

Press Release

Omar Ba

« *Éclipse* »

Exhibition from Tuesday May 20 until Friday June 27, 2014

Opening on May 20 2014, from 6pm, in the presence of the artist

Galerie Guy Bärtschi is pleased to present for the third time since 2010 a personal exhibition of **Omar Ba**, Senegalese-born artist living in Geneva, following his studies in this city. The artistic world of **Omar Ba** is inhabited by hybrid creatures typically portrayed on a black background. Emerging from the darkness, colorful touches burst to the surface, revealing figures whose faces, often bestial, are hidden and mysterious. The cow, hedgehog, fish, tiger, and monkey are but some of the majestic messengers the artist brings into his art.

Omar Ba's works tell stories that eliminate borders between Africa and Europe; past and present; good or bad. Painted on corrugated cardboard, a rough material that the artist is particularly fond of, the compositions reveal details painted with precision. Medals, landscapes, leaves and plants constitute some of the elements of the rich repertoire of the artist. The chromatic palette develops in radiant touches that illuminate the forms and contribute to their dynamic.

African memories blend with western experiences. Modernity appears in the form of pylons, trains or drilling sites which sometimes dominate the composition making the nature around it appear fragile and weak. The titles the artist gives to his works add important meaning; they tell us of a universal history of the world. **Ba's** paintings abolish secular and cultural differences and deliver multi-faceted messages depicting situations where it is difficult to tell the persecutor from the victim. This double way of seeing things emerges in the forms of art and also in the analysis made. The vocabulary imagined by **Omar Ba** creates visual surprises that form a unique artistic world.

An important monographic catalogue on **Omar Ba's** work will be published on the occasion of this exhibition.