

Bodys Isek Kingelez

Born 1948, Kimbembele Ihunga, Democratic Republic of Congo
Died 2015, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

In the hands of Bodys Isek Kingelez, the African metropolis becomes an urban utopia. After graduating from secondary school, Kingelez made Kinshasa his home in 1970. Over the next seven years, he studied part time, supporting himself through teaching. During these years, Kinshasa had become a sprawling, chaotic, anarchic city that was falling apart. Kingelez, highly aware of this, dedicated himself aesthetically, politically, and poetically to questioning the human condition, and after 1977, he began to experiment with assembling fantastic structures that offered a redemptive vision for the city. Since 1985, Kingelez has entirely concentrated on what he calls "Architectural Modelism". For Kingelez, this project is one of regeneration: "Art is superior knowledge, a vehicle for individual renewal in improving the general well-being", he stated.

He has created hundreds of models from found materials in which paper, cardboard, and plastic are used to construct the present, the future, and the hopes of an African regeneration. After 1992, he started imagining entire cities. These colossal works are made up of buildings -some playful, some imposing, some utterly fantastic- that are incorporated into a carefully conceived urban grid. Avenues, parks, waterways, stadiums, and monuments are also part of Kingelez's meticulous vision. Together these elements fulfill all the functions of an ideal metropolis that the artist would like to see built. His first city was called Kimbembele Ihunga, to honour his native village, his dead father and his mother, who still lives there.

About the works *Ville Fantôme* (1995), *Kinshasa: Project for the Third Millennium* (1997), *The City of the Future* (2000), he noted: "I wanted my art to serve the community that is being reborn to create a new world, because the pleasures of our earthly world depend on the people who live in it. I created these cities so there would be lasting peace, justice and universal freedom. They will function like small secular states with their own political structure, and will not need policemen or an army."

The current exhibition "Bodys Isek Kingelez: City Dreams" at Museum of Modern Art in New York (until January, 1st, 2019) is a true consecration of this visionary and utopian artist.

FAIRS
2021
1.54 ARTFAIR Paris Christie's

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018
Bodys Isek Kingelez: City Dreams, MoMA, New York, USA (curator: Sarah Suzuki)

2005
Perspectives 145 : Bodys Isek Kingelez, Nina and Michael Zilkha Gallery, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Etats-Unis (curator: André Magnin)

2003
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Centre culturel Wolu-Culture, La Médiatine, Bruxelles, Belgique

2002
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Munich Villa Stuck, Germany
Curator : André Magnin, Yilmar Dziewior

2000-2001
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Kunstverein Hambourg, Germany
Curator : André Magnin, Yilmar Dziewior

1996
D'autres Ajouts d'Été, Bodys Isek Kingelez, MAMCO Contemporary and Modern Art Museum, Geneva, Switzerland

1995
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Cartier Fondation for Contemporary Art, Paris, France
Curator : André Magnin

1992
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020
Kings of Kin, MAGNIN-A gallery, Paris, France

2015-2019

Making Africa, A Continent of Contemporary Design, Travelling Exhibition (curators: Amélie Klein, Okwui Enwezor)

14 Mar 2015 - 13 Sep 2015 Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

30 Oct 2015 - 21 Feb 2016 Guggenheim Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain

22 Mar 2016 - 28 Aug 2016 CCCB Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

01 Oct 2016 - 17 Jan 2017 Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

15 Oct 2017 - 07 Jan 2018 High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia

03 Feb 2018 - 06 May 2018 Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico

14 Oct 2018 - 13 Jan 2019 Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, USA

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 (curators: Suzanne Pagé, Angéline Scherf, Ludovic Delalande, scientific exhibition council: André Magnin)
On aime l'art...!! Un choix d'Éric Mézil parmi les oeuvres de la Collection agnès b., Collection Lambert en Avignon, France

2016

Vivre !!, Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris, France

Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism, Art Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel (curator: Ruth Direktor)

Making Africa - A Continent of Contemporary Design, CCCB, Barcelona, Spain

2015/2016

Beauté Congo - 1926-2015 - Congo Kitoko, Fondation Cartier, Paris, France (curator: André Magnin)

One More Time, Mamco, Geneva, Switzerland

2050 Une brève histoire de l'avenir (curators: Jean de Loisy, Michel Draguet, Pierre-Yves Desaiave et Jennifer Beauloye)

2016 - Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy

2015 - Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels

2015

Making Africa : A Continent of Contemporary Design, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany, Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain

