

Godfried Donkor

8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017



- 1964 Born in Ghana
- 1984 - 1989 B.A. in Fine Art (Painting) at Central St. Martins College of Art, London
- 1991 - 1992 Postgraduate study in Fine Art at Escola Massana, Barcelona, Spain
- 1994 - 1995 M.A. in African Art History, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University
- 1998 Prix de la Revelation, Dakar Biennale 1998
- 2004 Arts Council, research and development  
Lives and works in London

Photo: Jutta Melchers

#### Godfried Donkor's People of Utopia

As an artist straddling continents and cultures, Godfried Donkor is interested in historical, sociological issues, and, in particular, the shared history of the peoples of Africa and Europe.

Against this background, he reflects on the commercialisation of people in all its facets, a complex of themes that runs like a red thread through his individual work cycles.

Godfried Donkor frequently uses newspaper pages (such as the stock market figures from the

Financial Times) as background for his collages. On these sheets with their rows and column of numbers his “People of Utopia”, who are often depicted as saints, occupy a central position.

Mostly, the depicted figures are shown arising from cross-sections of old sailing ships, a metaphor for the transportation of slaves from West Africa to the New World.

Whether a boxer, a football player or a pin-up girl, they are all worth the same in human “goods” trade, starting from its most extreme form, slavery, to subtler variations in sport or in the entertainment industry.

For more information : <http://www.donkor.net/>