

Romuald Hazoumè

Born in 1962, Porto Novo, Benin
Lives and works in Porto Novo

Romuald Hazoumè, who is of Yoruba origin, grew up in a Catholic family, but remained in contact with the Vodun society of his forbears; this dual cultural heritage finds expression in both his masks and installations. In the mid-1980s, he began an extended series of works made from discarded plastic containers, and in particular from gasoline canisters. After slight modifications, these objects became masks, which subtly reveal Hazoumè's critical vision of political systems. He has said of his work: "I send back to the West that which belongs to them, that is to say, the refuse of consumer society that invades us every day."

Hazoumè's masks conform more to the recovery of their materials than to Yoruba traditions; however, there are also important links with this heritage. Hazoumè's art suggests a parallel reading and illustrates how the artist draws on the vocabulary of the initiated to give character to his creations. His art is immediate, but also complex and profound, dealing with political and sociological issues, and questions of identity, as well as pure aesthetics. It is new and contemporary yet embedded in tradition. It is serious but also ironic and full of wit. One can see his work as inevitably coming from West Africa, dealing as it does with survival among other things, but it is assertive and sure of itself. Indeed, his work can be understood as a modern reinterpretation of the phenomena of trances, revealing without reserve the madness of current events. Hazoumè belongs to a second generation of African artists who have obtained well-deserved international recognition.

The Zinsou Foundation Notebooks, Arè Exhibition, Text by Philippe Dagen

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018
Romuald Hazoumè, Gagosian Gallery, New York, USA

2016
Romuald Hazoumè, Gagosian Gallery, Paris - Le Bourget, France
Romuald Hazoumè, 59pm Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2015
Art et développement durable, vol. 4 : Romuald Hazoumè, Swiss Mobilar, Bern, Switzerland
Arè, Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin
Romuald Hazoumè : Dance of Butterflies, Manchester Museum, England

2013
Romuald Hazoumè, Beninese Solidarity with Endangered Westerners, Kunsthaus Graz en partenariat avec The Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz, Austria

2011
Romuald Hazoumè, solo show, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland

2010
Romuald Hazoumè - My Paradise - Made in Porto-Novo, Herbert Gerisch Stiftung, Neumünster, Germany
Romuald Hazoumè. Exit Ball, Galerie Aliceday, Solo Projects ARCO madrid, Madrid, Spain

2006
La Bouche du Roi : an artwork by Romuald Hazoumè, The British Museum, London, England
La Bouche du Roi, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France

2005
Romuald Hazoumè, Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin
Romuald Hazoumè: La Bouche du Roi, The Menil Collection, Houston, USA

2001
La Bouche du Roi, Centre Culturel Français, Cotonou, Benin

1999
Romuald Hazoumè: Vor-Sicht, The Project, New York, USA

1998/1999
Romuald Hazoumè, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018

57th October Salon, The Marvellous Cacophony, Belgrade City Museum, Serbia
Festival Kyotographie, Kyoto, Japan
From Africa to the Americas, Face-to-face Picasso, Past and Present, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Canada
African Passions, Palais Cadaval, Evora, Portugal
Everyday Africa!, Zinsou Foundation, Cotonou, Benin

2017

Art/Afrique : le nouvel atelier _ The Insiders : a selection of works (1989 to 2009) from the Jean Pigozzi collection of contemporary African Art, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London, England
Open Museum #4 Alain Passard, Musée des beaux-Arts, Lille, France
The Eye in the Mask, Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum, Herning, Denmark
AFRICA. Raccontare un mondo, PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy

2016

Essentiel Paysage, MACAAL, Contemporary African Museum Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco
Dans le regard de l'autre, Le Carreau, Cergy, France

2015

Picasso Mania, Grand-Palais, Paris, France
Folk Art Africain ?, FRAC, Bordeaux, France
Global Imaginations, The Lakenhal Museum, Leiden, Netherlands
Double Take : African Innovations, Brooklyn Museum, New-York

2014-2016

Art from elsewhere, International Contemporary Art from UK Galleries
Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), Glasgow 24 October to 1 February 2015
Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery 14 February to 31 May 2015
Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima) 19 June to 27 September 2015
Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston 10 October to 28 November 2015
Towner, Eastbourne 23 January to 3 April 2016
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and Arnolfini 22 April to 17 July 2016

2014

Here Africa, Musée des Suisses du Monde, Genève, Switzerland
MASKS, JGM Galerie, Paris, France
BIACI : Biennale Internationale d'Art Contemporain de Carthagène des Indes (Oeuvre exposée : Water Cargo, 2012. Mixed media installation, 175 x 550 x 320cm. Courtesy Romuald Hazoumè et October Gallery), Bogotà, Colombia
Post-Picasso: Contemporary Artists' Response to His Art, Musée Picasso, Barcelona, Spain

