

Afro-French multi-artist living in Brazil, L'homme Statue announces first album

Loïc Koutana, also known as L'homme Statue, is pure art by nature. The singer, dancer, model, performer and digital influencer is an Afro-French immigrant born in Paris, from Congo and Ivory Coast. Out of love, he chose to live in Brazil – which is where he releases his first album, "SER", in November; a work postponed by the pandemic, which finds in the Brazilian month of Black Consciousness the perfect occasion to be born.

Paving the way for the album, Statue releases the song "Do Not Tell", an electronic track that flirts with Brazilian funk and R&B. In it, the artist expresses his frustration with the invasive and violent opinion over the black body, repeating: "do not tell me what I have to do". The video, which involves 3D capture, is directed by Pedro Tejada and Marcello Costa and produced by Stink São Paulo. For the directors, the technique perfectly matched the artist's persona: "Loïc has always stood out a lot in digital media — and we used this as a basis to develop the story of the clip, told through installations and digital moments, representing Loïc's strength in networks versus the struggles he faces in real life."

The single gives hints of the complete work: produced by Statue and Pedro Zopelar, his colleague and greatest creative partner, "SER" walks through techno, Brazilian funk, R&B, disco, trap – sounds that moved the singer during his artistic trajectory.

"The unpretentious and fun way we worked through the process reflected the purity and potency of each composition, resulting in a very unique and authorial work that epitomizes a beautiful part of the L'Homme Statue's private world," says Zopelar.

This particular world stands out in each verse, in each song: with Statue's rich cultural (and ancestral) baggage, the singer flows between English, French and Portuguese, forming the mixed language he has already made his own.

"SER" (a portuguese word that means "to be" or "being") is an intimate portrait even for someone who is used to exposing himself. With a career based on "lending his body to others", as he danced for artists such as Elza Soares, Baco Exu of the Blues and Mahmudi, L'homme Statue is familiar with nudity; Loïc, not so much. On this record, Statue and Loïc meet, recognize each other, define each other.

"I said, 'I'm going to define myself. I decide to take control of my body, my sexuality and who I am.' I want people to remember me for the fact that I am," says L'homme Statue.

The result is an album that feels like a declaration of independence, of the queer, black body that has always been defined by others. Here, Statue controls the narrative itself, moving from romantic and delicate to tense and chaotic without losing vulnerability. More than music, the album is a manifesto – elaborated for years and finally taking form.