABITING THE LANDSCAPE



Léonard Pongo, *Inhabiting the Landscape*, 2026, installation for *In Minor Keys* the central exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* at Arsenale

The first installation is a black-box environment with prints on aluminum, semi-transparent voile panels and a projected video work moving between visible and invisible Congolese landscapes. The projection reflects across a mirrored floor and onto the aluminum photo prints, so that visitors physically move within the image itself — becoming, in a literal sense, part of the work.

The installation investigates how landscape is experienced not only visually but also bodily and spiritually, and how memory operates within that encounter. Light, material, and movement are orchestrated to produce a state of immersion that refuses the conventional boundary between viewer and image.



Video still from Léonard Pongo, *Primordial Earth: Inhabiting the Landscape*, 2021, HD digital video, colour, 8:26 min / loop, edition of 7 + 3 AP







Léonard Pongo, *Mountain Study #8 (Primordial Earth)*, 2020, UV print on brushed aluminium glued on dibond, 120 x 180 cm, edition of 6 plus 2 AP



Léonard Pongo, *Inhabiting the Landscape*, 2026, installation for *In Minor Keys* the central exhibition of the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia at Arsenale



Léonard Pongo, *Inhabiting the Landscape*, 2026, installation for *In Minor Keys* the central exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* at Arsenale

THE TRIBUTES

Tribute to Tshibola & Tribute to Upemba



Léonard Pongo, *The Tributes*, 2026, installation for *In Minor Keys* the central exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* at *Arsenale*

The second installation draws on Pongo's personal family history — referencing his grandmother, Tshibola — and on the symbolism of the banana tree in Kasai epistemology, where it figures as a marker of cyclical time and ancestral continuity. The work combines a jacquard tapestry, which carries an image on one side and its negative on the reverse, with a sculpture assembled from printed and hand-painted glass mirrors evoking the shape of a banana tree.

All elements depict objects tied to Pongo's ancestral land, yet present them in a fragmented and deliberately unfaithful way. Landscape appears here not as a stable referent but as a living, ever-changing entity — one that simultaneously holds and exceeds personal and collective memory. The installation functions as an interface between the physical and the spiritual, drawing on the Lulua traditions documented by researcher Clémentine Faïk-Nzuji, in which reality exists on multiple simultaneous levels.

Together, the two works position landscape not as setting but as active spiritual presence: something that reflects, transmits, and remembers.





Léonard Pongo

Tribute to Tshibola, 2026

sculptural installation combining 40 printed and handpainted glass mirrors

450 x 250 x 200 cm (installation) / (40x) 30 x 20 cm (mirrors) / 50 kg (edition of 3 plus 2 AP)

260 x 90 x 50 cm (installation) / (40x) 15 x 10 cm (mirrors) / 20 kg (edition of 5 + 2 AP)

