

## Moridja Kitenge Banza

March 26 – May 9, 2015

Bank of Canada

Guest curator : Pierre Beaudoin

Photography, video

**Opening:**  
Saturday, March 28, 4pm – 6pm



Moridja Kitenge Banza, *Bank of Canada 10\$, 2015* (Digital print on paper)

« In his practice as in his everyday life, Moridja Kitenge Banza is a passionate history buff. For the artist, the documented events of the past play an essential role in determining a nation's character, identity, and soul. [...] In his first exhibition in Quebec, Kitenge Banza revisits segments of Canadian history. He uses bank notes, a prime symbol of a country's identity, to question the importance of collective memory and to bring to light some of its major blind spots. He transgresses writings and suggests paths of reflection that question notions of power and territoriality in the context of colonization on Canadian soil. [...] How can one understand history without interrogating its foundations, its absences, its nonstarters? How can it be relayed in all its complexity?

This transformation of money symbols suggests a new vision of our history. Where would Canada be if the artist's proposition had come to pass? How would Canadian politics and history have changed? [...] What would have come of the First Nations and their allies? Who would be the big winners, the great losers? The heroes and the traitors? And if Jacques Cartier had not "discovered" Canada? These interrogations tie in with the Congolese artist's abiding preoccupation with his own history and that of his country. [...] Through this exhibition and through the rigorous approach that it involves, Moridja seeks not to proffer a critique, but to transform a slice of Canadian history! In parallel with the work *Banque du Canada* (Bank of Canada), the artist presents the video **Hymne à nous (Anthem to Us)**, a striking one-minute work in which he questions his African-European status as a result of Belgian colonisation. Kitenge Banza composed his own anthem made from fragments of those from different countries "to assemble this collage, this juxtaposition, this makeshift mix a little better. »

Excerpt from text by curator Pierre Beaudoin

### Biography

**Moridja Kitenge Banza:** Born in Kinshasa in 1980, Kitenge Banza graduated from the Fine Arts Academy of Kinshasa in 1999. In 2003, he continued his artistic studies at the Nantes School of Art (Beaux-arts Nantes) in France, where he obtained a National Higher Diploma in Visual Expression. In 2010, he was awarded the first prize at the Dakar Biennale for his video *Hymne à nous* and his installation *De 1848 à nos jours*. In 2011, he participated in THE EPHEMERAL exhibition at the ARNDT Gallery in Berlin. His works have been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum of Roskilde in Denmark (2010), at the first edition of the Casablanca biennale (2012), and at the National Arts Festival of Grahamstown in South Africa (2014).

**Pierre Beaudoin:** Consultant, curator, and performance artist Pierre Beaudoin has been active in the visual and media arts scene for over 25 years. As a curator, he has been particularly interested in contemporary African art. He presented a first exhibition in Montreal in 2011, "Temps – Dialogue sur l'art contemporain du Sénégal," presenting the work of six artists. The program of experimental video and film work, "l'Afrique en mouvement," was presented at the Cinémathèque québécoise and at DAIMON in 2012 and 2013. His new projects include a solo exhibition by Congolese artist Moridja Kitenge Banza, at Galerie Joyce Yahouda in

Galerie  
**JOYCE YAHOUDA**  
Gallery

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*March 2015, along with two others organized in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Montreal, the artist centre OBORO, and the VIVA! art action festival in October 2015, where the work of Mwang Hutter will be presented.*

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Horaire de la Galerie : jeudi-samedi de 12h à 17 h et sur rendez-vous / Heures de bureau : mardi-samedi de 10h30 à 18h