

SPARK ART FAIR VIENNA 2025

Booth D1

With

KILUANJI KIA HENDA

Eyes Without a Soul – Post Industrial Portraits, 2024

24 photographs, inkjet print on fine art paper, 50 x 37,5 cm each

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Eyes Without a Soul – Post Industrial Portraits is a series created inside Tres Xemeneies (Three Chimneys), a decommissioned thermal power station in Catalunya built in the 70s, leaving behind a legacy of industrial contamination. The toxic footprint of its past still lingers in the soil, a silent testament to the era of heavy industry.

Kia Henda wandered through the plant's decaying interior, reading the marks left by years of industrial activity. In this photographic essay, iron screws embedded in the reinforced concrete emerge as weary, hollow eyes, forming abstract yet eerily human faces. These spectral figures evoke a profound sense of emptiness, alienation, and dehumanization—symbols of technological obsolescence and the residue of a vanished industrial age.

The eyes in these portraits seem to express anguish and distress, yet they remain devoid of a soul. The power plant, once a hub of energy and motion, now stands as a monument to decay, its crumbling structure birthing distorted reflections of the human form. Here, the boundary between flesh and architecture dissolves, as if the individual has become just another remnant of an obsolete machine.

Kiluanji Kia Henda (1979, Luanda, Angola) explores history, geopolitics, war and the impact of colonialism. Angola lies at the epicentre of his research, as a place through which to reconnect distant points in space and time, in the interweaving of history and fiction, fact, documentary, narrative and humour. He was awarded the National Prize for Culture and Arts by the Ministry of Culture of Angola and selected among the 100 Leading Global Thinkers by the American magazine Foreign Politics. In 2017 he won the Frieze Artist Award. His works are featured in major public collections, including: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; Tate Modern, London; Fondazione di Venezia, Venice; Metropolitana di Napoli, Naples; Kadist Foundation, Paris; Perez Art Museum, Miami; Migros Museum, Zurich; Frac Grand Large - Hauts-de-France; Calouste Gulbenkian, Coleção de Arte Moderna, Lisbon; Ellipse Foundation, Lisbon; Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; MASP São Paulo. He has participated in major institutional and biennials around the world, including: Project a Black Planet, Art Institute Chicago; Manifesta 15, Barcelona (2024); Biennale Arte 2024: Foreigners Everywhere, curated by Adriano Pedrosa (2024); Sharjah Biennial (2023); Serpentine, London (2022); Lagos Biennial, Nigeria (2021); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2020); The Barbican, London (2020); Yinchuan Biennale, Yinchuan (2018); Busan Biennale, Busan (2018); Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju (2018); Tate Gallery, Liverpool (2017); Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2015); Dakar Biennale, Dakar (2013); Bergen Triennial, Bergen (2013); 29th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo (2010); Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou (2008); African Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Venice (2007).