

DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

INVICTUS

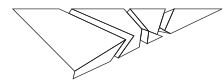
21.01.2021 / 27.02.2021



Galerie Felix Frachon
Rue Saint-Georges 5 & 26,
Ixelles - Bruxelles

GALERIE FELIX FRACHON





THE EXHIBITION

INVICTUS

*« Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate :
I am the captain of my soul »¹*

William Ernest Henley, Invictus, 1888

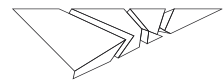
For his second solo exhibition at the Félix Frachon Gallery, Dimitri Fagbohoun explores the theme of resilience in his opus *Invictus*.

He took the eponymous poem written in 1888 by William Ernest Henley as a starting point for his reflection. The artist retains its sacred and universal character, a recurring theme in his work. The notions of possession, domination, but also of surpassing oneself and conquering freedom are at the heart of his research. The dialogue, between the legacies of a colonial past and forces of resistance, opens the way to a reading free of antagonisms:

How can we atone for the past, overcome the collective trauma and write a common future?

«Why all these deaths in the middle of colonial Africa? Why this incomprehensible oblivion? This silence, that nothing or so little disturbs? The facts, however historical, took place in full view of all, decided in the heart of a conscious, documented and active Europe. Everything has been written, read, denounced, proven, argued. At no time was it possible to ignore it, even out of courtesy».²

1 William Ernest Henley, *Invictus*, 1888. passage of the poem
2 Unofficial translation of «Il pleut des mains sur le Congo» by Marc Wiltz, 2015



«I am the Captain of my soul»

- Willyam Ernest Henley

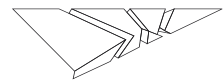
In the continuity of Recollection's corpus in which he was interested in the influence of the so-called «Negro» arts in the history of Western art, the artist here questions the ambitions of one man to the detriment of thousands of others.

Faithful to his universe, the colour black predominates in new forms. Drawings, made with gold powder, evoke black cruises and the exploitation of copper mines. Like spirits, evanescent silhouettes, born of a single fleeting gesture, appear on paper.

While the ceramic bust of the sovereign, the eternal figure of the father, looks today at yesterday's history, the oppressed man, Nkissi, «stung» by life, continues to walk, carried by a freedom-loving spirit towards a new world that offers itself to him. Like Invictus (undefeated), he comes out strengthened by the trials he has gone through.

Resulting from an ongoing process, between personal interpretation and exploration of our collective memory, Dimitri Fagbohoun offers a peaceful look at history. The Invictus exhibition brings together sensitive works of universal significance, because whatever happens, «I am the captain of my soul. »

Original text by Charlotte Lidon translated into English.



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

Born in 1972 in Benin
Lives and works between Paris, Brussels and Cotonou.

Dimitri Fagbohoun was born in July 1972 from a Beninese father and an Ukrainian mother in Cotonou, Benin. Having grown up in Cameroon before moving to France where he now lives and works, the themes and questions he works on reflect his background and history, between geographical and artistic boundaries.

His work is inseparable from his own experience and his plural identity. He uses different forms like sculpture, video, photography, installation and drawings for the first time at the Félix Frachon Gallery. He expresses a relationship to identities and history in which his writing disturbs the models that constitute them.

Since 2015, he has been questioning classical (African) works of art that have influenced Western art .

In 2017, he received «the Smithsonian Fellowship Award» from the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington D.C for his project: «recollection» which was exhibited at the Félix Frachon Gallery the same year. The artist is now part of prestigious foundations like Foundation Sindika Dokolo in Angola or Foundation Moleskine and Benetton in Italy.

ARTIST'S RESUME

DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

Born in 1972 in Benin.

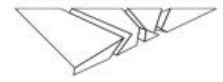
Lives and works between Paris, Brussels and Cotonou.

EXHIBITIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2020 | Maskarades, Galerie Orbis Pictus, Paris, France
Messe pour le temps présent, Galerie 31 projects, Paris, France
When the Globe Is Home, Fondazione Imago Mundi, Treviso, Italy
Le voyage D'Erzulie, Galeria Officine dell'Immagine, Milano, Italy |
| 2019 | Floor One Nine, Galerie Art twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria
Biennale BiSo, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
l'Appel du large, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire
l'Appel du large, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Dakar, Senegal
Polarité, Chapelle de Boondael, Ixelles, Belgium |
| 2018 | Géographies of imagination Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
Pavillon de l'exil, Biennale de Dakar, Saint Louis, Senegal
Bridge, Musée de la photo de Saint Louis (Mupho), Biennale de Dakar
Off, Saint Louis, Senegal
Black Material, Festival Experiments in Cinema, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Right at Equator, DEPART FOUNDATION, Los Angeles, USA
Second Generations. New York. USA. Curated by Walid Layadi-Mar-fouk, and Niama Safia Sandy
Invocation Dis othering as a method Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany |
| 2017 | iyEye, Biennale de Venise, Venise, Italy
Recollection, Galerie Felix Frachon, Brussels, Belgium
Le Havre Dakar, Partager la mémoire, Muséum d'histoire naturelle du Havre. Le Havre, France.
Utocorpi, festival international d'art vidéo de Casablanca, Institut Français, Casablanca, Morocco
We call it « AFRICA », Commissaire Silvia Cirelli, Galeria Officine dell'Immagine, Milano, Italy
My Collection: MoCADA Art Auction, MoCADA Museum, New York, USA |