2013

Nuit Blanche 2013 dans le cadre de l'exposition HOMMAGE à l'Institut Français du Bénin, Cotonou, Benin
WEST TO WEST, Owusu-Ankomah & Friends, Städtische Galerie Bremen, Brême, Germany
Initiés, Bassin du Congo, Musée Dapper, Paris
Art Zuid, International Sculpture Route Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Focus sur la collection, Musée de la Fondation Zinsou, Ouidah, Benin
Hommage, Institut Français du Bénin, Cotonou, Benin

2012

The Progress of Love, The Menil Collection, Houston, USA
African Cosmos: Stellar Arts, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
October Gallery, London, England
Afrovision. L'art moderne d'Afrique, Musée d'art moderne, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan
Africa/Africa, Abbaye Saint-André, Centre d'art contemporain, Meymac, France
We Face Forward, Art from west Africa Today, Manchester Art Gallery, England

2011

ARS 11, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
Reconfiguring an African Icon: Odes to the Mask by Modern and Contemporary Artists from Three Continents, Metropolitan Museum, New York, USA
Galerie Hussenot & Magnin-A, Paris, France
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
The Land Between Us, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

2010

The Global Africa Project, MAD : Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
African Stories, Magnin-A, Ancienne Banque du Maroc, Marrakech, Morocco

2009

Against Exclusion, 3rd Moscow Biennial, The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia
Africa ? Una nuova storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Roma, Italy

2007/2008

Why Africa ? La collezione Pigozzi, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Torino, Italy

2007

Uncomfortable Truths Exhibition, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
100% Africa, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

2006

ARTicle 14, Liverpool World Museum, Liverpool, UK
De ida y vuelta. África, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain
Snap Judgements: New positions in Contemporary African Photography, International Center of Photography, New York, USA
Miami Art Central, Florida, USA

2005/2006

African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA

Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, USA

2005

Arts of Africa, The Contemporary collection of Jean Pigozzi, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
CAISA (City of Helsinki Cultural Office), Helsinki, Finland

2004/2007

Africa Remix
Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany
Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2003

Magic Markers: Objects of Transformation, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, USA

2002

40 Jahre: Fluxus und die Flogen, Wiesbaden, Germany

2001

Trade, Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland
Lost & Found, Apex Art Curatorial Program, New York, USA
Guangju [Kwangju] Biennial (3): Man + Space, Guangju, South Korea
Partage d'Exotismes, Biennale d'art contemporain, Lyon, France

1999

Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art (1): Trace, Liverpool, UK

1998/1999

Breeduit, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands
Bénin-Bénin, Gisteren-Tussen-Morgen, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands

1996

Neue Kunst aus Afrika, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
Inklusion-Exklusion, Steirischer Herbst Graz, Graz, Austria

1995/1996

Africus. Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
Istanbul Biennale (4), Orientation, Istanbul, Turkey
An Inside Story: African Art of Our Time
Setagawa Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Tokoshima Modern Art Museum, Tokoshima, Japan
Himeji City Museum of Art, Himeji, Japan
Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama, Japan
Museum of Contemporary Art Japan, Marujame, Japan
The Museum of Fine Arts, Gufu, Japan

1992

Out of Africa: The Jean Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection, Saatchi Collection, London, UK

FAIRS

2017

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Independent, Belgium, Brussels

2016

Untitled, Miami, USA
Galeristes, Carreau du temple, Paris, France
1:54 Foire d'art contemporain africain, London, UK
1:54 Foire d'art contemporain africain, New York, USA
Independent, Belgium, Brussels
AKAA, Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

2015

FIAC OFFICIELLE, Paris, France
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New-York, USA

2014

FIAC-OFFICIELLE, Paris, France
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK
Art Genève, Switzerland

2013

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Londres, Angleterre
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

2007

Documenta 12, Kassel, Germany

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2017

Le Guide Hazan de l'art contemporain 2018, Roxana Azimi, Editions Hazan, Paris

Essentiel Paysage - Artistes Contemporains Africains face à l'environnement, catalogue d'exposition, Fondation Alliances, Musée MACAAL, sous la direction de Brahim Alaoui, p. 151

Collections

Barbier Muller Collection, Geneva

Jean Pigozzi Collection, Geneva

Collection Agnès b, Paris

Collection David Bowie

Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa

The Robert Devereux Collection, London and Nairobi

The British Museum, London

La Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Museumslandschaft Hessen, Neue Galerie, Kassel

National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Emdash Foundation

The Walther Collection

Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio

Die Mobilier Collection

Traboulsi Collection