





## **Barthélémy Togu Solo Exhibition**

Exhibition Dates: April 18, 2025 (Friday) – June 29, 2025 (Sunday)

Venue: Space Un, 1F KLO Minami Aoyama Building, 2-4-9 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0062

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Contact: [contact@spaceun.tokyo](mailto:contact@spaceun.tokyo)

## **Program & Schedule**

April 18, 2025 (Friday)

18:00 - 19:00 Artist Talk (Barthélémy Togu x Maya Nagatani, ARTnews JAPAN) with Japanese interpretation

19:00 - 21:00 Opening Reception

For media inquiries, press previews, and other questions, please contact:

Naoki Nakatani

Gallery Director

[n.nakatani@spaceun.tokyo](mailto:n.nakatani@spaceun.tokyo)

Seiko Mbako

Communication Director

[s.mbako@spaceun.tokyo](mailto:s.mbako@spaceun.tokyo)

Contact:

[contact@spaceun.tokyo](mailto:contact@spaceun.tokyo)

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## **About the Artist**

Barthélémy Togu was born in Mbalmayo in Cameroon in 1967. Between 1989 and 1993 he studied art, first at the École des Beaux-Arts in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) then in Grenoble (France), and finally at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf (Germany) where notable encounters included Tony Cragg, Jannis Kounellis and Konrad Klapheck. Although he stayed in Europe and became a French citizen, Barthélémy Togu remained profoundly attached to Cameroon, and he regularly returns to the country. That is where he created Bandjoun Station, a foundation inaugurated in 2013 with

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the aim of hosting artists and academics from around the world in residential workshops, to develop propositions in harmony with the local population. This is how he talks about it: "My idea with Bandjoun Station was to combine classic African art and global contemporary art, to exhibit these works in the same space, without ghettoization or a hierarchy of values. That way Bandjoun Station will become a crossroads, a point of contact between classic and contemporary art." This "laboratory without borders" exhibits a permanent collection of contemporary works gathered by the artist thanks to exchanges with his peers and collectors. He also develops agricultural projects there, in a spirit of healthy and sustainable development.

Since the end of the 1990s, his works have been noticed by many critics and curators who have invited him to participate in major events: Hans Ulrich Obrist in 1999 for *Migrateurs* (ARC, Paris), Jean-Hubert Martin in 2000 for *Partage d'exotismes* (Biennale de Lyon), Pierre Restany in 2001 for *Political Ecology* (White Box, New York), and Okwui Enwezor in 2015 for the Venice Biennial, *All the World's Future*. In 2016, Barthélémy Togo was one of four artists nominated for The Marcel Duchamp Prize and for this occasion he presented the installation *Vaincre le virus!* at the Centre Pompidou. In 2018, a personal exhibition *The Beauty of our Voice*, was held at the Parrish Art Museum in New York. Barthélémy Togo presented in 2021 a personal exhibition at the Quai Branly-Musée Jacques Chirac, *Désir d'Humanité*. In 2022 he presented at the Biennale of Sydney a 10 meters long ink on canvas entitled *The Generous Water Giant*. That same year, Togo was invited to produce a large scale installation under the Louvre pyramid. Text provided by Galerie Lelong

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### **Barthélémy Togo's Exhibition History in Japan**

Togo has participated in several exhibitions and projects in Japan, where he has built an ongoing artistic dialogue with Japanese audiences. His works have been displayed in key exhibitions such as:

- 2006: "Africa Remix: Contemporary Art of a Continent" at the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo)

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- 2010: "Noguchi's Gift: 10th Anniversary Exhibition" at the Noguchi Museum (Japan)
- 2013: "Aichi Triennale" in Aichi Prefecture
- 2015: "Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale" in Niigata Prefecture

His upcoming solo exhibition at Space Un will be his first in Japan, marking a milestone for both the artist and the gallery. This exhibition will be part of Space Un's 1st-anniversary celebration, showcasing new works created during his residency at Yoshino.

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### **About Space Un**

Space Un is a newly established cultural platform in Tokyo, focused on contemporary African art and facilitating cultural exchange between Japan, Africa, and the African diaspora. Founded by art collector Edna Dumas, the gallery was born out of a deep passion for African contemporary art and a desire to support African artists.

This solo exhibition by Barthélémy Toguo will be Space Un's 1st-anniversary exhibition, celebrating the gallery's growth and its commitment to African contemporary art. Space Un is not just an exhibition space but a venue for cultural dialogue between Japan and Africa. One of the gallery's key projects is its residency program, which invites artists to Japan to create and exhibit new work. These residency-based exhibitions play a central role in Space Un's mission to foster cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.

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