- 2016
- time Is love 9, vidéo art program TEA Museum – TENERIFE ESPACIO DE LAS ARTES, Spain
 AKA Fair Paris, vidéo screening : le contour des jours à venir Paris, France
 DELIRIUM vidéo Program I Galerie le manège, Institut Français Dakar, Senegal
 UTOCORPIS vidéo Screening I Galerie le manège, Institut Français Dakar, Senegal
 Delirium, Waru studio, dakartOff, biennale de Dakar, Senegal
 List I LJOSI Light festival, Seydisfjördur, Iceland
 time is love, vidéo screening curated By kisito Asangni, plateau Gallery, Berlin, Germany
 Incarnations, Maison des cultures de Molenbeek, Brussels, Belgium
 A l'ombre d'Eros Monastère royal de Brou, Bourg-en-Bresse, France
- 2015
- Papa was a Rolling Stone, Galerie la Corderie, Marcq en Barouel, France
 lointain/proche espace d'art de la terrasse, Nanterre, France
 Video Art Africa Wiener Westwochen, Vienna, Austria
 Infecting the City, public arts festival, Cape Town from, Afrique du sud
 The Divine Comedy, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art - Washington, USA
- 2014
- Divine Comedy, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah; USA Curator Simon Njami
 ANALOGUE EYE, National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa, curator : Brent Meistre
 FIVE, videoart Project screening at Richland Collège, Dallas USA, curator: Colette Copeland
 Now&After» Video Art Festival, Moscow, Russian Fédération curator : Marina Fomenko
- 2013
- State of the Empire Building, Galerie la Corderie, Marcq en Barouel, France
 A nos pères, Galerie 2.13 pm, Paris. Curated by Marie Deparis-Yafil et Brankica Zilovic
 Intimités, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany. Curated by Yves Chatap
 L'Afrique en mouvement, projection centre d'art Daïmon, Gatineau, Québec
 Still Fighting Ignorance & Intellectual Perfidy, Motorenhalles, Dresden, Germany

- 2012 INexactly THIS, 9e édition of Kunstvlaai Festival of Independents, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 L'Afrique en mouvement, Cinémathèque de Montréal, Canada. Curated by Pierre Beaudoin
 Summer of photography, Bozar, Palais des Beaux Arts de Brussels - Belgium
 City Screen, Off Loop, Barcelona, Spain. Curated by Carolina Ariza
- 2011 Croyance et superstition dans l'art vidéo, Heart galerie, Paris
 To Africanize is to civilize, Paris Photo, On the roof project, video show au Silencio, Paris
 Un monde durable, 9e Biennale africaine de la photographie, Bamako, Mali. Curated by Michket Krifah & Laura Serani
 Vic-art, Centre d'Art du Château de Cols, Vic-sur-Cère, France. by Jean-Louis Barthélemy
 Itinérances, la Bellevilloise, Paris. Curated by Cynthia Phibel
 Intimités, Galerie Treignac Projet, Treignac, France. Curated by Yves Chatap
- 2010 Made by Africa, Festival Matières Sensibles, Lille, France. Curated by Eric Dohou
 Biennale PICHA, les Rencontres de l'image de Lubumbashi, République Démocratique du Congo. Curated by Simon Njami
 Passés Composés, regards croisés Dimitri Fagbohoun/Yo-Yo Gonthier, Galerie 59, Paris. Curated by Dagara Dakin
- 2009 8èmes Rencontres de Bamako - In_Secure par D.Dakin au CNAM de Bamako
 Dans la ville et au delà, Photographs Exhibition, Pamplona, Spain
 Reflets d'Afrique, Musée d'art moderne d'Alger, Alger, Algeria. Curated by Nourreddine Ferrouhki
- 2008 NRPA, IFA Gallery, Berlin. Curated by Akinbode Akinbiyi
 Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Fès, Maroc. Curated by Faouad Maazouz
 NRPA, IFA Gallery, Stuttgart. Curated by Akinbode Akinbiyi



ART FAIRS

2019	Brussels Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium 1.54 Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco Cape Town Art Fair, South Africa
2018	1.54 Art Fair, London, United Kingdoms African Art Book Fair, Dakar, Senegal 1.54 Art Fair, New York, USA
2017	1.54 Art Fair, New York, USA
2016	AKAA Art Fair, VIP Collector's Choice, Paris, France



COLLECTIONS

Collection Jean Claude Gandur, Geneva, Switzerland

Collection Axelle Milroud, Brussels, Belgium

Collection Ayelet Elstein London, United Kingdoms

Collection Jean Marc Decrop, Hong Kong, China

Collection Safia Dickersbach, Berlin, Germany

Collection Fabienne Levy, Pully, Switzerland

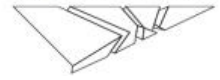
Collection Didier Claès, Brussels, Belgium