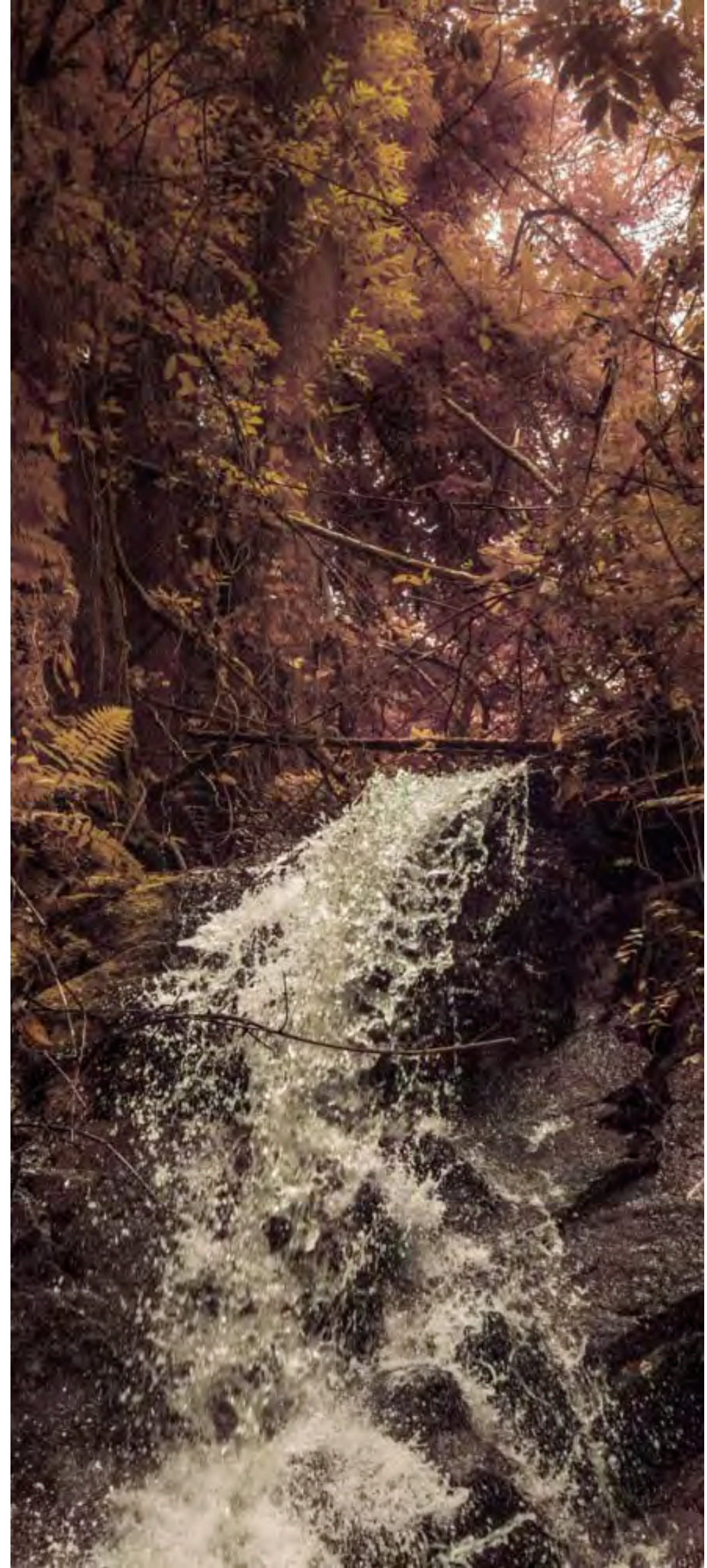
Léonard Pongo

Tribute to Upemba, 2026

Tapestry with woven Trevira CS, Techno, Linen, Viscose, Merino Wool, Bio Cotton, Kami Paper Yarn, Elirex Silver, Elirex Gold, Fashion Eco. Produced at TextielLab, Tilburg, Netherlands, 2026.