AFRIKA, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark

(im)possible! Artists as Architects, Marta Herford (Gehry galleries), Herford, Germany

2014

Ici l'Afrique / Here Africa, Château de Penthes, Genève, Suisse

Luminós/C/ity. Ordinary Joy: From the Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (curators: David Adjaye, Mariane Ibrahim-Lenhardt)

2014

Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE

Ici l'Afrique / Here Africa, Château de Penthes, Genève, Suisse (curator: Adelina von Fürstenberg)

2013

The Alternative Guide to the Universe, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

2012

Six Yards Guaranteed Dutch Design, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, Netherlands (curator: Suze May Sho)

2011/2012

Mondes inventés, Mondes habités, MUDAM, Luxembourg (curators: Marie-Noëlle Farcy, Clément Minighetti)

2012

Postmodernism, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

2011

JapanCongo, Magasin Grenoble, France (curator: Yves Aupetitallot)

2010

Dreamlands, Pompidou Center, Paris, featuring Bodys Isek Kingelez's amazing model city "Ville Fantôme" (curator: Quentin Bajac)

2010

African Stories, Piasa, Paris, France

Marrakech Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco

2009/2010

Africa : Una nuova storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy (curator: André Magnin)

2007/2008

Why Africa?, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy (curator: André Magnin)

2006/2007

100% Africa, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain (curator: André Magnin)

2006

Aller / retour. L'Afrique, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain

2005

Arts of Africa, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco, France (curator: André Magnin)

2005

African Art Now : Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Museum of Fine Art Houston, Houston, USA (curator: André Magnin)

2004/2005

Arti & Architettura 1900/2000, Genova Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy

2004

Africa Remix, Art contemporain d'un continent (travelling exhibition) (curator: Simon Njami)

24 July 2004 - 7 Nov 2004 Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany

10 Feb 2005 - 17 April 2005 Hayward Gallery, London, England
15 May 2005 - 20 Aug 2005 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Feb - May 2006 Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

2004
Je m'installe aux abattoirs, La collection d'art contemporain d'Agnès b., Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France

2004
Les Afriques, Tri Postal, Lille, France

2003
The American Effect, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA

2003
Transferts, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

2003
Transferts, Centre d'art contemporain de Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Bruxelles, Belgique

2002 - 2003
Afrikanische Reklamekunst (L'art et la pub en Afrique), Iwalewa-Haus, Universität Bayreuth, Germany

2002
Documenta XI, Kassel, Germany

2002
Sao-Paulo Biennial, Sao-Paulo, Brazil

2001
Bodys Isek Kingelez, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany

2000
Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France

2000
Sydney Biennial, Sydney, Australia.2000
Vision du Futur, Grand Palais, Paris, France

2000
Zeitwenden, Kunsterhaus.Vienna, Austria

1999
Zeitwenden, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany

1999
Art-Worlds in Dialogue, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany

1999
1 Monde Réel, Cartier Fondation for Contemporary Art, Paris, France

1999
The 1999 Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA

1998
Unfinished Story, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago. Chicago, USA

1998
Africa Africa, Tobu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan

1997
Africus, Johannesburg Biennial, Johannesburg, South-Africa

1997
Projects 59 : Architecture as Metaphor, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

1997
Kwangju Biennial, Unmapping the Earth, "Becoming", Kwangju, South-Korea

1996
Wall and Space. Reality and Utopia, Bodys Isek Kingelez Architectural Visions
Oksnehallen, Copenhagen, Denmark

1996
Neue Kunst Aus Africa, Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, Germany (curator: Alfons Hug)

1995
Big City, Serpentine Gallery, London, Great-Britain
Curator : André Magnin

1993
Home and the World Architectural Sculpture by two African Artists, The Museum for African Art, New York, USA

1992
Out of Africa, Saatchi Gallery, London, Great Britain
Curator : André Magnin

1991-1992

Africa Hoy-Africa Now

Moderno Art Center, Las Palmas Gran Canary Island, Spain

Groningen Museum, Netherland

Contemporary Art Center. Mexico City, Mexico

Curator : André Magnin

1989

Magiciens de la Terre, Georges Pompidou Center, La Grande Halle de la Villette

Paris, France (curators: Jean-Hubert Martin, André Magnin)

FAIRS

2017

Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais, Paris, France

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2015

Paris

Beauté Congo 1926-2015 Congo Kitoko (catalogue), Editions Fondation Cartier,