Collection Ellen Taubman, New York, USA

Collection Rosario Bifulco, Milano, Italy

Collection Roberto SPADA, Milano, Italy

Collection Imago Mundi, Treviso, Italy



FOUNDATIONS

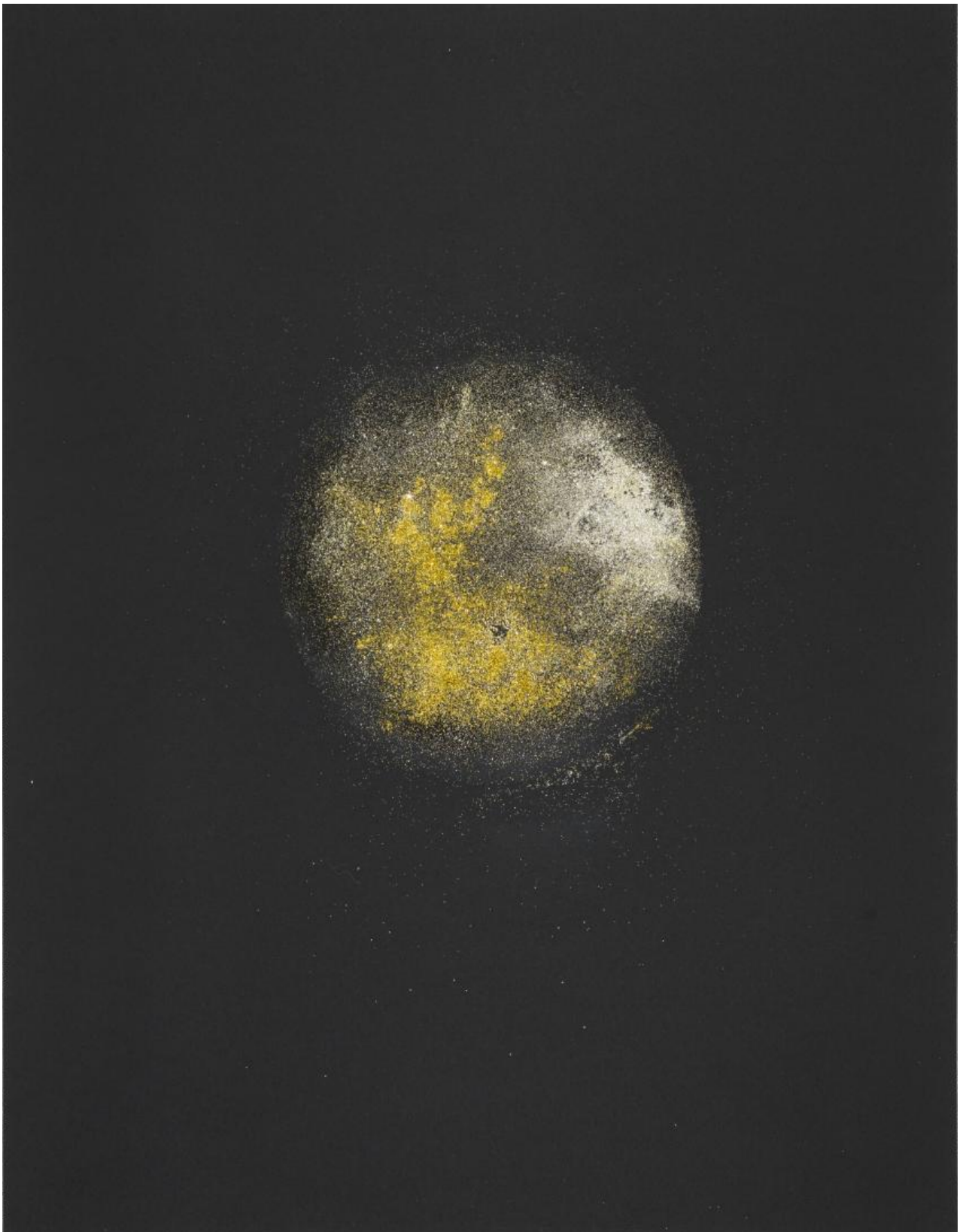
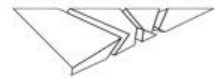
Foundation Sindika Dokolo, Luanda, Angola