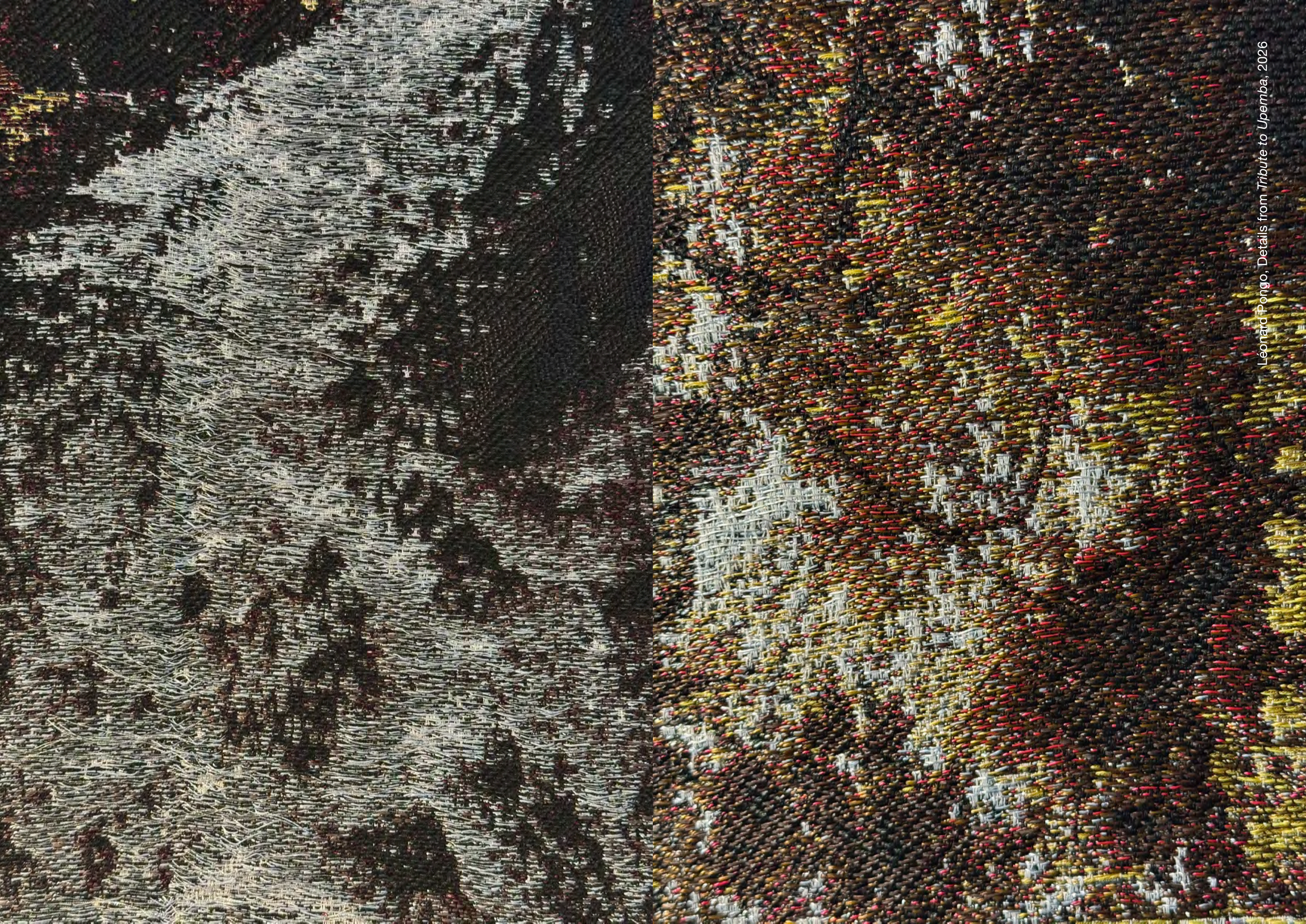
602 x 330 cm (edition of 5 plus 2 AP)

200 x 150 cm (edition of 5 plus 2 AP)



