

# PRESS

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*Doudou Mbemba, Allons Danser, acrylic on canvas, 2022*

## **Congolese Artist Makes Debut in the South Main Arts District in Memphis, TN Opening August 5**

Memphis, TN - July 24, 2023 - **Urevbu Contemporary** proudly presents “Elikia: Echoes of Ebony Hope,” a captivating solo exhibition showcasing thirteen medium to large-scale paintings by acclaimed Congolese artist, Doudou Mbemba. Inspired by the Lingala word for hope, (*elikia*) this exhibition explores the fusion of optimism, promise, and the rich tapestry of Congolese culture. **The opening exhibition party will be held on Saturday, August 5 from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.** The exhibition will be on view through October 21,, 2023.

Visitors to **ELIKIA: Echoes of Ebony Hope** will have the unique opportunity to meet the artist in person. Traveling from Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Doudou Mbemba will be present during the exhibition opening, sharing insights into his creative process and engaging with art enthusiasts, collectors, and admirers of his remarkable body of work. This personal encounter with the artist adds an extra layer of significance and authenticity to the exhibition experience.

The exhibition offers a mesmerizing journey into the heart and soul of Mbemba's artistic vision. As a master of figurative abstract paintings, Mbemba's artworks reveal a captivating blend of form, color, and emotion. Drawing inspiration from the rich heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mbemba's work encapsulates the resilience, love, and unity of the Congolese people.

The exhibition serves as a celebration of hope, emphasizing the power of love to shape a better world. Mbemba's evocative brushstrokes and intricate compositions immerse viewers in a realm where echoes of ebony resound, inviting introspection and inspiring a renewed sense of purpose. *"Doudou's figurative abstract paintings not only captivate the eye but also evoke profound emotions and spark meaningful conversations about the power of love and unity. We invite everyone to join us in this extraordinary celebration of Mbemba's artistry and the universal language of hope,"* said gallery owner, Sheila Urevbu.

*"We are honored to showcase Doudou Mbemba's exceptional talent and present ELIKIA to our esteemed audience,"* Furthermore, many former DRC residents have made Memphis their home, and I am especially excited to extend a warm welcome to the local DRC community as we embrace Doudou's presence in Memphis.

**ELIKIA: Echoes of Ebony Hope** will run from August 5 to September 30, 2023, offering art enthusiasts and collectors an extended period to immerse themselves in Mbemba's thought-provoking artworks. Admission to the exhibition is free, and the gallery is open Thursday - Saturday 12:00 - 5:00 pm.

For more information about the exhibition, please visit [www.urevbucontemporary.com](http://www.urevbucontemporary.com) or contact Sheila Urevbu at 901-521-0782 or [sheila@urevbucontemporary.com](mailto:sheila@urevbucontemporary.com).

#### **About Doudou Mbemba:**

Doudou Mbemba is a highly acclaimed visual artist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, currently residing and working in Kinshasa. His masterful figurative abstract paintings explore themes of love, unity, and hope, reflecting the resilience and cultural heritage of the Congolese people. Mbemba's works have gained recognition both locally and internationally, captivating art enthusiasts with their vibrant colors, intricate details, and emotional depth.

**About Urevbu Contemporary:**

Urevbu Contemporary represents up and coming artists with the primary purpose of supporting the practice and work of artists from Africa and its Diaspora while increasing opportunities for artists to introduce their artwork to new geographies. The gallery is deeply committed to presenting culturally significant exhibitions, programming and curated experiences that spark cross cultural dialogue to inspire an appreciation for diversity. Urevbu Contemporary also commissions artists who work in a variety of mediums on corporate and independent projects. The gallery is celebrated for its innovative exhibitions and artists who engage in critical social and cultural dialogue of the day that transcends boundaries between Western and non Western cultures. Urevbu Contemporary is owned and operated by Sheila Urevbu

**For press and sales inquiries, please contact:**

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**Venue Detail:**

**Urevbu Contemporary | 410 South Main Street | South Main Arts District | Memphis, TN**

Gallery hours Thursday - Saturday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Private appointments email: ([inquiries@urevbucontemporary.com](mailto:inquiries@urevbucontemporary.com))

[www.urevbucontemporary.com](http://www.urevbucontemporary.com)