



REINEL BAKOLE - SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Meet Reinel Bakole, a true artistic polymath at the age of 25, regarded as the rising star of the avant-garde Belgian soul scene. Her talent spans singing, songwriting, dance, and performance, forming a mesmerizing multidisciplinary musical universe that pushes creative boundaries.

After a successful two-year touring journey, gracing renowned stages like MIL Lisbon, Printemps de Bourges, Botanique, Horst, Bozar, Dour Festival and more recently Couleur Café in Brussels, Reinel Bakole is in the midst of preparing her debut album, set to release in 2024. The album promises to be a tribute to rhythm, a return to lyrical and dreamy origins, a gentle echo reflecting her melancholic and committed side. Her latest single "Silver armour" teases with style and intention, heralding the arrival of her album that is poised to be powerful, explosive and liberating.

REINEL BAKOLE - LONG BIOGRAPHY

Reinel Bakole, a multidisciplinary artist raised in a Belgian art-loving family, diverged from her musically inclined siblings to passionately pursue dance. At 20, her interest intensified alongside a budding love for music. Studying at Amsterdam's University of Arts, she crafted her debut EP 'A Gal on the Moon,' refining her skills. Gaining recognition back in Belgium, she shared the stage with Ichon at Fifty Sessions, her art flourishing through collaborative inspiration drawn from nature and introspection. In her latest EP, 'Closer To Truth' (2021), Reinel engaged with accomplished producers and musicians such as ShunGu, Chris Ferreira, and Samuel van Binsbergen. These collaborations enriched her performances and various projects, echoing her artistic ethos of collaboration. A transformative journey to Congo in 2022 exposed her to the vibrant young artistic scene, profoundly influencing 'Eye Land' her subsequent release, resonated with the essence of the Democratic Republic of Congo, her homeland. After a successful two-year touring journey, gracing renowned stages like Botanique, Horst, Bozar, Dour Festival and more recently Couleur Café, Reinel Bakole is in the midst of preparing her debut album, set to release in 2024. The album promises to be a tribute to rhythm, a return to lyrical and dreamy origins, a gentle echo reflecting her melancholic and committed side. Her latest single 'Silver armour' teases with style and intention, heralding the arrival of her album that is poised to be powerful, explosive and liberating.

"Reinel Bakole was born and raised in Belgium, in an environment far removed from urban hustle. She grew up in a family where art held a central place, with a developed musical ear. While her siblings played instruments like the violin and guitar, Reinel chose to forge her own path. At the age of 8, she felt the call of dance, and what began modestly quickly evolved into an intensive pursuit. Drawn to pop icons like Michael Jackson and Britney Spears, Reinel envisioned herself in their roles, secretly practicing in her room, repeating, 'I can sing, I can dance, I can dress.'



Her passion for dance intensified particularly at the age of 20. Simultaneously, her interest in music also started to grow, albeit shyly. Singing was something she often kept to herself, fearing judgment from others. It was through dance that she developed her musical ear and a unique sensitivity, which finds expression not only in musical compositions but also in pop melodies, electronic rhythms, and experimental projects.

While her artistic journey began at Art Tendance School, where she received a foundational education, she continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels, focusing on classical, jazz, and contemporary dance. In the capital, where she established a particularly touching connection, Reinel Bakole immersed herself in the hip-hop community, discovering new modes of expression that broke free from conventional norms and developing a diverse and mixed bodily language of her own. Embracing the notion of a collective, she actively participated in numerous cyphers, notably alongside Oumar Diallo and his Supreme Cypher concept, challenging her approach to dance, detaching herself from the concept of judgment, and the gaze of others. She then closely collaborated with various choreographers to refine her artistic expression. After unsuccessful auditions with renowned troupes like Alvin Ailey, Reinel chose the Netherlands as her starting point in 2018.

The move to Amsterdam marked a turning point in Reinel's life. Surrounded by individuals connected to the artistic world, she joined the University of Arts of Amsterdam and began to write more, exploring unconventional artistic forms. Despite lacking formal training as a singer, she continued to evolve authentically and passionately within this realm. She spent two and a half years there, honing her artistic skills while working on her debut EP. After various dance production internships, including one in The Hague, she landed in London to finally complete her first EP, collaborating with local producers to create 'A Gal on the Moon' (2020).

Recognition arrived when Five Oh invited her to share the stage at Ancienne Belgique with French rapper Ichon during a Fifty Session. This opportunity turned into a significant stepping stone, offering invaluable artistic and professional support. Within this team, Reinel was able to explore her artistic identity alongside Lindel, her sister, who took on her management, shaping her music vision, and career choices.

Writing has always held a special place in Reinel's life. From the age of 17, she became passionate about words, seeing them as a form of therapy to express her thoughts and emotions. Her experience in art school pushed her to further explore this form of expression, adding an introspective dimension to her art. Reinel's palette of artistic inspirations is vast. In dance, her work echoes more of her own life experiences than the work of specific personalities. Her musical inspirations include soul, jazz, and even pop icons. Voices like Nina Simone, Etta Jones, and Erykah Badu have left a mark on her for their strength and freedom.

For her latest EP, 'Closer To Truth' (2021), Reinel collaborated with various producers and musicians, including ShunGu, Chris Ferreira, and Samuel van Binsbergen, who accompany her live performances and various projects. Reinel Bakole and Co represent a passion for collaboration. The year 2022 was marked by a significant trip to Congo, during which she



explored the freshest offerings of the local young artistic scene. Following this journey, Reinel released 'Eye Land,' her latest captivating track with echoes of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This was followed by a tour that took her to prestigious stages such as Botanique, Horst, and the Dour Festival.

Throughout her journey, Reinel draws from the nature and colors surrounding her, finding inspiration and fulfillment in these elements. With successful performance experiences at Kunstenfestivaldesarts, opening for Tsar B, solo appearances at Bozar, and more recently at the Couleur Café festival, she has decided to take the leap and tackle more substantial challenges. Approaching the release of her debut album scheduled for February 2024, Reinel Bakole embraces the artistic challenge with both excitement and apprehension. The album promises to be a tribute to rhythm, a return to lyrical and dreamy origins, a gentle echo reflecting her melancholic and committed side. Her upcoming single, 'Swords,' teases with style and intention, heralding the arrival of an album that is poised to be powerful, explosive, and liberating.

Reinel Bakole's story is one of constant evolution, an artist who embraces every aspect of her identity to create art that transcends borders and conventions. With her avant-garde dance, music that exudes jazz and soul freedom, poetic writing, and immersive performances, she opens windows into her inner world, encouraging others to do the same. Her previous performances and career milestones continue to guide her, reminding her of the passion and connection at the core of her art."