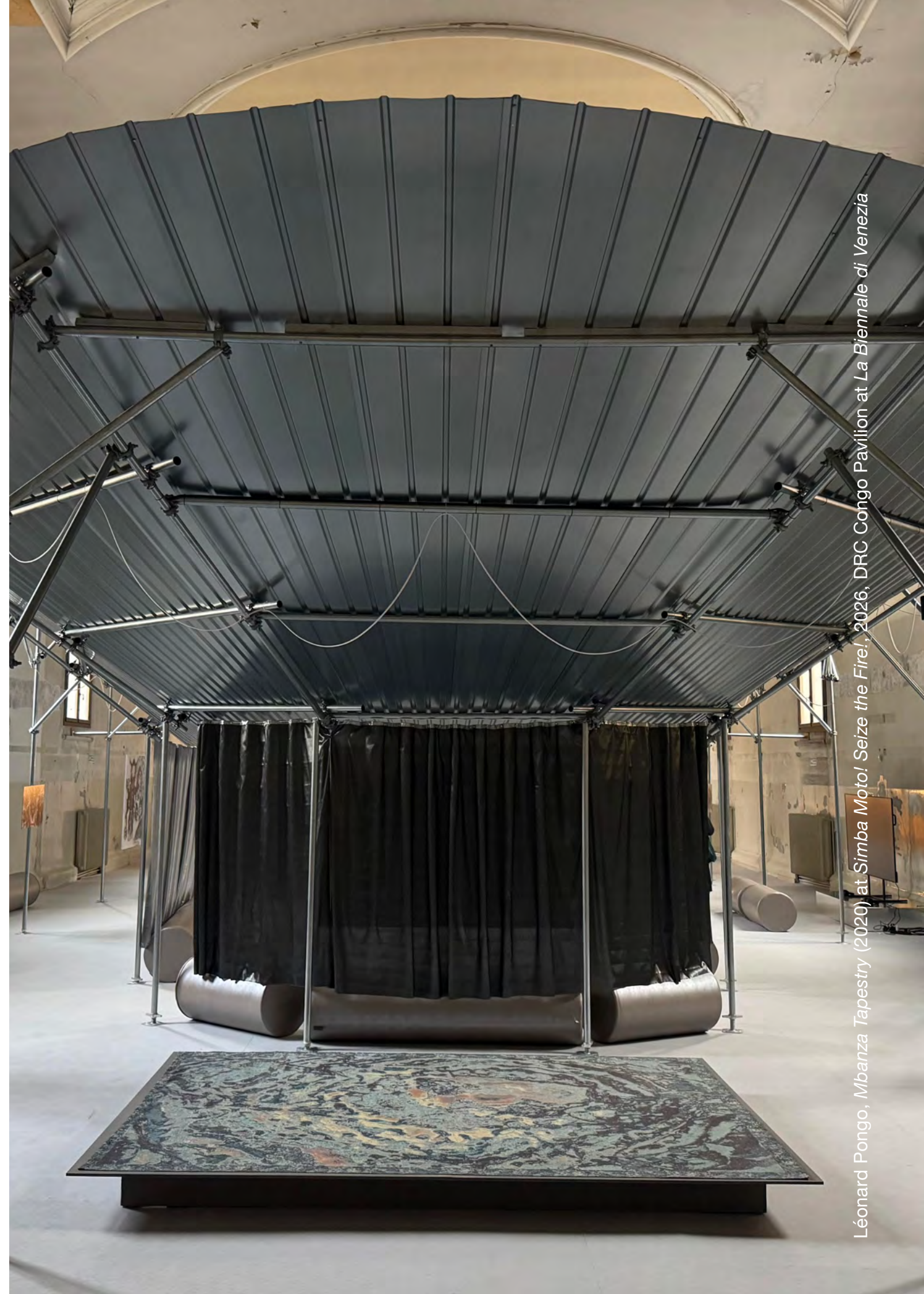


Léonard Pongo working on *Tribute to Upemba* in the TextielLab of TextielMuseum, Tilburg, the Netherlands | photo by Patty van den Elshout commissioned by TextielMuseum



