

Joseph Kusendila

La loutre

October 22 – December 5, 2021

Maxwell Graham/Essex Street is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in the United States of Joseph Kusendila.

La loutre is the title of a novel Joseph Kusendila has been writing for many years.

La loutre means The otter.

Most of the artworks in the exhibition were made in Kasavubu, a vibrant neighborhood in Kinshasa, the most populous city in Africa and the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Nine photographs were taken just before the Congolese Independence Day celebrations. Those days at certain times in certain neighborhoods there are blackouts. Around those blackouts there are both rumours and contrary government justifications ranging from heavy rains to low water to other complexities.

Two wooden vitrines were made in the likeness of those used in markets to sell jewelry. Such jewelry is mostly silver and comes from western African countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria. These two vitrines have no jewelry inside them.

Five books have on their cover a golden bell with figures of jaguar-men made around 900-1600 AD by the Chiriquí people of Panama. This is an American treasure. Inside the book are 1000 drawings of indigenous jewels from western Africa and taken from the *La bijouterie indigène en Afrique occidentale* in *Journal de la Société des Africanistes*, published in 1931. Each of the five books is unique.

There are two Congolese newspapers, *La Percée* and *POST*.

The word brother is the first work in the exhibition. It can be seen from the outside but is on the inside.

In 1985 Joseph Kusendila was born in Belgium where he continues to live and work. Since 2019, with Monica Gallab, he has run the project space Alma Sarif. Kusendila has had solo exhibitions at Kantine, Brussels in 2020 and Komplot, Brussels in 2018. He received a degree in filmmaking from the Institut National des Arts du Spectacle et des Techniques de Diffusion (INSAS), Brussels, Belgium, in 2014.

Joseph Kusendila

MAXWELL GRAHAM/ESSEX STREET

55 HESTER STREET NEW YORK CITY 10002

Wednesday-Saturday 12-6PM and by appointment

917 675 6681 info@essexstreet.biz www.essexstreet.biz

Both levels of the gallery are accessible by elevator. Open To The Public. Free Admission For All. Tours Available Daily. Groups Always Welcome.

La loutre

October 22 – December 5, 2021

1. Joseph Kusendila
brother, 2021
Vinyl sticker

2. Joseph Kusendila
1000 BELLS, 2021
Book with colored pencil
130 pages
Edition of 5 unique books

3. Joseph Kusendila
100 000, 2021
Tikali wood, shuttering panels, metal, glass
23 ½ × 27 ½ × 17 ¾ inches (59.69 × 69.85 × 45.09 cm)

4. Joseph Kusendila
100 000, 2021
Tikali wood, shuttering panels, metal, glass
23 ⅞ × 27 ½ × 18 ⅞ inches (60.64 × 69.85 × 47.94 cm)

5. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

6. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

7. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

8. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

9. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

10. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

11. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

12. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

13. Joseph Kusendila
Untitled, 2021
Photograph
8 × 14 ½ inches (20.32 × 36.83 cm)
10 ⅞ × 17 ¼ inches (27.62 × 43.82 cm) (framed)

MAXWELL GRAHAM/ESSEX STREET

55 HESTER STREET NEW YORK CITY 10002

Wednesday-Saturday 12-6PM and by appointment

917 675 6681 info@essexstreet.biz www.essexstreet.biz

Both levels of the gallery are accessible by elevator. Open To The Public. Free Admission For All. Tours Available Daily. Groups Always Welcome.