

## OLWE AND I - Director's Statement

I met Jean David by accident through a mutual friend a few years ago. I stepped into his famous gallery "Walu" and was immediately mesmerized: I felt like *Alice in Wonderland*, falling into an unknown, strange and fascinating universe. I walked around his shop, admiring what I saw, but not understanding a thing. Jean was kind enough to give me a short tour and doing so giving me my "initiation" into African Art. From then on I was hooked. Every time I came back, I asked him to tell me a new story, because every piece of art has its own story. And he would not only share his knowledge, but above all his love for Africa and African Art.

At some point I asked him whether we couldn't do a film together. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more people could at least on screen see what I was privileged enough to experience?

Jean hesitated. He loved the idea, but the time wasn't right. "Maybe some other time, Christina?", he said.

Well, I didn't give up and am proud that this year I managed to persuade him to give us a weekend and make this film with us. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, I learned so much, not only about Art, but also about Life and Living.

This is my first documentary and I am grateful to share my journey with Jean with you! May you be as enchanted and fascinated as I was (and am) whenever I step into Jean's gallery "Walu".

Christina, 20th of September, 2018