Léonard Pongo, Details from *Tribute to Upemba*, 2026

**SIMBA MOTO ! SEIZE
THE FIRE ! SAISIS LE
FEU !
— DR CONGO PAVILION**

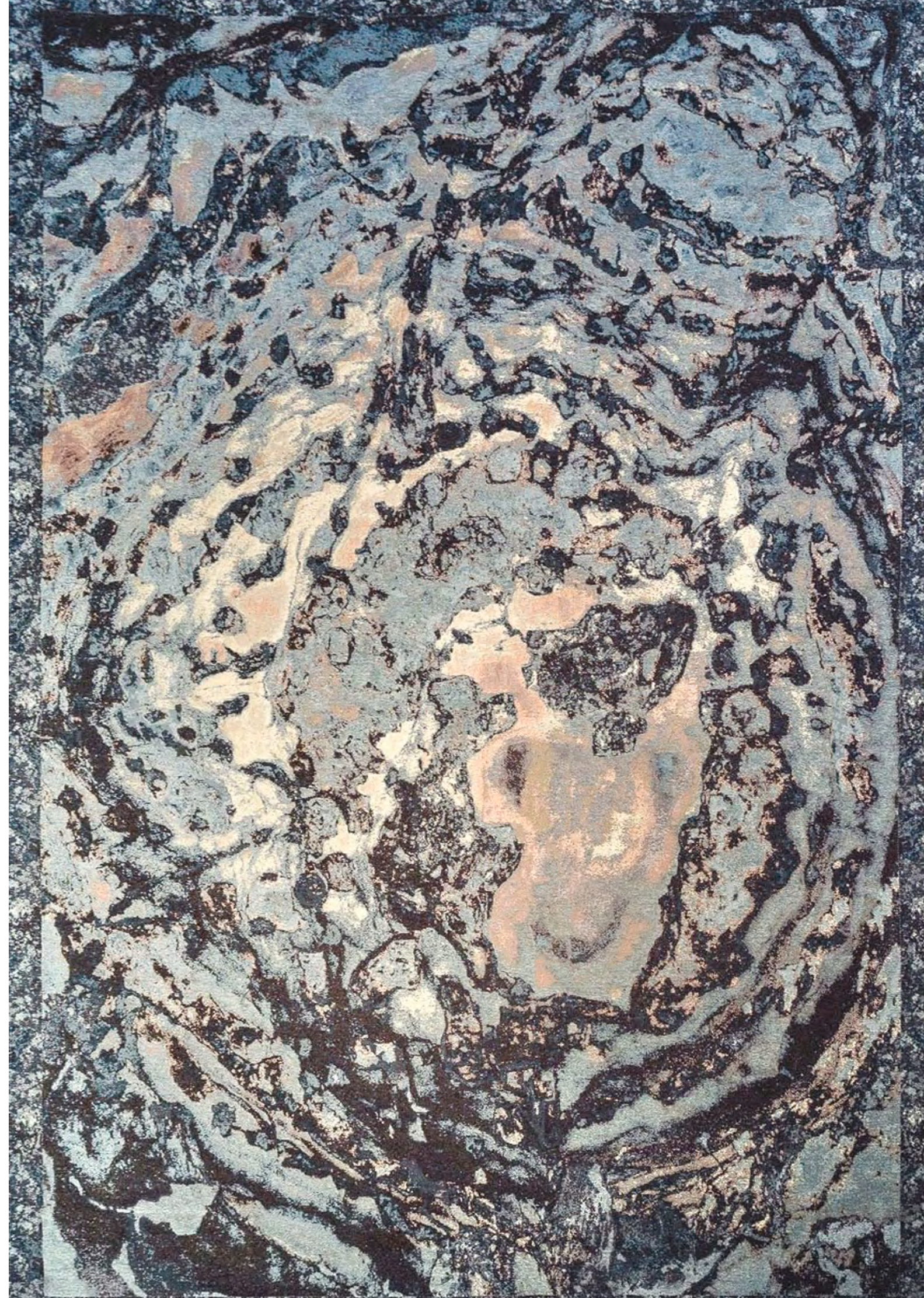


Alongside his participation in the central exhibition, Pongo is also included in *Simba Moto ! Seize the Fire ! Saisis le feu !*, the DR Congo Pavilion curated by Nadia Yala Kisukidi. The pavilion is presented at the Antico Refettorio of the Scuola Grande di San Marco, Venice, and brings together Sammy Baloji, Arlette Bashizi, Patrick Bongoy, Damso, Gosette Lubondo, Nelson Makengo, Aimé Mpané, Géraldine Tobé, and others.

This double presence — in the central exhibition at the Arsenale and in the national pavilion at the Scuola Grande di San Marco — is a rare distinction, and marks a powerful new chapter in Pongo's artistic trajectory that has developed steadily over more than a decade at the intersection of photography, installation, and research. His work does not merely document; it constructs cosmological spaces in which the viewer is invited to inhabit a different relationship to land, time, and knowledge.

His research is currently supported by a residency at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp, where he is developing ongoing work on the relationship between image-making, landscape, and memory in postcolonial contexts. A major solo exhibition at FOMU (Antwerp) is planned for autumn 2026 and a new solo at Kristof De Clercq gallery in 2027.

Léonard Pongo
Mbanza Tapestry, 2020
woven polyester, viscose and lurex
233 x 332 cm (edition of 2)
164 x 226 cm (edition of 2)
110,5 x 156 cm (edition of 2)



CURRICULUM VITAE

LÉONARD PONGO

Born in 1988 in Liège, Belgium.
Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium, and, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

EDUCATION

BA in Political & Social Sciences
BA in Visual Arts: Photography

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 *The Uncanny* (monograph), published by GOST Books, London, UK
- 2025 *Apophenia* (part of Non-couché/Uncoated series), published by Maison CFC x ISELP, Brussels, Belgium
- 2025 *Black Earth Rising*, by Ekow Eshun, published by Thames and Hudson, New York, US

Pongo’s work has been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Hart magazine* and several other international publications.

