

## Romuald Hazoumè

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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, Kunsthau Graz in collaboration with The Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz, Austria

2011

Romuald Hazoumè, solo show, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland (curators: Enrique Juncosa, Sean Kissane)

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

2021

Chateau Duc de Bretagnes, Nantes, France

2020

Ex-Africa, Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France

Résonances, Fondation Opale, Crans-Montana, Switzerland

Alpha Crucis: African Contemporary Art, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway (curator: André Magnin)

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 (curator: Nathalie Bondil)

African Passions, Palais Cadaval, Evora, Portugal (curator: André Magnin)

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 (curators: Suzanne Pagé, Angéline Scherf, Ludovic Delalande, scientific exhibition council: André Magnin)

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 Alfélts Museum, Herning, Denmark

AFRICA. Raccontare un mondo, PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy (curator: Adelina von Fürstenberg)

2016

Essentiel Paysage, MACAAL, Contemporary African Museum Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco (curator: Brahim Alaoui)

Dans le regard de l'autre, Le Carreau, Cergy, France

2015

Picasso Mania, Grand-Palais, Paris, France

Folk Art Africain ?, FRAC, Bordeaux, France (curator: Claire Jacquet)

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 (curator: David Elliott)

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 (curator: Adelina von Fürstenberg)

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), Bogotá, Colombia

Post-Picasso: Contemporary Artists' Response to His Art, Musée Picasso, Barcelona, Spain (curator: Michael FitzGerald)

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 (curator: Christiane Falguayrettes-Leveau)

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 (curator: Christine Mullen Kreamer)

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 (curators: Lowery Stokes Sims, Leslie King-Hammond)

African Stories, Magnin-A, Ancienne Banque du Maroc, Marrakech, Morocco (curator: André Magnin)

2009

Against Exclusion, 3rd Moscow Biennial, The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia

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

2007/2008

Why Africa ? La collezione Pigozzi, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Torino, Italy (curator: André Magnin)

2007

Uncomfortable Truths Exhibition, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

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

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 (curator: André Magnin)  
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 (curator: André Magnin)  
CAISA (City of Helsinki Cultural Office), Helsinki, Finland

2004/2007

Africa Remix (curator: Simon Njami)  
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  
Bénil-Bénil, 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

Africanus. Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Istanbul Biennale (4), Orientation, Istanbul, Turkey  
An Inside Story: African Art of Our Time (curator: Yukiya Kawaguchi)  
Setagawa Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima, 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, Gifu, Japan

1992

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

FAIRS

2021

1:54 ARTFAIR Paris Christie's

2019

FIAC, Paris, France

FIAC Hors les Murs, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, France

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, South Africa

2018

1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK

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, Switzerland  
Jean Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland  
Collection Agnès b, Paris, France  
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa  
The Robert Devereux Collection, London and Nairobi  
The British Museum, London, UK  
La Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin  
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia  
Museumslandschaft Hessen, Neue Galerie, Kassel  
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C, USA  
Emdash Foundation, London, UK  
The Walther Collection, Deutschland  
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, USA  
Die Mobiliar Collection, Bern, Switzerland  
Musée des Beaux-Arts Montréal, Canada  
Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway  
The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas, USA  
Fondation LVMH, Paris, France  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall and Birmingham Museums Trust, Birmingham, UK  
Collection David Bowie, UK  
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
Permanent collection of the US Embassy, Cotonou, Benin