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MESCHAC GABA

Born 1961 in Cotonou, Benin
Lives between Cotonou and Rotterdam, the Netherlands

EDUCATION

1997
Rijksakademie voor Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023
The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2021
Citoyen du Monde, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Money, Money, Money, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2017
L'homme et l'argent, Galerie In Situ, Paris, France
Meschac Gaba, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA
Detresse et Mon Jardin, Le Centre Atropodji, Cotonou, Benin

2016
Bank or Economy, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Museum of Contemporary African Art, Tate Modern, London, UK

2015
Architectures Sculptures, Musée de l'histoire de l'immigration, Le Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris, France

2014
Museum of Contemporary African Art, Deutsche Bank KunstHalle, Berlin, Germany
Meschac Gaba, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA

2013
Le Monde, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Museum of Contemporary African Art, Tate, London, UK

2012

Perruques voitures & Archéologie contemporaine, In Situ/Fabienne LeClerc, Paris, France

2010

Perruques-Architecture, Centro Sperimentale per le Arti Contemporanee, il Filatoio di Caraglio, Italy

Museum for Contemporary African Art & More, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Canary Islands

2009

Museum for Contemporary African Art & More, Museum de Paviljoens, Almere, the Netherlands; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany

The Street, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2007

Tresses and Other Recent Projects, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Tresses, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

Tresses, Iniva, London, UK

Défilé de perruques, Paris, France

Meschac Gaba / Hermann Pitz: Tresse, Galerie Fernand Leger, Ivry, Paris, France

Glue Me Peace, Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, Norway

2005

Library of the Museum, BiblioNova, Geleen, the Netherlands

Glue Me Peace, Tate Modern, London, UK

Le Pain Migrateur, Artra Gallery, Milan, Italy

Meschac Gaba: Tresses, The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York, USA

Peace Maker, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2004

Peace Maker, Ernest G. Welch School of Arts & Design, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

2003

Atlantique, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2002

Library of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Falaki Gallery, American University of Cairo, Egypt

Museum Shop for Sale and Museum Living Room for Sale - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Artra Gallery, Milan, Italy

Le Discothèque du Musée – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Stichting Beeldende Kunst Tramremise, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Le Salon du Musée – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

2001

Marriage Room – Museum of Contemporary African Art, INOVA- Institute of Visual Art, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Library of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Witte de With, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Ensemble : Michel François & Meschac Gaba, Galerie Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Der Inforaum / The Info-room, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland

2000

Meschac Gaba: Salle de Jeux - Museum of Contemporary African Art, S.M.A.K. Gent, Belgium

Game Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Crown Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Spielregeln / Rules of the Game, Galerie Gebauer, Berlin, Germany

1999

Summer Collection - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Salle de Jeux – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Le Pavé Dans La Mare, Besançon, France
Museum Restaurant - Museum of Contemporary African Art, W139, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Vente en gros et détaille, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1998

Missing Links: Draft Room – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Praterinsel, Munich, Germany
Museum of Contemporary African Art, De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Architecture of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Gate Foundation, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Meschac Gaba, SBK Kunstuitleen & Galerie 23, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1997

Moneta Exotica. Oorspronkelijk geld uit de hele wereld: Draft Room – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Rijksmuseum Het Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Leiden, the Netherlands
Bazar Bizar, Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1995

Art Festival pour la Francophonie, Palace of the President of Bénin, Cotonou

1993

Dak'art, Galerie Ife, Dakar, Senegal

1991

Meschac Gaba, Centre Culturelle Français de Cotonou, Bénin

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Imaginary Friends, Joan Miro Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

2022

Where do I begin, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

Stevenson and Chill, Stevenson Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Hope: 2nd Biennale, De Heilige Driehoek, Oosterhout, the Netherlands
THIS IS NOT AFRICA – UNLEARN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED, ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Denmark

2020

The House of Opportunity, S.M.A.K, Ghent, Belgium
The Return of the Real, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA
Songs in the Dark, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA

