
EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Sanlé Sory

GENERATION VOLTA

SAKANA GALLERY · DONOSTIA · 1 AUGUST – 1 OCTOBER 2026



The exhibition

In 1960, the year Upper Volta gained independence, seventeen-year-old Sanlé Sory opened the Volta Photo studio in Bobo-Dioulasso. Before a painted backdrop, on a chequered floor, he framed with his Rolleiflex, in square format, never cropped. The studio props travelled from one image to the next: sunglasses, a transistor radio, a flight bag, a moped. Each sitter decided the image they wanted to leave of themselves. At night he photographed the orchestras, the dance halls and the bals poussière he staged himself in the villages, floodlights and sound system loaded into the studio van. These photographs document nothing: they are the collective self-portrait of a generation staging itself at the very moment its country came into being. The 1983 coup closed that golden age; the negatives slept in trunks until the meeting with Florent Mazzoleni in 2011. The work is now held by MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Château d'Eau in Toulouse. Generation Volta, his first solo exhibition in the Basque Country, brings together thirty-two prints in Donostia.

Sanlé Sory

Born in 1943 in Nianigara, Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso, Sanlé Sory opened the Volta Photo studio in Bobo-Dioulasso in 1960, the year of independence. He worked with a Rolleiflex, in 6 × 6 square format. By day, the studio; by night, the dance halls and the bals poussière. House photographer of the Volta Jazz orchestra, he signed the sleeves of the city's 45 rpm records. After the 1983 coup, his negatives, several hundred thousand, remained in trunks until his meeting with Florent Mazzoleni in 2011. His works are held by MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum and LACMA. In 2026, a Phaidon monograph on 7 October, and Colour Years at The Photographers' Gallery from 14 October.

EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

1998	First public presentations · National Museum of African Art, Washington, and Städtisches Museum, Munich
2017	Autophoto · Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
2018	Volta Photo, the artist's first solo exhibition in an American museum · Art Institute of Chicago
2019	Studio africain · Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris
2022	Africa Fashion · Victoria and Albert Museum, London, then Brooklyn Museum
2025-26	Ideas of Africa: Portraiture and Political Imagination · MoMA, New York
2026	Generation Volta · Sakana Gallery, Donostia-San Sebastián
2026	Colour Years · The Photographers' Gallery, London
Ongoing	Permanent presentation · Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris
Public collections	MoMA, Art Institute of Chicago, V&A, LACMA, Le Château d'Eau Toulouse



N° 01 / 32

Le mélomane

EDITION

1/6

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 02 / 32

Aminata

EDITION

1/6

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 03 / 32

Le vendeur sénégalais qui fume

EDITION

6/6

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Gelatin silver print · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 04 / 32

Belle de jour

EDITION

Printer's Proof

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 05 / 32

L'élégant au nœud papillon

EDITION

2/6

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 06 / 32

Joséphine

EDITION

2/6

IMAGE

44 × 44 cm

PAPER

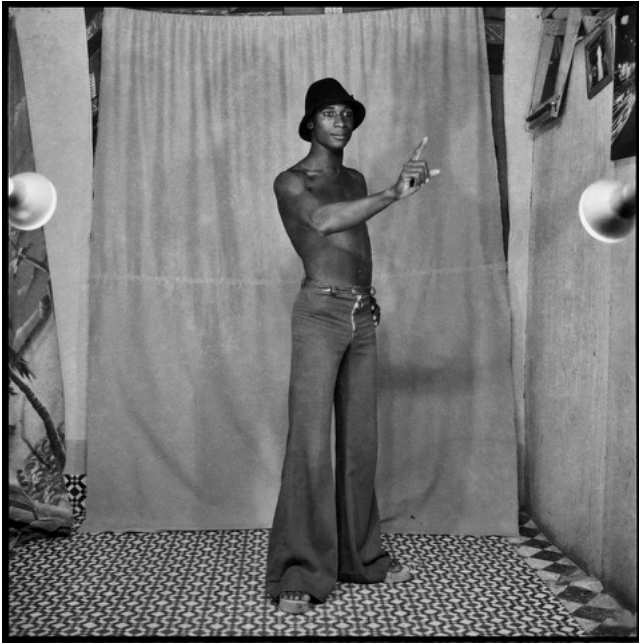
50 × 65 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 07 / 32

