OWANTO

Où allons-nous?

Rocco Orlacchio is proud to present a solo show by Owanto at VOICE gallery. The exhibition *Où allons-nous?* will open on the 25th of May showing the recent works of the Franco-Gabonese artist.

Owanto is the name of her mother and means "woman" in local language. The images of the woman and mother are two icons that we find in all of Owanto's work, work which has been profoundly influenced by her personal journey in life: attached to her african roots, with a french father, married to an Englishman, living mostly in Europe, Owanto invokes her memories of Africa to pass them on to the world.

Où allons-nous? / Where are we going? is the slogan that resonates in Owanto's project, a question that opens thought processes upon concepts of identity, transformation and the evolution of existence. This same question underlined the project exhibited at the 53rd Biennale of Venice in 2009 as Owanto was invited to be the solo artist for the gabonese pavilion, a first appearance for the country at this prestigious International Art Event.

Owanto constructs her artistic "theatre" by playing with figures and symbols, a sort of alphabet which allows her to tell stories of yesterday and today, and at the same time questioning the future.

The concept of memory is the essential ingredient which allows the artist to perceive the possibility of constructing utopian "new worlds" from the structure of the moment.

Le Phare de la mémoire / The lighthouse of memory, emblem of her linguistic process connotes or illuminates her photographs that turn into a mental journey.

What, Who, Where, why are we, is Owanto's motive to investigate on self and others, acquired knowledge and the unknown to define new existences.

Clap Your Hands Africa is a new sign in which hands represent a gesture that is at the same time, union, prayer, exhortation and energy flow awakening the world.