Foundation Francès, Compiègne, France

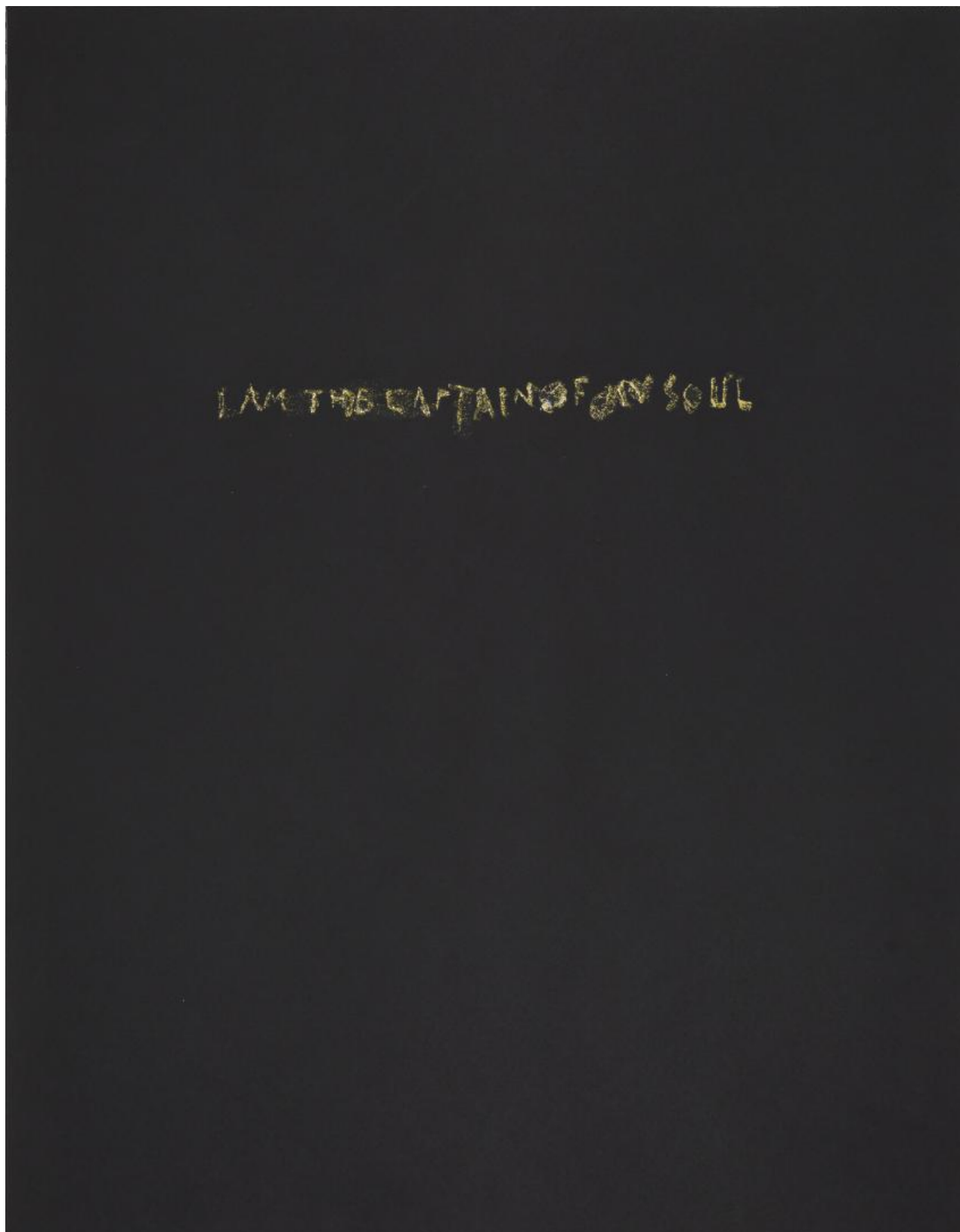
Foundation Moleskine, Milano, Italy

Foundation Benetton, Treviso, Italy





DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN
AROUND MIDNIGHT
mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder
50x65 cm
2021



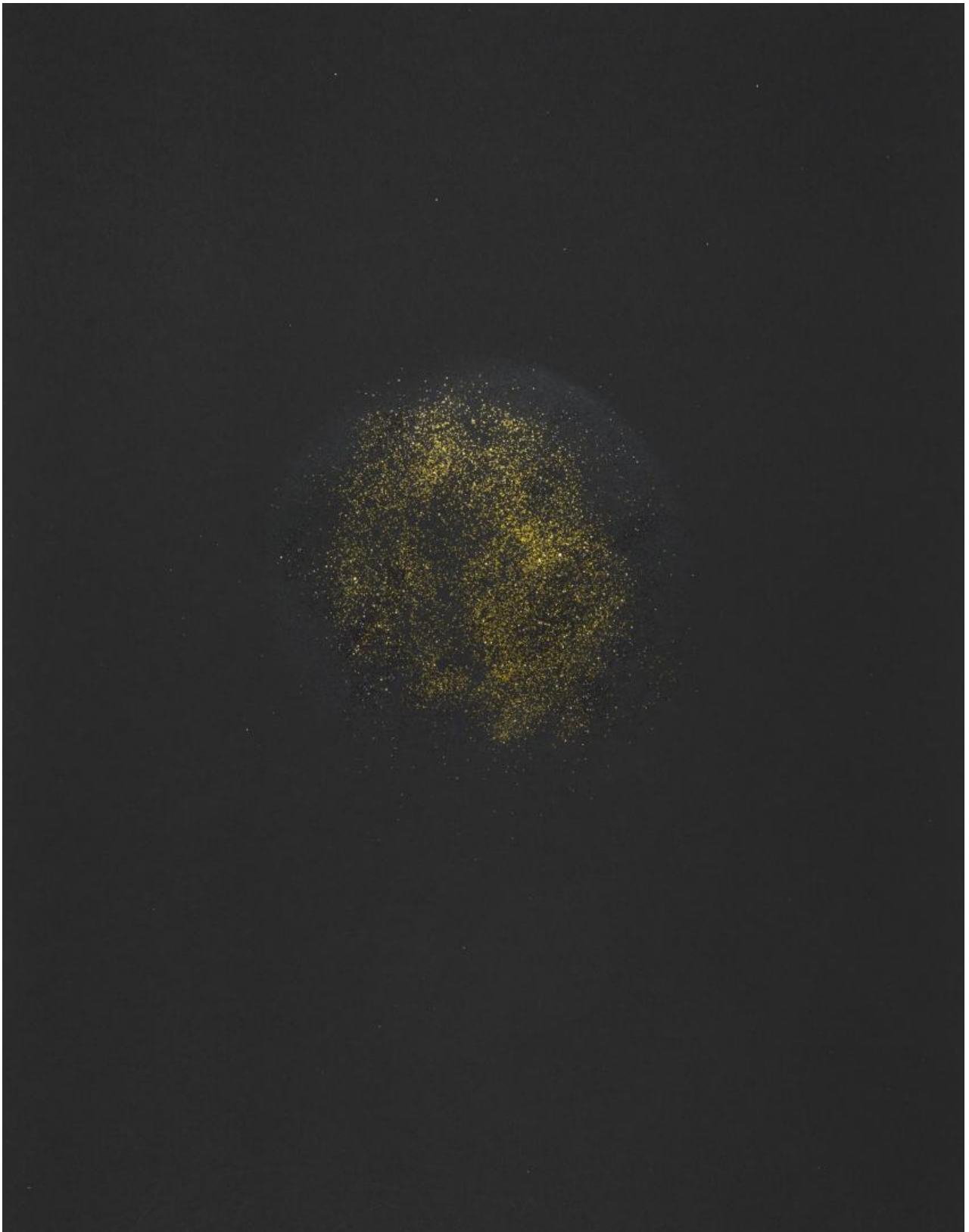
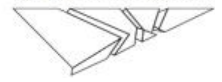
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