FILMS

- 2024 *Tales from the Source*, 39’
- 2021 *Primordial Earth: Inhabiting the Landscape*, 8’26”
- 2013 *The Necessary Evil*, 11’19”

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Solo exhibition, FOMU (Fotomuseum), Antwerp, Belgium
 Immortal Swirls Cradling a Fallen Sun, SMAC gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2025 *Apophenia*, Project LOOP, London, UK
 Solo installation at *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair*, Somerset House, London, UK (with Project LOOP)
- 2023 Solo booth at *Art Brussels* (with Kristof De Clercq gallery), Brussels, Belgium
- 2022 *Primordial Earth – Interpretations*, Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium
 Enter 14: Léonard Pongo – Primordial Earth, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium
- 2021 *Strangely Familiar*, Foreign Agent, Lausanne, Switzerland
 Primordial Earth – The Beginnings, The Agprognostic Temple, Brussels, Belgium
 Léonard Pongo: Primordial Earth, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
- 2015 *The Uncanny*, Contretype, Brussels, Belgium

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia | In Minor Keys* (curated by Koyo Kouoh), Arsenale, Venice, Italy
 Simba Moto ! Seize the Fire ! Saisis le feu ! (curated by Nadia Yala Kisukidi), DR Congo Pavilion in the Antico Refettorio, Scuola Grande di San Marco, Venice, Italy
 In Frequencies We Cannot Name: Language, Sound, Silence. Een blik in de collectie van Mu.ZEE (curated by Rita Ouédraogo), de Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
 Investec (with SMAC gallery), Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
 Insistent Presence: Contemporary African Art from the Chazen Collection, Palmer Museum of Arts, Pennsylvania, US

2025	<i>Living Earth Festival</i> , Brussels, Belgium <i>The Armory Show</i> , New York, US (with Retro Africa) <i>Kunst & Zwalm 2025</i> , Zwalm region, Belgium <i>Mirages</i> (duo show with Mégane Likin), Maison CFC, Brussels, Belgium <i>BADAFF Belgian Art & Design Affair</i> , Ghent, Belgium (with Kristof De Clercq gallery) <i>Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene</i> , Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Stanford, US <i>Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants</i> (curated by Jeanne Mercier - new commissioned work), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France <i>25 Arts Seconde: Soluble & Simulacrum</i> , Centre Wallonie Bruxelles, Paris, France
2024	<i>Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene</i> , The Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, US <i>In communion</i> , La Septième Gallery with 31Project, Paris, France <i>Encounters - Black Rock Senegal Alumni cycle 3 & cycle 4</i> (curated by Jareh Das) for the Dakar Biennial ‘Off’, Blaise Senghor Cultural Center, Dakar, Senegal <i>MK: 1-54 Art fair</i> (special project group show with Black Rock Senegal), Marrakesh, Morocco
2023	<i>A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography</i> (curated by Osei Bonsu), Tate Modern, London, UK <i>Biennial Rencontres Photographiques de Guyane - ‘Notre paysage est son propre monument’</i> , Saint-Louis, Guyana <i>11e Biennale De Photographie en Condroz</i> , Marchin, Belgium <i>Contour Biennial of Moving Images - We Are Rooted But We Flow</i> , Mechelen, Belgium
2022	<i>Horst Festival: The Act of Breathing</i> , Asiat, Vilvoorde, Belgium <i>Consume by</i> , Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, the Netherlands <i>BredaPhoto Festival 2022: Theatre of Dreams</i> , Breda, the Netherlands <i>Dak’Art 2022 Biennial: (Un)Charted Grounds</i> , Dakar, Senegal <i>Je suis moi-même le soleil</i> (curated by Liz Gomis), 31 PROJECT, Paris, France
2021	<i>PhotoVogue Festival</i> , Milan, Italy <i>My Whole Body Changed Into Something Else</i> , Stevenson gallery, Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa <i>Presence: Five Contemporary African Photographers</i> , The Photographers’ Gallery, London, UK <i>Radically Naive / Naively Radical</i> , Extra City, Antwerp, Belgium <i>Extractions</i> , A Two Dogs Company, Brussels, Belgium
2020	<i>L’Afrique - Vue par les Photographes</i> , Patrimoine Culturel Mondial, Völklinger Hütte, Völklingen, Germany <i>Lagos Photo Festival: Home Museum</i> , Lagos, Nigeria <i>The Photographic Collective, 1:54 African Art Fair</i> , London, UK <i>Croyances : faire et défaire l’invisible</i> , Institut des Cultures d’Islam, Paris, France
2019	<i>IncarNations</i> (curated by Kendell Geers & Sindika Dokolo), Bozar, Brussels, Belgium <i>6th Lubumbashi Biennale: Future Genealogies, Tales from the Equatorial Line</i> , Lubumbashi, DR Congo <i>Rencontres de Bamako</i> , Bamako, Mali <i>The New Jerusalem</i> , VUB, Brussels, Belgium <i>31 Days of .TIFF - Highlighting Emerging Image Makers</i> , FOMU, Antwerp, Belgium
2018	<i>The 3rd Beijing Photo Biennial</i> , CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
2017	<i>Rencontres d’Arles</i> , Arles, France
2016	<i>Lagos Photo Festival</i> , Lagos, Nigeria <i>Art Basel</i> (with Edition POPCAP), Basel, Switzerland <i>Nuits de la Photo</i> , Arles, France
2015	Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome, Italy <i>Noorderlicht Photo Festival</i> , Groningen, the Netherlands <i>Delhi Photo Festival</i> , Delhi, India <i>Fotofestiwal Łódź</i> , Łódź, Poland <i>Edition POPCAP</i> , Gallery Weekend Berlin, Kasino der Fahrbereitschaft, Berlin, Germany
2014	<i>CAP Prize 2014 winner with ‘The Uncanny’ in group show</i> , Basel, Vienna, Addis Ababa, Dublin, Lagos, Cape Town, and Mindelo