2019

Mapping Worlds: Selected Works from the Scheryn Art Collection, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
Risk, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
The Warmth of Other Suns: Stories of Global Displacement, Phillips Collection, Washington DC, USA
Leaving the Echo Chamber, 14th Sharjah Biennale, UAE
Museum of Contemporary African Art (selections), Works from the Collection, Tate Switch House, London, UK

2018

African Metropolis. An Imaginary City, MAXXI, Rome, Italy

Both, and, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Enchanted Bodies / Fetish for Freedom, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy
The Red Hour, 13th Dakar Biennale, Senegal
More for Less, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

You and I, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
Their Own Harlems, The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York
The New Parthenon, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Markets and Man: Of economic and other values, Kunstraum Baden, Switzerland
Noise and Movement, Videobox Festival, Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
Afrique Capitales, La Villette, Paris, France
A Painting Today, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
The White Hunter. African Memories and Representations, FM Centre for Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy
When the Heavens Meet the Earth: Selected Works from the Sina Jina Collection of Contemporary Art, Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge, UK

2016

Afrika 010, Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
We Call It Ludwig, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

2015

Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
Everything Must Go, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, UK
Liberated Subjects: Present Tense, Foundation De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium
Global Imaginations, Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden, the Netherlands
Salon Style, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, USA

2014

Chroma, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
The Theatre of the World, Museo Tamayo, Mexico
Atopolis, Mons, Belgium

2013

A Sculptural Premise, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Station to Station, New York to San Francisco, USA
When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes: A Restoration/A Remake/A Rejuvenation/A Rebellion, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, USA

2012

Inventing the Word: The Artist as Citizen, Biennale Bénin
When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes: A Restoration/A Remake/A Rejuvenation/A Rebellion, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA
Through an Open Window: Contemporary Art from the Rabo Art Collection, Institut Neerlandais, Paris, France
We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today, Manchester City galleries, UK
Intense Proximity, La Triennale 2012, Paris, France
Six Yards: Guaranteed Dutch Design, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, the Netherlands

2011

What we talk about when we talk about love, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Museum Show: Part 1, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
The Global Contemporary: Art worlds after 1989, ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany
Geography of Somewhere, Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2010

The Global Africa Project, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA

Exhibition Models, De Bond, Bruges, Belgium

Touched, Liverpool Biennale, UK

This is Our Time, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Act VIII: Nether Land, Dutch Culture Centre, Shanghai, China

Pleased to Meet You: South Africa, Gateway to Africa, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

2009

Esposizione Universale, GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy

2008

Glück - Welches Glück, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden, Germany

Port City, Greenland Street Gallery, Liverpool, England, UK

Carried Away: Procession in Art, Museum Voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, the Netherlands

Biennale Cuvée, OK Center for Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria

2007

Africa Remix, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

2006

Sweetness and Museum Shop, São Paulo Biennale, Brazil

Tresses, 6th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea

La Maison, Sydney Biennale, Australia

Qui Veut Cajoux, Je Veux Cajoux, Fort op de Ruigenhoeksedijk, De Kleine, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Boulangerie Africaine, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Tresses, 9th Havana Biennale, Cuba

Global Tour: Tresses, W139, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Respect! Formes de cohabitation: Peace Maker, Musée Dar Si Saïd, Marrakech, Morocco

2005

Overtures - on Water: Water Village, Art Circolo Kunstprojekt, Munich, Germany

Trace of a Structure of Ideas: Archaeology of a Utopia in the Hardau, Zurich, Switzerland

Boulangerie Africaine, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

Africa Remix: Identità & Nomadismo, Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy

Africa Remix: Boulangerie Africaine, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

San Francisco, Monuments for the USA: Peace Mountain, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA

Dressing Ourselves, La Triennale di Milano, Italy

2004

Horizons: Rules of the Game, Museum of World Cultures, Göteborg, Sweden

Economies, Artra Gallery, Milan, Italy

Strange Planet: Peace Maker, Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

Contemporary Archeology: The Fiction of Authenticity, Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, USA

Money Bed, Fundament Foundation, Tilburg, the Netherlands

Africa Remix: Boulangerie Africaine, Kunstpalast, Dusseldorf, Germany

Visa For Thirteen, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island, New York, USA

