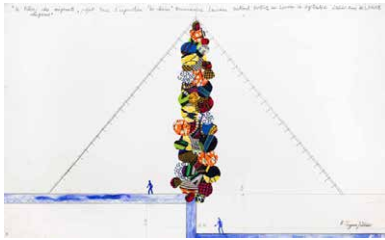


HdM GALLERY

LONG ROOM:

BARTHÉLÉMY TOGUO LEAVES FALL TO THE GROUND

2025.11.01 - 2026.01.03



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

HdM Gallery is honored to announce the solo exhibition *Leaves Fall to the Ground* by Cameroonian-born French artist Barthélémy Toguo, opening on November 1st, 2025. As one of the most internationally recognized figures in contemporary African art, Toguo employs a language that merges poetry with social consciousness, continuously exploring themes of migration, identity, and the shared conditions of human existence. The exhibition unfolds through two parallel threads, which are installation and mixed media on paper, together forming a multilayered narrative of movement and belonging.

The Narrative of Migration and Matter

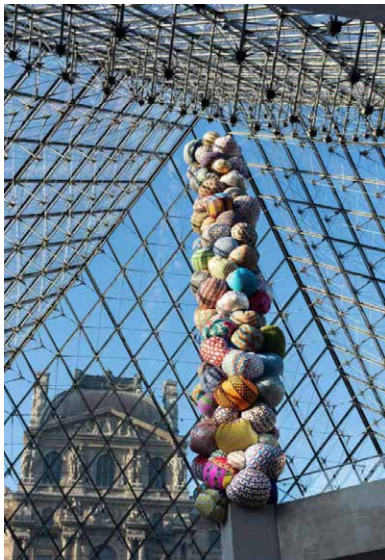
Extending from his monumental work *The Pillar of the Missing Migrants* exhibited at the Louvre in 2022, Toguo returns to the recurring motif of the bundle: a symbol through which he examines the fragile entanglement between people and the things they carry when forced to move. The vividly wrapped forms, enveloped in layers of patterned fabric, hold the traces of those in transit: weight, scent, warmth, memory, separation, and hope. Through these humble objects, Toguo constructs a visual ritual of remembrance and resilience. What once served as the means of survival becomes a monument of collective endurance, transforming the ordinary into containers of shared memory, witnesses to humanity's continuous journey between displacement and renewal.

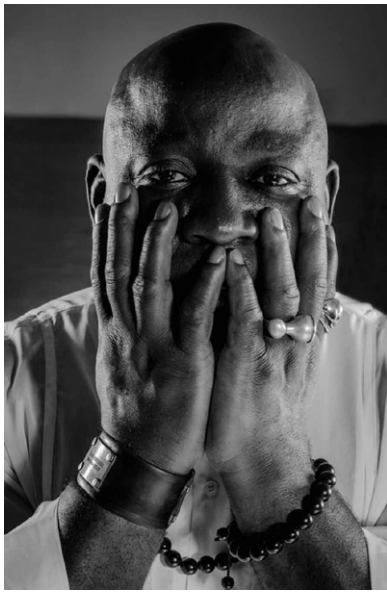
The Breath on Paper

Toguo's works on paper unfold like an extended act of breathing. For him, ink and watercolor are not techniques for representing the external world, but a portable language, a diary that moves between journey and contemplation. They record moments of drifting, encounter, observation, and reflection across different lands. On these sheets, human, animal, and vegetal forms intertwine and merge, forming an open system of growth without boundaries. The fluidity of water keeps these figures in a constant state of becoming, where the distinctions between body and earth, pain and tenderness, gradually dissolve. The lightness and transparency revealed through the dilution and diffusion of the material embody the essence of existence itself, which shows resilience within fragility, and finding order amid uncertainty.

Falling Leaves

In the exhibition, the falling leaf symbolizes a return after dispersal and a rebirth through descent. For Toguo, migration is not merely a geographic displacement but a cyclical state of being: like leaves, humans drift, take root, and regenerate within the gaps of time and space. Within the vivid fabrics, viewers can sense the warmth of those in transit and the quiet breath of the earth. In *Leaves Fall to Earth*, Toguo's works unfold in two rhythms of breathing, one drawn from the weight of the body, the other from the fluidity of identity. Together, they form a poetic meditation on life: growing through wandering, finding belonging in descent, and rediscovering the world anew with every breath.





Barthélémy Toguo

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Barthélémy Toguo (b. 1967, Cameroon) lives and works between Paris and Bandjoun. His multidisciplinary practice spans painting, sculpture, photography, performance, and installation, distinguished by its vibrant use of color and deeply empathetic visual language. Through his work, Toguo addresses themes of migration, identity, and global circulation. As a social activist, he founded Bandjoun Station, a contemporary art centre in Cameroon in 2008, dedicated to fostering art education and intercultural dialogue across Africa and beyond. His works have been exhibited and collected by major institutions such as the Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Tate Modern, Foundation Louis Vuitton, and the Venice Biennale. Toguo has been awarded the French Order of Arts and Letters for his contributions to art and culture. His practice combines powerful visual intensity with profound human warmth, continually inspiring conversations around belonging and empathy across the world.



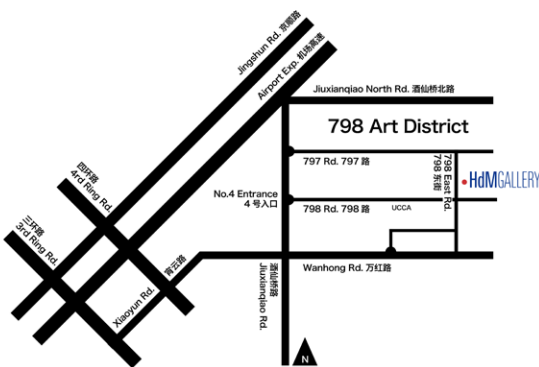
Beijing space



Beijing space



Founders



Gallery Contact

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Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Duration: 1 November 2025 - 3 January 2026

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm

(Or by appointment)

www.hdmgallery.com

HdM GALLERY

Created in 2009 by Hadrien de Montferrand with the support of Laurent Dassault and Olivier Hervet, HdM Gallery specializes in all disciplines of contemporary art – painting, sculpture, video and installation - with a particular focus on Chinese artists. Based in Beijing, it opened a project space in Paris in 2021.

The gallery is dedicated to supporting recognized artists from different horizons; most of its Chinese artists are in the early stage of their career and the gallery promotes their work abroad. International artists on the other hand are more established and the gallery mainly attempts to raise awareness of their work in China.

Besides its normal exhibition program, HdM Gallery participates in art fairs in China and abroad including Art Basel Hong Kong, Art021 Shanghai, Art Brussels and Art Geneva, produces academic catalogues, and organizes institutional shows for its artists.

FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

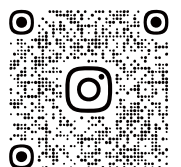
Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.



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