Regardez-moi bien

EDITION

4/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

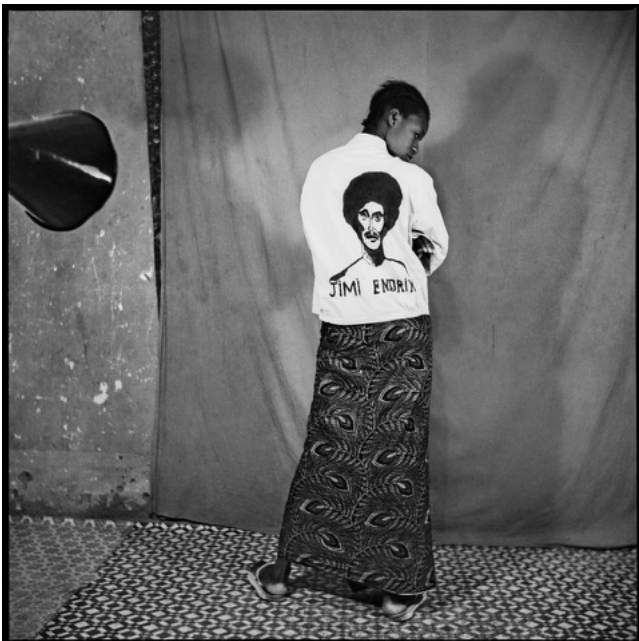
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 08 / 32

Fan de Jimi Hendrix

EDITION

3/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

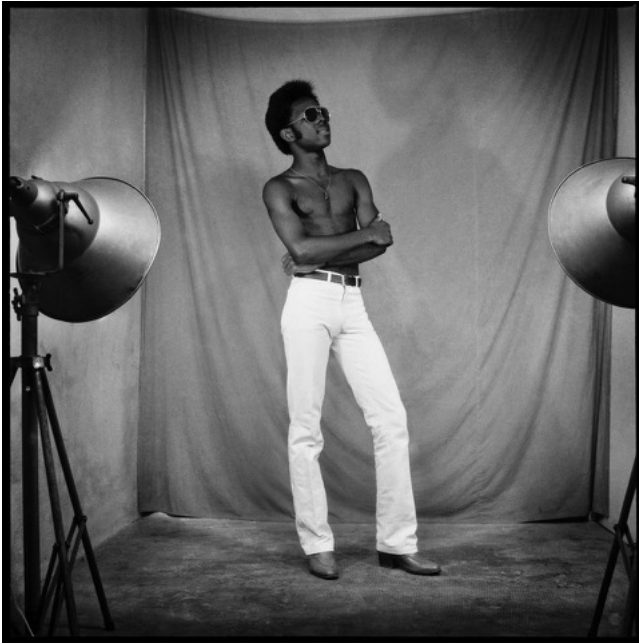
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 09 / 32

Elvis

EDITION

6/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

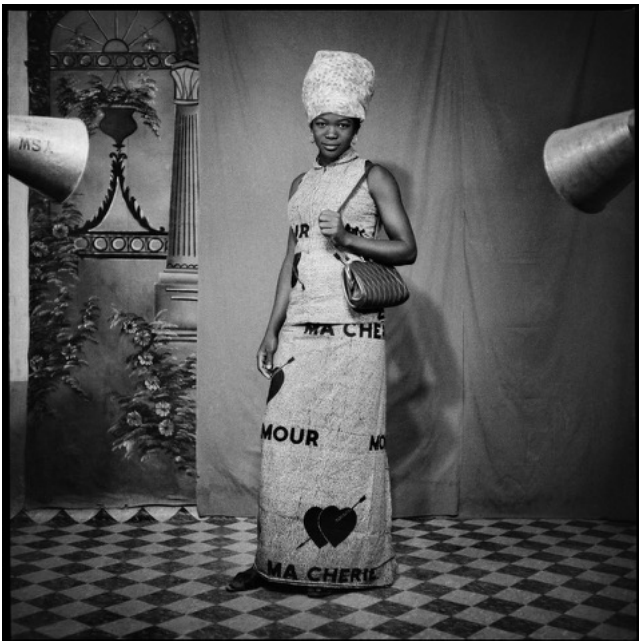
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 10 / 32