CAPTAIN

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN
BLUDGOENINGS OF CHANCE
mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder
50x65 cm
2021



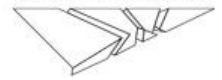
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

THE GOLD COAST

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



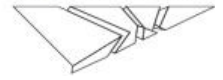
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

UNTIL MIDNIGHT

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

ENTIRE LANDSCAPE

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



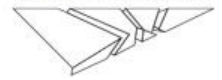
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

ROUND MIDNIGHT

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



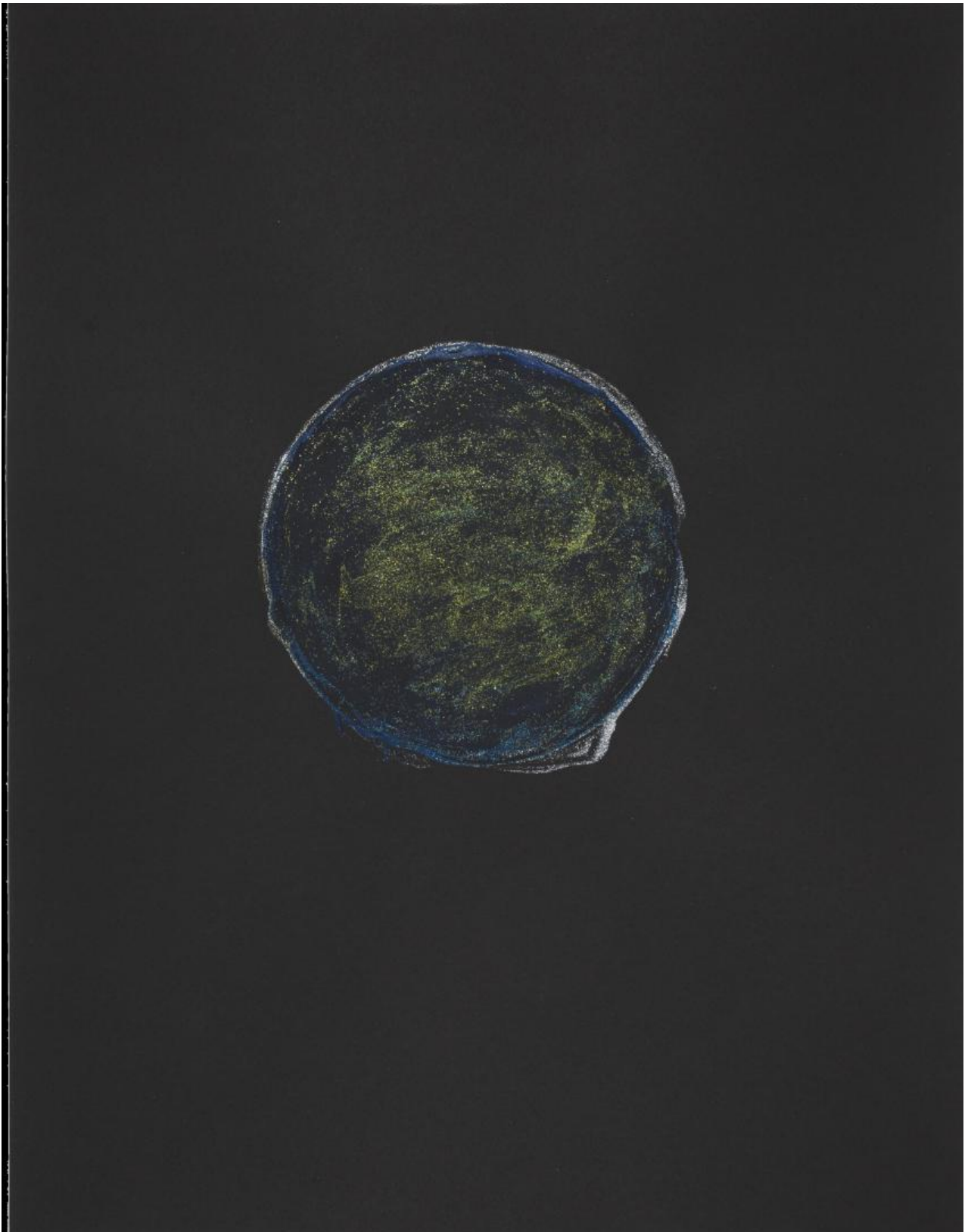
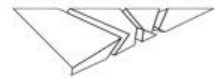
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