FILM SCREENINGS

2026	<i>La Mamounia</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>) during <i>1-54 Marrakesh</i> with a Q&A by Julien Jourdes, CEO of Plena Productions, Marrakesh, Maroc
2025	<i>Lusinga</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Upemba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Bozar (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), organised by Centre Vidéo de Bruxelles – CVB, Brussels, Belgium <i>Festival Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, France

	<i>Film Africa Festival</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), London, UK Art Cinema OFFoff (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Balatkas greenhouse - Plantentuin Meise, Meise, Belgium <i>The Screen at Art Brussels</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Brussels, Belgium Lumière cinema at FOMU (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Antwerp, Belgium <i>Festival en ville</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Brussels, Belgium <i>Afropolitan Festival</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
2024	<i>DOK Leipzig, Festival for Documentary and Animated Film / International Competition Documentary Film section</i> (screening <i>Tales from The Source</i>), Leipzig, Germany International Film Premiere for <i>Tales from The Source</i> , Lisbon, Portugal

GRANTS X AWARDS

2025	ArtReview’s Future Greats 2025 (selected by Roger Ballen with The Uncanny)
2024	Talia Transformation Fund for Documentary Innovation New York, US The Eiger African Photobook of the Year Awards (top 4 finalists), Geneva, Switzerland
2023	CAP Prize for Contemporary African Photography, Basel, Switzerland
2022	Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2022 (shortlisted with Primordial Earth) Film Lab, Flemish Community of Belgium, Film Production Grant Walloon Community of Belgium, Film Production Grant
2021	CAP Prize - The Contemporary African Prize (shortlisted) ICP/GOST First Photo Book Award, London, UK
2020	Meitar Award for Excellence in Photography (finalist) Futur pour la culture, FWB
2019	Prix de l’OIF (Rencontres de Bamako) for innovative exhibition design and project
2018	Getty Reportage Grant 2018
2017	Visura Grant for outstanding Personal Project NOOR agency
2016	PDN’s 30 under 30 New and Emerging Photographers to Watch (in selection) Vocatio Grant
2014	CAP Prize, Basel, Switzerland

RESIDENCIES

2025	Project LOOP, London, UK
2023	Black Rock Senegal (Kehinde Wiley), Dakar, Senegal
2019	Le Point du Jour Art Centre, Cherbourg, France Dokoutine, Bohicon, Benin
2016	KAS/Kin ArtStudio, Kinshasa, DR Congo
2013	Lubumbashi Art Biennale, Lubumbashi, DR Congo

COLLECTIONS

The Ekard Collection
Cera Collection, housed at M Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
KANAL – Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium
FOMU via the collection of the Flemish Community, Antwerp, Belgium
Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium
The Chazen Museum of Art, Wisconsin, US
Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Angola
Fondation H, Madagascar / France
Defise Foundation, UK



Léonard Pongo working on *Tribute to Upemba* in the TextielLab of TextielMuseum, Tilburg, the Netherlands | photo by Patty van den Elshout commissioned by TextielMuseum

CONTACT

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OPENING HOURS

Thu - Fri - Sat, 2 - 6 pm,
and by appointment.

KRISTOF DE CLERCQ
GALLERY