Mon amour ma chérie

EDITION

8/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 11 / 32

Le voyageur

EDITION

7/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

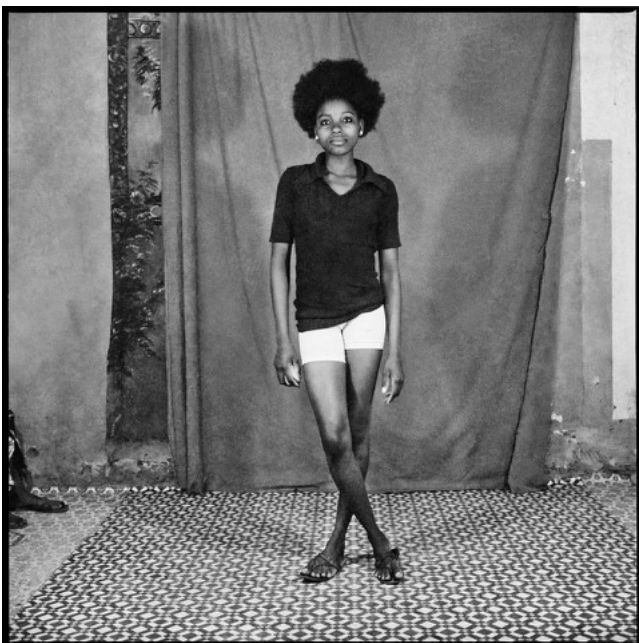
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 12 / 32

La timidité

EDITION

5/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

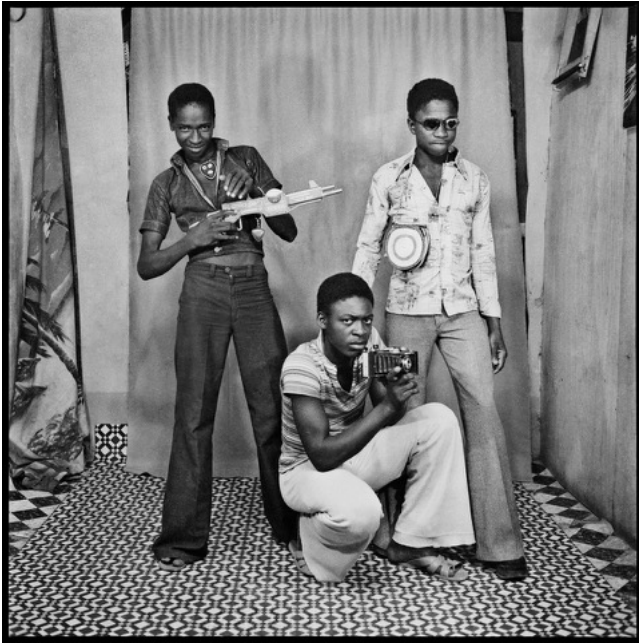
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 13 / 32

Les trois compères

EDITION

2/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 14 / 32

Les amis des disques

EDITION

3/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

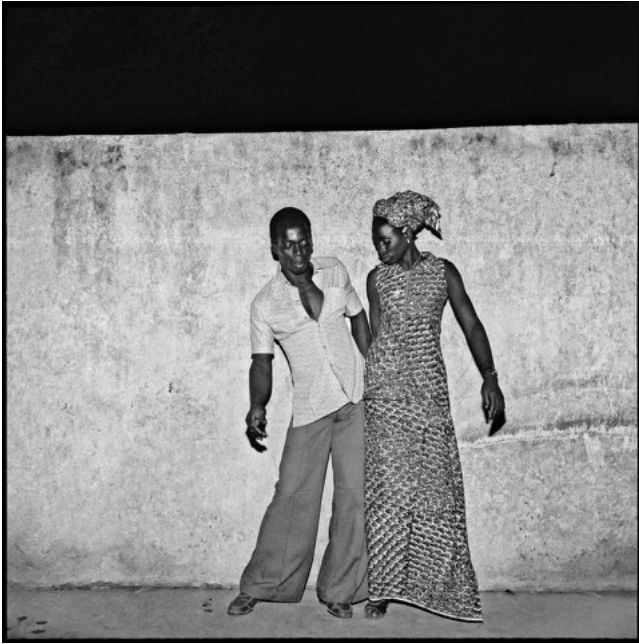
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 15 / 32