THE WOMAN IN US

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



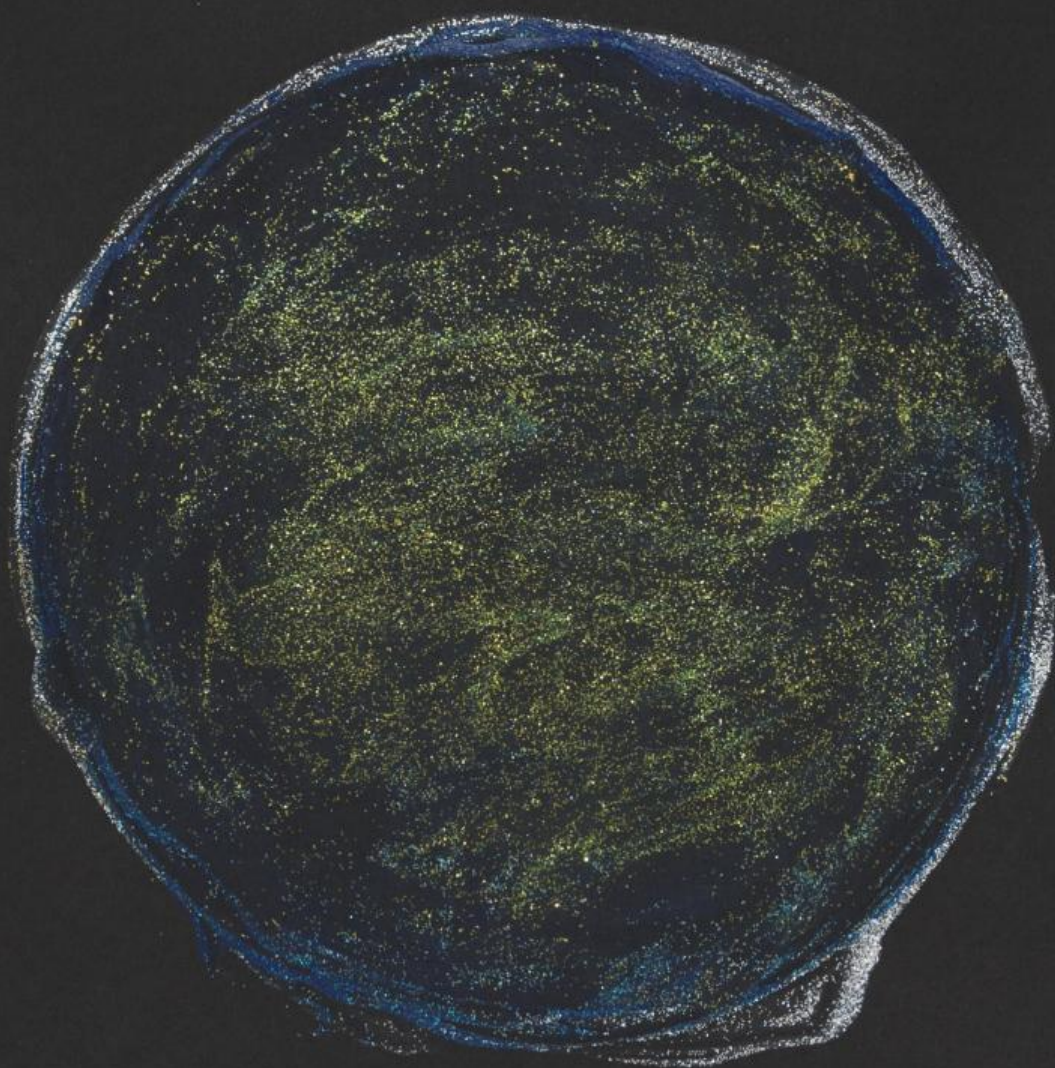
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

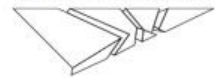
MIDNIGHT IN BLUE

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021





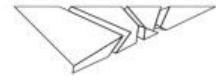
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

AS I ONCE WAS

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

RESILIENCE I

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



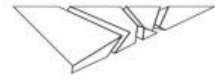
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

RESILIENCE II

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



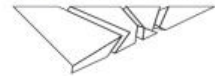
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

