



INVISIBLE PEDESTRIANS

“Mr. Danfo’s Invisible Pedestrians reimagines the modern city as a stage for ancestral return.”

In this ongoing body of work, Mr. Danfo brings together a constellation of masquerades from across Africa - including Egungun, Ekpe, Zangbeto, Kumpo, and Ijele - not as static symbols, but as moving, breathing presences who reclaim their place within the rhythms of contemporary urban life.

Departing from the sculptural language of his earlier Gods of Safety series, where wooden figures upheld reinterpreted traffic signs, Invisible Pedestrians shifts the register from object to apparition. Here, the masquerade is seen in its full regalia and spiritual agency - as guardian, messenger, and mediator between worlds. Each figure, presented through visual composites, photographic interventions, and site-responsive installations, traverses the threshold between sacred procession and civic performance.

Drawing from the artist's research into the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals and his ongoing interest in public iconography, the project imagines a world where the pedestrian - the walker, the ancestor, the citizen - becomes the central figure of care and attention.

In this speculative cityscape, masquerades take over the crosswalks and junctions of Lagos and beyond, their flowing forms interrupting traffic, reminding us that roads, like rituals, are shared spaces of passage.

Invisible Pedestrians asks what it would mean if our urban infrastructures could honour the spirits that built them - if movement itself could be prayer.

CURATORIAL TEXT BY: RENÉE AKITELEK MBOYA





Invisible Pedestrians, 2025, Installation View



Invisible Pedestrians, 2025, Variable Installation, Mixed Media (Stainless Steel, Automobile Paint, Vinyl, Fabric, etc.)



SELECTED MASQUERADES



Igunnuko Masquerade (Nigeria)



Eyo Masquerade (Nigeria)



Otuo Age Grades Masquerade (Nigeria)



Ekpe Masquerade (Nigeria)



Ijaw Masquerade (Nigeria)



Bwa Masquerade (Burkina Faso)



Ijele Masquerade (Nigeria)



Contemporary West African Masquerade- (Source: New Orleans Museum of Art)



Zangbeto Masquerade (Nigeria Benin Rep. & Togo)



Mingaji Masquerade (DR Congo)



Kumpo from Jola People (Senegal, Gambia & Guinea-Bissau)



Iga Masquerade (Nigeria)



Agbogho Mmuo Masquerade (Nigeria)



Gelede Masquerade (Nigeria & Benin Republic)



Dogon Masquerade (Mali)



Contemporary West African Masquerade- (Source: New Orleans Museum of Art)



Egungun Masquerade (Nigeria)



Ekpo Masquerade (Nigeria)