Les amoureux de Sikasso Sira

EDITION

1/5

IMAGE

55 × 55 cm

PAPER

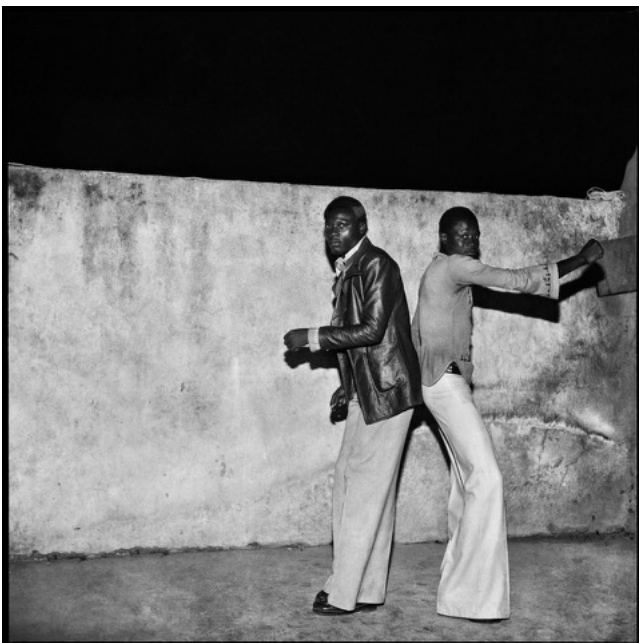
60 × 70 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 16 / 32

Les danseurs de Shakara

EDITION

4/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

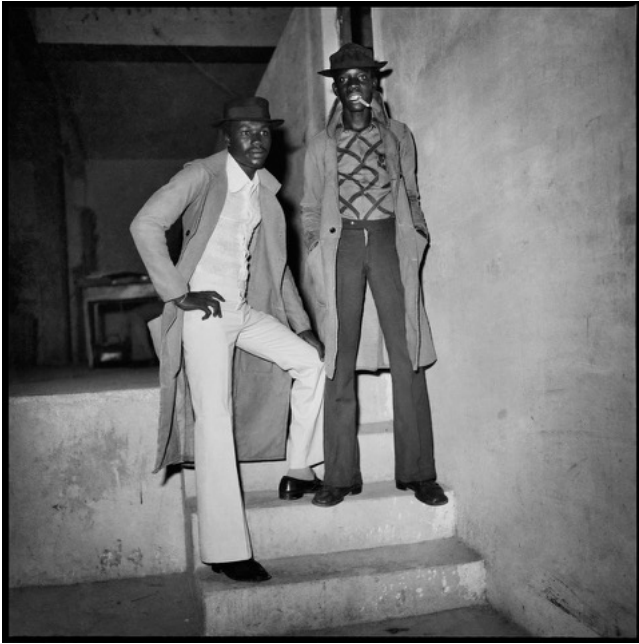
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 17 / 32

Sur les marches du cinéma Sya

EDITION

2/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

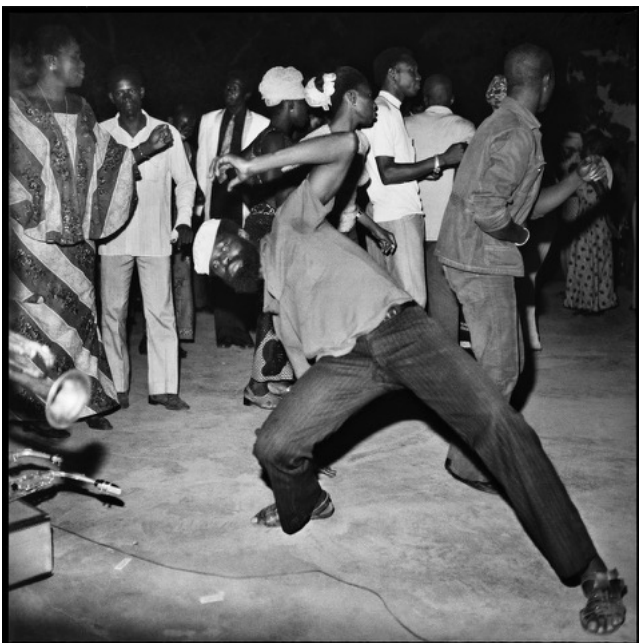
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 18 / 32