RESILIENCE III

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



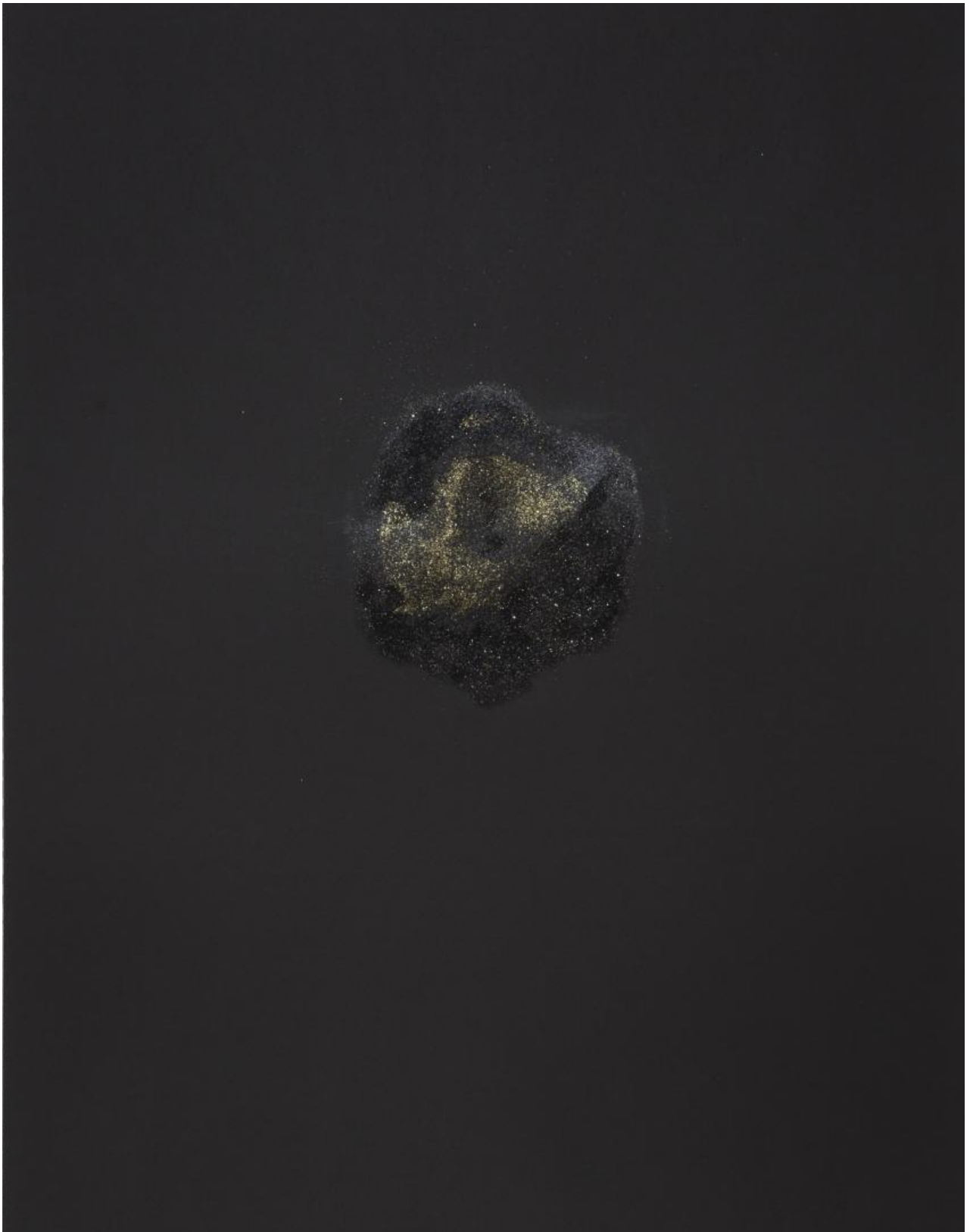
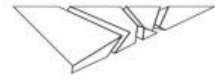
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

PIECES OF FLESH

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021



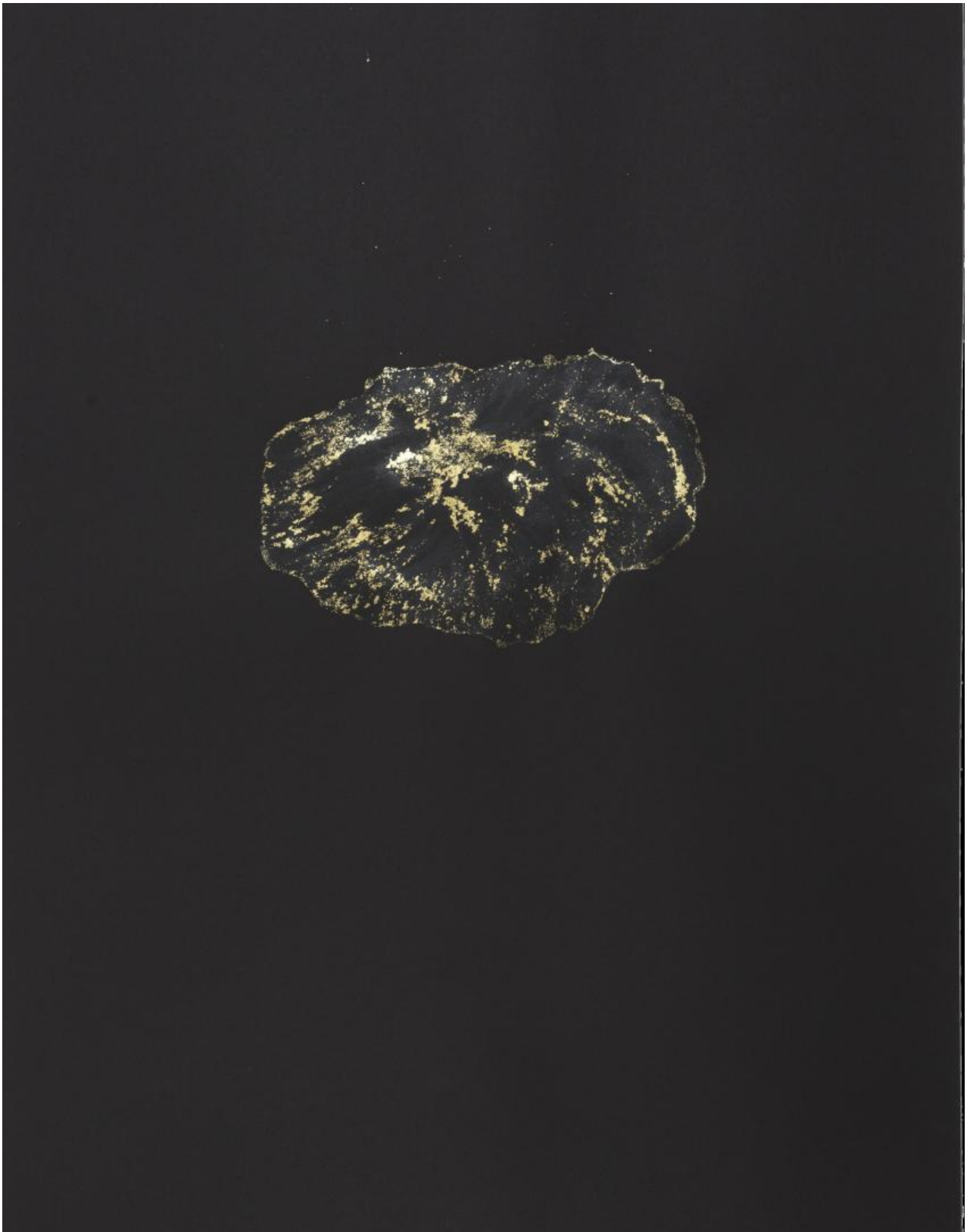
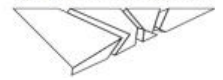
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

