SANLÉ SORY

b. 1943; Nianiagara, Burkina Faso

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 Sanlé Sory, Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
2020 Sanlé Sory: Volta Photo, M+B Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2019 Sanlé Sory: Volta Photo, Weinstein Hammons Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2018 Sanlé Sory, Volta Photo, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, NY
Volta Photo: Starring Sanlé Sory and the People of Bobo-Dioulasso in the Small but Musically Mighty Country of Burkina Faso, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2017 Sory Sanlé: Volta Photo 1965-85*,* Morton Hill Gallery, London, UK
"L'âge d'or de la photographie voltaïque. Nouveau regard sur les indépendances." Institut francais du Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
Sory Sanlé, Institut francais de Casablanca, Morocco
2016 Sory Sanlé, Galerie 127, Marrakesh, Morocco

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Color Years by Sanlé Sory, The Photographers Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Less is Morbid, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Project A Black Planet, Barbican Center, London, United Kingdom
Ideas Of Africa: Portraiture and Political Imagination, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Tell Me Where Home Is, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany.
2024 Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Studio/Archive, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum & Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
2023 Africa Fashion, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
2022 Africa Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
2020 Through an African Lens: Sub-Saharan Photography, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
2019 Shape of Light: Defining Photographs from the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY
Studio Africain, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
African Spirits, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, NY
Kubatana, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway
2018 Collective Recollection, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
2017 Autophoto, Fondation Cartier, Paris, France
Africa Pop Carte Blanche, Rencontres d'Arles Festival, Arles, France [screening]
2016 Femmes d'Afrique – Regards Croisés, Musée Africain, Lyon, France
2015 Folk art africain?, FRAC Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France
A la rencontre de la photographie africaine, Médiathèque de Mérignac, France
2008 La Condition des Soies, Lyon, France
1998 National Museum for African Art, Washington, DC
Städtischen Museum, Munich, Germany

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2026 Mazzoleni, Florent. Sanlé Sory Phaidon Publishing [book] July 2026

2021 Adams, Tim. "The big picture: a taste of freedom in 1970s west Africa." The Guardian 2 May 2021

2020 Chambers, Veronica. "Reflections on 1960, the Year of Africa." The New York Times 8 February 2020

2019 Regan, Sheila. "Critics' Picks: Sanlé Sory." Artforum 6 November 2019

Weiss, Marta. Autofocus: The Car in Photography Thames & Hudson, 2019 [book]

Hutton, Belle. "Nine Photographers Changing the Way We See Africa and Its Diaspora." AnOther 3 October 2019

Palumbo, Jacqui. "The Photographs That Defined 1969." Artsy 30 July 2019

Weber, Jasmine. "The Tantalizing Photographic Figure at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair." Hyperallergic 3 May 2019

"Sanlé Sory – Peuple de la Nuit." The Eye of Photography 2 April 2019

"Parties and passion in Burkina Faso by Ibrahima Sanlé Sory – in pictures." The Guardian 21 March 2019

Palumbo, Jacqui. "These Photographers Captured the Fearless Youth of the 1970s." Artsy 21 March 2019

Proctor, Rebecca Anne. "7 Standout Artists at 1 54 Contemporary African Art Fair in Marrakech." Galerie 22 February 2019

2018 Moroz, Sarah. "Sory Sanlé Captured the Eclectic Youth Culture of Newly Free Burkina Faso." i-D 2 October 2018

Niarchos, Nicolas. "When Burkina Faso Vibrated with a New Culture." The New Yorker 16 September 2018

Woodward, Richard B. "Sanlé Sory, Volta Photo @YossiMilo." Collector Daily 5 June 2018

Schwendener, Martha. "What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week." The New York Times 31 May 2018

"Reimagining Sanlé Sory's Portrait Studio." Photo District News 7 May 2018

Macdonald, Fleur. "Sanlé Sory's joyful photographs of Burkina Faso in the 1970s." The Economist 4 May 2018

Anania, Billy. "Exhibition Review: Sanlé Sory: Volta Photo." Musée 4 May 2018

Dykstra, Jean. "Portfolio: Sanlé Sory." Photograph May 2018

Adesina, Precious. "Snapshot: 'Volta Photo' by Sory Sanlé." Financial Times 27 April 2018

Abani, Chris. "The Postcolonial Moment." New Republic May 2018

Bonanos, Christopher. "The Story of Sory." New York Magazine 16-29 April 2018

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Sory, Sanlé. Volta Photo: Starring Sanlé Sory and the Good People of Bobo-Dioulasso in the Small but Musically Mighty African Country of Burkina Faso Steidl: Göttingen, 2018 [book]
Jansen, Charlotte. “T-Shirts by Sanlé Sory.” Elephant 18 March 2018
Knoblauch, Loring. “Photography Highlights from the 2018 Armory Show.” Collector Daily 9 March 2018
“Agenda: Exhibitions to See.” Aperture Spring 2018
Clewley, John. “Rediscovering an African Legend.” Bangkok Post 16 January 2018
2017 Kleih, Helene. “Sory Sanlé.” Coeval 9 December 2017
Siddons, Edward. “Sory Sanlé's best photograph: the studio where dreams came true.” The Guardian 18 October 2017
Harding, Michael-Oliver. “The unsung hero who captured West Africa’s rebels & Dreamers.” Dazed 26 September 2017
Stone, Bryony. “Sory Sanlé: the photographer that time forgot.” It’s Nice That 29 August 2017
Feder, Vanessa. “Sory Sanlé’s Stunning Black and White Portraits Put Burkina Faso on the Map.” Unrated 29 August 2017
Woodward, Daisy. “Photos Capturing the Youth Culture of 70s Burkina Faso.” Another Man August 2017
Sanlé, Sory. Sory Sanlé: Volta Photo 1965-85 Reel Art Press/Morton Hill: London, 2017 [book]
“Reel Art Press publishes new book of photographic work by Sory Sanlé.” Art Daily 19 August 2017
“Photographing cars: ‘Autophoto’ exhibition at Cartier Foundation.” Urban MishMash 10 August 2017
“Una mostra di fotografi e motori.” Il Post 20 July 2017
Etchebers-Sola, Lucie. “‘Autophoto’ : l’amour sur la banquette arrière.” Creators VICE 17 May 2017
Forster, Siegfried. “’Autophoto’, une liaison artistique exposée à la Fondation Cartier.” RF 20 April 2017
Pontecorvo, Adriane. “Bobo Yéyé: Belle Epoque in Upper Volta.” Popmatters 13 January 2017
Nait Youssef, Mohamed. “Sory Sanlé, regard réfléchi sur tradition et modernité en Afrique.” Al Bayane 4 January 2017
Shakur, Fayemi. “A Witness to Youth Culture in Burkina Faso.” The New York Times 9 January 2017
2016 Beta, Andy. “Bobo Yéyé: Belle Epoque in Upper Volta.” Pitchfork 10 December 2016
Sanlé, Sory. “Bobo Yéyé: Belle Epoque in Upper Volta.” Numero Group 2016 [book]
“The Musical Titans of 1970s Burkina Faso Are Compiled in ‘Bobo Yéyé: Belle Epoque in Upper Volta’.” Okay Africa 8 March 2016
“Sory Sanlé and the Studio Volta Photo.” The Eye of Photography 29 December 2016
2015 Kodjo-Grandvaux, Séverine. “Burkina-Photographie ; Sory Sanlé, l’œil des années yéyé à Bobo.” Jeune Afrique 3 November 2015