Yacouba Zéro

EDITION

3/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 19 / 32

Les yeux revolver

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 20 / 32

Les deux amis au bananier

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 21 / 32

Les amies du village

EDITION

3/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 22 / 32

Je vais décoller 2

EDITION

4/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

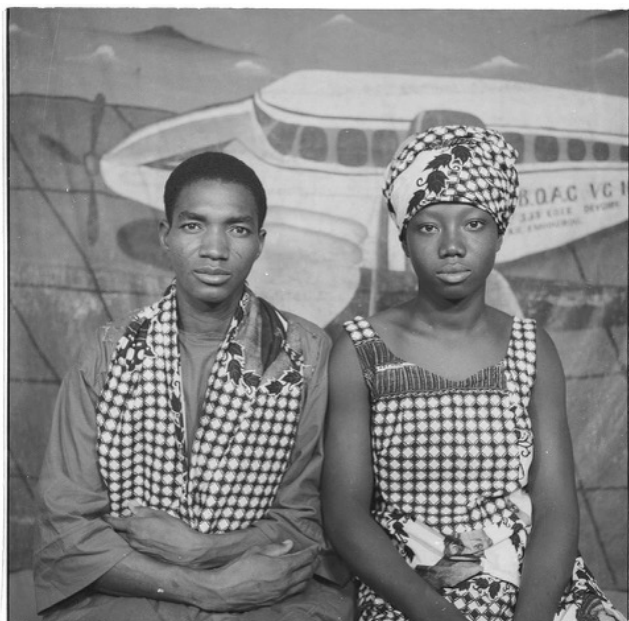
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 23 / 32

Les amoureux noir et blanc

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 24 / 32

Dandy cool

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 25 / 32

Si tu bois beaucoup

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

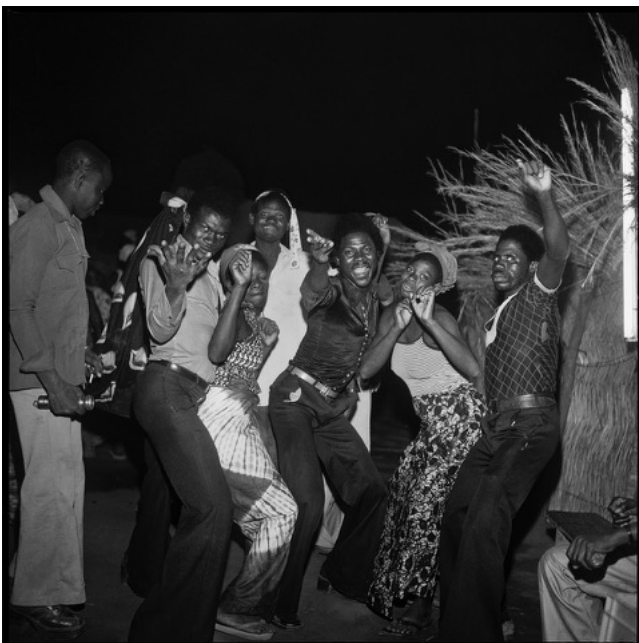
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 26 / 32

Dans la chaleur de la nuit

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 27 / 32

Voulez-vous danser avec moi ?

