

Augustin Kassi; Idol for Fat Women

TRAILER

He is the champion of big women, a man who has idolized obesity. Augustin Kassi is a painter like no other, an artist who plays with shapes and curves as nobody else does.

RUNTIME: 2 MINUTES 3 SECONDS

COUNTRY: IVORY COAST

FILMING LOCATION: IVORY COAST, ABIDJAN

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

SOURCE: A24

SHOTLIST

01.00 A PAINTING DEPICTING A FAT WOMAN

01.09 AUGUSTIN KASSI WALKING IN HIS WORKSHOP

01.16 AUGUSTIN KASSI AT WORK

01.35 AUGUSTIN KASSI ITV (FRENCH)

“I was on a small bus when a fat woman climbed aboard and the conductor said ‘madam, you’ll have to pay for two seats.’ I said to myself, madam has to pay for two seats, that’s quite something, but why shouldn’t such women be in my paintings.”

01.55 AUGUSTIN KASSI INSIDE A GALLERY EXHIBITING HIS WORK

02.07 PAINTINGS DONE BY AUGUSTIN KASSI

02.16 AUGUSTIN KASSI ITV (FRENCH)

“Here in Africa the beautiful woman, as I’m trying to show, isn’t a really thin woman. In our culture a beautiful woman is, it must be said, a somewhat ample, well-rounded woman. In my paintings I have tried to depict this aspect of the beauty of the African woman.”

02.39 FAT WOMEN AT A MARKET PLACE

02.53 AUGUSTIN KASSI TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO PAINT

02.59 PAINTING OF A TOPLESS FAT WOMAN

END

SCRIPT

Born in 1966, Augustin Kassi is one of the best artists in Africa. He cultivates his own style, and it is working. He is the champion of all categories of fat women.

Outside his workshop, on the walls of the building, Augustin wanted to show attract curiosity by demonstrating what he is capable of doing with a brush. His favorite subject is women that he describes as strong. A friendly man, the door to his workshop is always open to children who want to try their hand at painting.

His paintings have become famous and coveted everywhere around the world, but especially in Europe. Here, the Ivorian-born painter has hosted several very successful exhibitions. He works from his studio, which is located in a district of Abidjan, the financial capital of Cote d'Ivoire. He developed his passion for drawing at a very early age and only trained in an arts centre for three years.

In his paintings, Augustin uses oil or water since he has, after working for many years, attained the means to buy expensive products, particularly in Africa, through the sale of his masterpieces. His career had refused to take off until one day when everything took a dramatic turn. The painter was traveling in a bus. At one stop, a big woman boarded the bus and the conductor asked her to purchase two tickets due to her sheer size and weight. This is how Augustin found the inspiration and therefore decided to change his style and way of doing things. From then on, the budding painter plunged into the world of flesh and fat.

Augustin is convinced that fat women are victims of fashion, which revolves around thinner or anorexic women. In Africa, the so-called strong woman is synonymous with sensuality as she is well built and comes across as healthy.

With regard to men, it is rare to find them in the works of Kassi. Augustin does not shy away from explaining the reason. In his life, men are in the background, in his canvases same as in real life, because since his childhood, he has always been closer to women. For him, they have become a source of inspiration and income.

The unique style of this painter has made him a highly respected artist, a sort of reference point for an entire generation of young painters struggling to find their calling, finding it difficult to develop their own individual style. Augustin Kassi is thus an accomplished painter who has been able to succeed at the grotesque game where the fat woman is often the victim of an unjust system in a continent where excess weight is not frowned upon.