



Marcel Pinas
(Surinamese, born 1971)

Biography

Marcel Pinas is a Surinamese artist born on March 22, 1971 in Moengo, Pelgrimkondre, a district of Marowijne in north east Surinam. After graduating in 1990 from the Nola Hatterman Institute in Surinam he continued his education at the Edna Manley College in Jamaica. In 2007 Pinas became 'artist in residence' at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, the Netherlands: a prestigious program for a select group of promising artists.

Pinas' source of inspiration is the cultural heritage of the Surinamese maroon community of the N'dyuka, also known as the Aucaners, descendants from runaway African slaves who in the South American jungle held on to their own culture and beliefs. Pinas describes the cultural awareness from his past 'Kibri a kulturu' (preserve the culture): 'My art is about experiences from the past. It deals with the destruction of the N'dyuka culture in Surinam caused by war. In my work I project that situation, paying attention to the protection of cultures in general'. When he left the Edna Manly College in Jamaica, he knew he wanted to support the creativity of young people in particular and give them the opportunity to be self-sufficient. He knew he had to come up with projects that do justice to the Maroon culture. In doing so, he had to involve the population of the region as much as possible.

In addition to the preservation of his own past, Pinas uses colors and symbols that are a direct reference to the N'dyuka culture. These symbols taken from the Afaka syllabary (a syllabary of 56 letters devised from the N'dyuka language). Combined with everyday objects from his culture as carvings, plaid fabrics or textiles and totems they form the basis of his artworks. Pinas believes that art is a part of every culture, and every level of society.

Artist Statement

For years now Marcel Pinas is known as an artist strongly dedicated to his culturally inspired theme; a theme with which he has managed to put the unique maroon culture in Surinam and also the country itself, on the map in many places around the world. With his theme Kibri A Kulturu (preserve the culture) he aims to give the unique Maroon culture and the threats facing Maroon and Indigenous communities in Surinam's interior today, the attention they deserve.



His paintings are colorful compositions in which the combined use of pangi textiles and traditional signs and symbols in bright contrasting tones of acrylic paint, reinforce the theme and heighten the visual impact of the work. Because of their cultural significance pangi textiles, just like the ancestral Afaka script symbols and the traditional woodcarving patterns, play an important role in Pinas' art which is recognized for its traditional yet contemporary flair.

With his art and especially with his multimedia installations exhibited worldwide, he presents a highly critical point of view on social issues surrounding maroon communities and through his own career as an artist he works towards building a community with new opportunities and new positive perspectives for the future.

Selected Awards & Permanent Collections

2021

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL
AFAKA Sculptures Hoorn municipal collection, NL

2010

Honoured Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum, Geneva, Switzerland

2007

Artist in Residence Rijks Academy, Amsterdam, NL

2005

First prize art structure, Internationaler Kunstwettbewerb *Bewegter Wind*, Germany

2003

Business Finance Art Award, Utrecht, NL

1999

Top Student 1999 - Edna Manley College for Visual and Performing Arts, Kingston, Jamaica

Selected Exhibitions

2023

ArtZuid Sculpture Biennial, Amsterdam, NL

2021

Kuubutu, Hoorn, NL

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Textiel Biënnale, Museum Rijswijk, Rijswijk, NL

Kibi Wi Totem, ArtZuid Sculpture Biennial, Amsterdam, NL

2019

De grote Suriname tentoonstelling, Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, NL

Group exhibition, *The visual life of social affliction*,

National Gallery, Bahamas

2018

Language is the only Homeland, Nestruimte, The Hague, NL

Hotel Maria Kapel, Hoorn, NL

2017

Il Bienal del Sur, Pueblo en Resistencia, Venezuela

Jamaica Biennial, Jamaica

2016

Cuenca Biennial, Ecuador

National Glass Museum Leerdam, NL

De Nederlandsche Bank (Central Bank of the Netherlands)

Amsterdam, NL

2015

Solo: *Marcel Pinas*, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, NL

1st Moengo Triennial "Festival of Visual Art", Suriname

2014

SITELines.2014 – Unsettled Landscapes, Santa Fe, USA

Dance and Music Festival, Moengo, Suriname

2013

Exhibition with goldsmith Ivan Chevillotte, Munich, Germany

Atelier Michel Fedoroff in Bargemon, France

2012

Havana Biennial, Cuba

2011

Kibi Wi Totem at ArtZuid Sculpture Biennial, Amsterdam, NL

Kibri A Kulturu, Bergen, NL

Kibii Wi Koni, La camp de la transportation, St. Laurent du Maroni,
French Guyana

About Change, World Bank, Washington DC, USA

2010

Paramaribo SPAN, DSB Bank, Paramaribo, Suriname

2009

Kibri a Kulturu, 'Ease', Kunstmuseum Den Haag, The Hague, NL

Kibri wi, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Schiedam, NL

2006

Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, NL

Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, NL

Selected Literature

2013

Marcel Pinas, Kibri a Kulturu, Bargemon and Munich, ARC Magazine

2011

R. Perree, A. van Stipriaan and C. Cozier, *Marcel Pinas. Artist, more than an artist*, Uitgeverij Jap Sam Books, Heijningen

2009

Surinaamse cultuur, 8Weekly,

H. den Hartog Jager, *Werk Pinas laveert tussen beeld en boodschap*, in: NRC Handelsblad

2006

V. Vlasblom, *Kibri a Kulturu*, Marcel Pinas

Selected Art Fairs

PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Art Miami, Miami, USA

EXPO Chicago, Chicago, USA