



TELEPHONE GALLERY
293 EAST 2ND AVE
VANCOUVER, BC
604 499 9679

Michele Bygodt / Gnoul

December 11th 2021 - February 8th, 2022

Opening: Saturday, December 11th 1-4pm

TELEPHONE GALLERY is pleased to showcase its sixth exhibition featuring visual artist Michèle Bygodt presented by Gloria Wong. Michèle Bygodt's *Gnoul* is an ongoing series of black and white photographs that take apart conventions of Black representation. Through close-up crops and sculptural poses, these intimate photographs explore notions of visibility and invisibility, examining and questioning our perceptions and the historical depictions of Blackness.

Gnoul, also translated as *body* in English from the Fang language of Gabon, consists of a series of black and white images that question the term Black bodies, often used by scientists or media to refer to Black people. The term *body* to mean *people* are used to identify a group of human beings in a specific social and economic context that have been treated as objects. In this photographic project, I question its usage, how it reproduces the objectification that it is supposed to be identifying and the authority hidden behind it.

-- Michele Bygodt



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Born in Libreville, Gabon, Michèle Bygodt's interest in photography began as a teenager when her father's work led her to live in 5 different countries, in both Africa and Europe. Living in a multi-cultural environment and moving from one country to another ignited her interest in travel photography, cultural diversity, differences, and similarities. She graduated with a BA in graphic design and sciences in Paris before moving to Vancouver in 2016 to pursue photography. After attending Emily Carr University of Art+Design, she graduated with a BFA in 2019. During her studies, she was also a nominee for the 2018 Lind Prize.

While studying design, she spent two years learning the Bauhaus movement, which led her to study several artists. Painter and photographer Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, photographers Florence Henri, Andreas Feininger and Karl Blossfeldt mainly contributed to her questioning reality, perception and the art of observing in her work. Michèle's focus is on giving voice to what is unlooked at or invisible.

Some of her work is a part of the Sankofa exhibition, currently showing at the Museum of Anthropology (UBC) until March 27th, 2022. She is also working on a series called *Gnoul* (Body) which questions the term *Black body*, of which five photographs will be on display at the Telephone Gallery (Macaulay & Co Fine art) 2021.