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

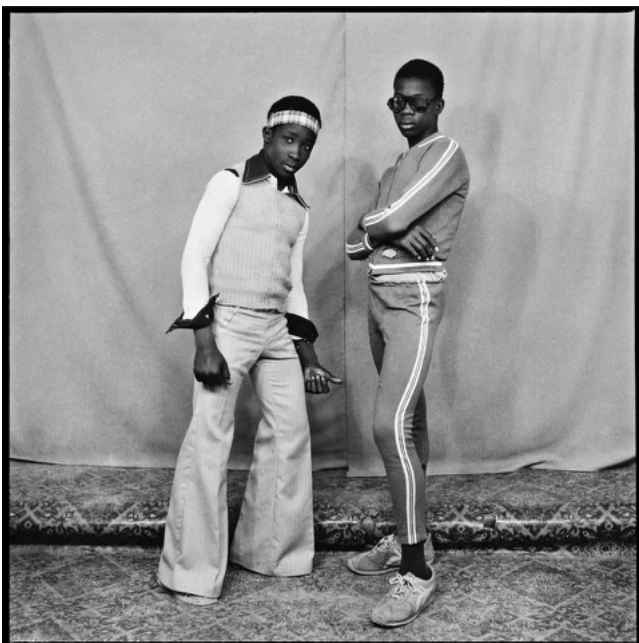
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 28 / 32

La relève

EDITION

3/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 29 / 32

Mali Djeli

EDITION

4/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 30 / 32

Le plein chez Total, route de Banfora

EDITION

1/5

IMAGE

55 × 55 cm

PAPER

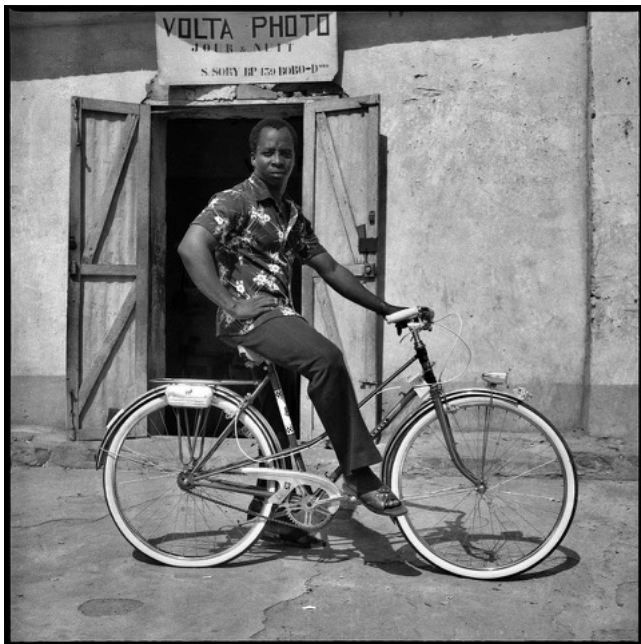
60 × 70 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 31 / 32

Sory jour et nuit

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

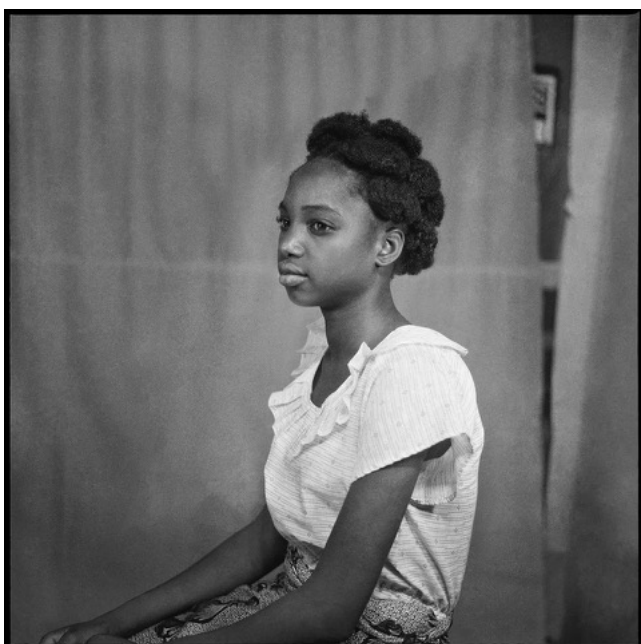
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