MÉTÉORITE

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

70x100 cm

2021



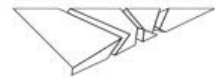
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

HÉTÉROGÉNITE

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

70x100 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

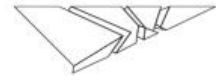
SPIRIT OF LIBERTY (DIPTYCH)

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

112 x160 cm

2021





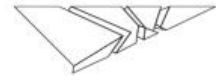
DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

MY HEAD IS BLOODY BUT UNBOWED

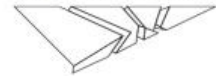
mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

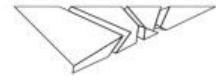
2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN
BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS
mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder
50x65 cm
2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN
FOR MY UNCONQUERABLE SOUL
mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder
50x65 cm
2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

STARLIGHT

mix media | paper - glitter glue and gold powder

50x65 cm

2021





DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

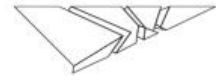
LEO

Black glazed ceramic

Unique Work

50x21x21 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

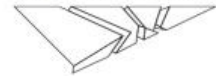
INVICTUS

bronze

Unique Work

34x15 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

INVICTUS

bronze

Unique Work

34x15 cm

2021

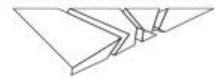






DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN
L'HOMME QUI MARCHAIT
black glazed ceramic
Unique Work
57x16x13 cm
2021





DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

UNTITLED

Black glazed ceramic

Unique Work

34x9x8 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

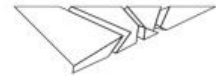
UNTITLED

Black glazed ceramic

Unique Work

34x9x8 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

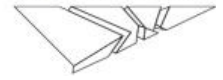
UNTITLED

Black glazed ceramic

Unique Work

34x9x8 cm

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

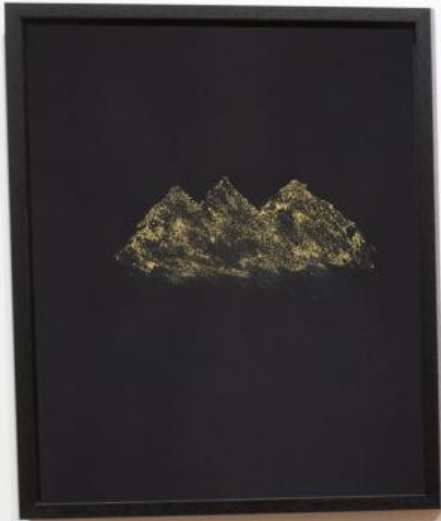
UNTITLED

Black glazed ceramic

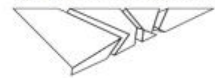
Unique Work

34x9x8 cm

2021







DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

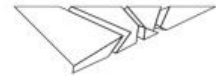
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

Variable dimensions - approx 56x20 cm

Unique Work - Series of 6

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

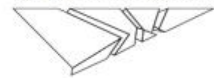
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

Variable dimensions - approx 56x20 cm

Unique Work - Series of 6

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

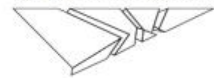
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

Variable dimensions - approx 56x20 cm

Unique Work - Series of 6

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

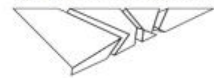
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

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2021



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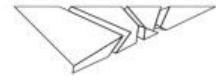
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

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Unique Work - Series of 6

2021



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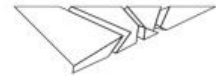
MORPHS

hair braid - bronze stand

Variable dimensions - approx 56x20 cm

Unique Work - Series of 6

2021



DIMITRI FAGBOHOUN

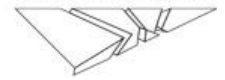
WINGS

Unique Work

Variable dimensions - approx 2m

2021





PREVIOUS EXHIBITION AT THE FELIX FRACHON GALLERY

2017 *Recollection*, Felix Frachon Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

« When, after the London museum , the Louvre museum will receive the Negro art, it will not find its complement, but its principle.»

(Lucie Cousturier quoted by Félix Fénon in « Surveys of the distant arts: will they be admitted to the Louvre, Bulletin of artistic life, 1920)

Recollection is the recognition of this principle which makes it possible to apprehend both the physical processes of the works and the processes of cultural and artistic capturing

which surround them. Because of their fascination with the Western world, discoveries of these « distant arts » were mainly apprehended under the prism of the influence they had on the great artistic movements of the 20th century.

Dimitri Fagbohoun engages a reflection that transcends the borders previously defined to open new perspectives. It is this work of memory, this return to oneself which is at the heart of the artist's work and which testifies to his initial intention: to define a corpus of masterpieces of African Art from the traditional universe and now recognized as 'classical' in order to reclaim.

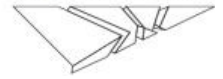
Through various medium, Dimitri Fagbohoun creates an intimate but eloquent speech affirming the power of artistic language. Between filiation and legacy, *Recollection* thus invites the viewer to a deep journey, but whose scope is undoubtedly universal. A journey that translates subtly the evolution of function, form, use and ultimate value of the work of art.

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