

## Barthélémy Togu

### *Partages*

Curated by Hafida Jemni Di Folco

9 September – 10 November 2021  
Opening on Thursday 9 September

13 rue de Téhéran  
75008 Paris



*Partage VII*, 2020, ink on canvas, 200 x 200 cm.

“This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Edmond Jabès, the poet and writer of African (Egypt) origins. His work has never ceased to enlighten us. With his questions and formulations, Edmond Jabès is in harmony with my vision of the world, and his work resonates with my artistic practices. A complicity of thought emerged when reading his writings. Learning more about the world of Edmond Jabès, particularly his “*Livre du partage*” (the Book of Shares) inspired me to conceive an artistic proposal during the Busan 2020 International Biennale in Korea; this resulted in a series of 8 paintings entitled *Partages I – VIII*. My personal exhibition at Galerie Lelong & Co. in September 2021 will continue the work started in Busan in 2020. This project, which consists of a series of blue paintings produced in 2020 and 2021, will include a brand-new interactive installation: the public will be invited to make a material donation or send a paper or electronic message.” - Barthélémy Togu

The Bamiléké are a socio-cultural group who live in the highlands of West Cameroon. A Bamiléké chiefdom is a sort of micro-state centred around a powerful King enjoying the power of a semi-divine being.

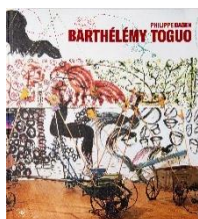
Around the idea of *partage* (sharing), the artist Barthélémy Togu has created links between the writer Edmond Jabès and the Bamiléké people, though their shared African origins, genocide, wandering and exile. Barthélémy Togu was inspired by a legend of the Bamiléké people relating the fury of a divinity who, as night falls, puts on huge shoes and laden with parcels, crosses the land handing out tears, chagrin and misery as punishments for those who have contravened shared values.

A humanist, Barthélémy Togu has taken this legend and adapted it to his own values of listening, forgiving, hospitality and sharing. Thus, the divine fury becomes a driver of generosity and the “remodelled” Bamiléké spirit performs its nocturnal wanderings differently, more peacefully, handing out riches of all sorts to help lead the world to a better destiny.

Barthélémy Togo was born in 1967 in Mbalmayo, Cameroon. He lives and works in Bandjoun (Cameroon) and Paris.

His works are exhibited in many collections including those of the Musée National d'Art Moderne (Paris), the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Paris), the MAC/VAL (Paris), the Tate Modern (Londres), the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Miami), the Perez Art Museum (Miami), the Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la création (Paris), the Collection Agnès B. (Paris).

The artist has recently been commissioned to produce four doorways for the Musée Rodin (Paris).



*Barthélémy Togo*

Philippe Dagen

Éditions Skira, Galerie Lelong & Co., Bandjoun Station.



*Désir d'humanité, Les Univers de Barthélémy Togo.*

Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris.

7 April – 5 December 2021



*Kingdom of Faith*

Centre d'art La Malmaison – PAMoCC, Cannes.

26 July – 14 November 2021



Commissioning of four doorways.

Musée Rodin, Paris.

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