N° 32 / 32

Lucie

EDITION

1/8

IMAGE

36 × 36 cm

PAPER

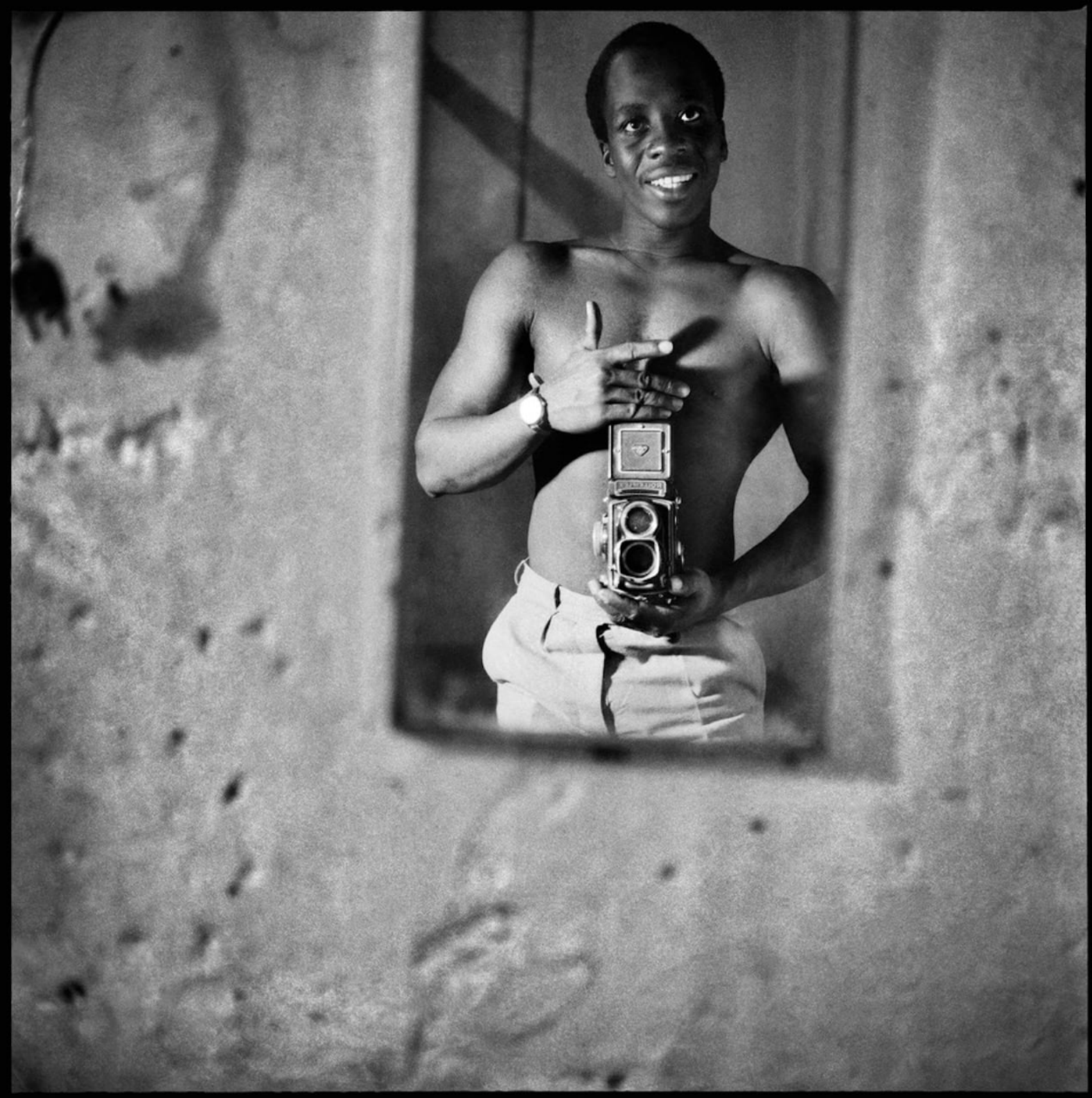
40 × 50 cm

TECHNIQUE

Digigraphie print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta 315 g paper · Museum framing, museum glass

PRICE

Price on request



SANLÉ SORY, AUTO PORTRAIT AU MIROIR, 1966 · © SANLÉ SORY

SAKANA GALLERY

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DATES

1 August – 1 October 2026

HOURS

Thursday – Saturday, 2 pm – 7 pm

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SAKANA-ART.COM