Les Afriques: Poulet Morgue, Le Tri Postal, Lille/Cultural Capital of Europe, France

Open Studios, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York

2003

Contemporary Archeology, Forum of Contemporary Art, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Water, Water Village, Amsterdamse Duinwaterleidingen, the Netherlands

Democracy Game, Exhibition of Exhibitions, Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York, USA
We Are The World: Ginger Bar, Dutch Pavilion, 50th Venice Biennale, Italy
Plasticiens en Mouvement/Kunstenaaars in Beweging: Origine du Monde, De Markten, Brussels, Belgium

2002

Artists' Games, Public's Games, Kunstverein Ulm, Germany
Library of the Museum, Museum Shop and Humanist Space, Documenta11, Kassel, Germany
Geld und Wahrung / Das letzte Tabu: Museum Shop, EXPO, Switzerland

2001

Democracy Game, Helsinki, Finland
International Art Fair: Museum Shop, Art /32/ Basel, Switzerland
Locus/Focus: Palace of Eternity, Sonsbeek 2001 (9), Arnhem, the Netherlands
Geldlust: ModellBanking: Money Tree, Kunsthalle Tirol, Hall in Tirol, Austria
National Slavery Monument, Slave Route, City Hall Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Realite Revisitee: Experimenter le Reel : Atlantique, Cimaise & Portique centre departmental d'art contemporain, Albi, France
Mirror's Edge, Museum of Contemporary African Art - The Architecture of the Museum, Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland
Red Ribbon Art: Money Box, Groninger Museum, Groningen, the Netherlands

2000

Mirror's Edge, Architecture of the Museum - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy;
Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada
For Real: Marriage Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The Sky is the Limit, Meschac Gaba Made in Taiwan, Fine Arts Museum, Taipei Biennale, Taiwan
L'Art dans le Monde: Pain et Marteaux, Paris Musees/Revue des Beaux Arts, Pont Alexandre III, Paris, France
East/International: Museum of Contemporary African Art – Draft Room, Norwich Gallery, Norwich, UK
Play-use: Game Room, Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
A Casa Di: Art and Religion Room – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cittadellarte/Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy
Continental Shift. A voyage between cultures: Le Discotheque du Musee - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, the Netherlands
Dialogues, Museum Shop, Lumen Travo Gallery, ARCO, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Worthless (invaluable). The concept of value in contemporary art: Draft Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana, Slovenia
No Title, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Chess Game, part of Game Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Galerie Gebauer, Kunstmesse, Basel, Switzerland

1999

Mirror's Edge: Architecture of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Bildmuseet, Umea, Sweden
South Meets West: Museum Shop - Museum of Contemporary African Art, National Museum of Ghana, Accra
Waardige Zaken. Wonderkamers: Summer Collection, De Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem, the Netherlands
Casino, Le Pave Dans La Mare, Besanon, France
TroubleSpot. Painting: Draft Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, NICC and MUHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
Trafique: Museum Shop - Museum of Contemporary African Art, S.M.A.K. Ghent, Belgium
National Museumweekend: Architecture of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Unlimited.nl-2: Architecture of the Museum – Museum of Contemporary African Art, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1998

Copy Culture. 40 Jaar Amsterdams Grafisch Atelier, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Meeting Point, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
NICC, Antwerp, Belgium

1997

Draft Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Blueprint, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1996

Rasa Foundation, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Open Ateliers, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1995

Ewole, Lome, Togo
German Embassy, Cotonou, Bénin

1994

on the occasion of the top Africa/America, Libreville, Gabon
Biennale d'Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Centre Culturelle Chinois, Cotonou, Bénin
Galerie GO, Cotonou, Bénin

1993

Centre Culturelle Americain, Cotonou, Bénin

1992

Arts sur 7. S.O.S. Artistes, Halle des Sports, Cotonou, Bénin
Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France

AWARDS

2002

Will Grohmann Preis, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, Germany
AICA Award, International Association of Art Critique

RESIDENCIES

2006

Recife, Brazil

2005

Couvent des Récollets, Paris, France

2003

PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, USA

1999

Thami Mnyele Residency, Amsterdam, The Netherlands