



GEORGES ADÉAGBO

Born in 1942 in Cotonou (Benin).

He lives and works in Cotonou and Hamburg.

After studying law in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Rouen (France), Adéagbo returned to Benin in the end of the 60s. By the time he was discovered in 1993 by a European curator by accident, he made daily complex installations in his yard without calling himself an artist. In 1994 he was invited to his first exhibition. From then on, he implements his site-specific installations with a team of craftsmen in Benin. In 1999 he participated in the Venice Biennale and was the first artist from Africa to be given an award for his installation at the Campo Arsenale. Since at least 2002, when he presented an In-Situ-Installation as part of the Documenta 11, curated by Okwui Enwezor in Kassel, Adéagbo has become one of the most renowned artists of Africa.

His works can be found in other major collections, i.e. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Toyota City Museum and KIASMA Helsinki. The exhibitions are supported and co-curated by Stephan Köhler (Cultural Forum South-North Hamburg-Cotonou).

AWARDS & GRANTS

2020 Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (SARF)

2017 Finkenwerder Kunstpreis

2006/07 DAAD artists' program Berlin

1999 Venice Biennial 1999, premio della Giuria

COLLECTIONS

Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2020

Musée d'art et d'histoire Genève, Maison Tavel, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 2016

Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 2014

Moderna Museet Stockholm, 2014

Whitworth Art Gallery The University of Manchester, 2013

Collection Cecile Fakhouri Abidjan, 2013

GIZ Regional Office Cotonou, 2012

KIASMA Helsinki, 2011

MUSAC Leon, 2011

MAK Vienna, 2009

Oslo National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, 2009



Ulmer Museum, 2007
Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2006
Blake Byrne, Los Angeles, 1999 (donated to L.A. MoCA spring 2005)
Museum Ludwig Cologne, 2003
Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, 2000 and 2004

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

"Ma personne de Georges Adéagbo", Mennour, Paris

2024

"L'œuvre d'art d'Aby Warburg et les œuvres d'art des artistes", Hamburger Kunsthalle, Germany

2023

"Create to Free Yourself: Abraham Lincoln and the History of Freeing Slaves in America",
President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, D.C., USA

2022

"Ouidah d'hier et Ouidah d'aujourd'hui", Atlantic, Ouidah, Benin

"À l'école de Ernest Barlach, le sculpteur", Ernst Barlach Haus, Hamburg, Germany

2021

"La lumière qui fait le bonheur...", Maschinenhaus M2, KINDL – Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst,
Berlin, Germany

"La Philosophie de l'art..." & "L'Eau, la clé...", Musée d'art et d'histoire Genève, Maison Tavel,
Geneva, Switzerland

2020

"L'Abécédaire de Georges Adéagbo: la civilisation parlant et faisant voir la culture"...!, Galerie
Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany

2019

"La mort et la résurrection d'Aby Warburg"...!, Warburg-Haus, Hamburg, Germany

2018

St. Petri zu Lübeck, Lübeck, Germany

"Genève Suisse d'hier et Genève Suisse d'aujourd'hui", Maison Tavel & Palais des Nations, UNO,
Geneva, Switzerland

"Que suis-je né et fait pour être dans la vie (à la rencontre de la seconde personne de soi)", HÚS
Espace d'exposition de l'École Supérieure d'art et Design Le havre-Rouen (ESADHaR), France

"Le pays, leur pays, mon pays, l'histoire de mon pays ...", Centre André Malraux, Rouen, France

"Jeanne et Jeanne (les expressionnistes avec les impressionnistes, et l'histoire de Jeanne)...!",
Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen, France

2017

"Georges Adéagbo – Finkenwerder Kunstpreis 2017", Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

2016

"Georges Adéagbo, The Defense...! / La défense...!", Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The
Netherlands

"Knowing oneself, does one know who the other is? Africa in Jerusalem", Focus Gallery, The Israel
Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

2015

"Inverted Space", Kulturforum Süd-Nord und Stadtkuratorin Hamburg, Germany

2014

"Les artistes et l'écriture"..!", Galerie Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany

"La Naissance de Stockholm", Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

2013

"Decolonize München", Münchener Stadtmuseum, Sammlung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Munich, Germany

"Il était une fois, Košice: Košice d'hier, Košice d'aujourd'hui..!", Make-Up Gallery, Košice, Slovakia

2011

"La Mission et les Missionnaires", MUSAC, Leon, Spain

2010

"La Culture et les Cultures – La Chine à Hambourg", Galerie Holzhauer, Hamburg, Germany

2009

"Die Kolonisation und die Geschichte der Kolonisierten", MAK Vienna, Austria

2008

"La rencontre..!" Venise-Florence, Palazzo Vecchio and Gallery Frittelli, Florence, Italy

"La Belgique au Congo", Sint Lukas Galerie, Brussels, Belgium

2007

"Tout de Moi à Tous", daadgallery Berlin, Germany

"La rencontre..!" Venise-Florence, Fondazione Querini Stampalia-Venice, Italy

2005

'Dieu-créateur dans la création' und 'AC-DC Archiv des Museum Ludwig', Galerie Elisabeth Kaufmann, Zürich, Switzerland

2004

"L'explorateur et les explorateurs devant l'histoire de l'exploration".. !-Le théâtre du monde.. !", Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

"Le Socialisme Africain", Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK

2001

"L'Epoque Pythagoreene", Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria

2000

"La rencontre de l'Afrique et du Japon", Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyoto, Japan

"Abraham, l'ami de Dieu", P.S.1, New York, Long Island City, USA

1997

"Death and Resurrection (La mort et la résurrection)", Galerie Natalie Obadia, Paris, France

"Redemption, the Redeemer (la rédemption, le rédempteur)", le Quartier, centre d'art contemporain, Quimper, France



GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

"Frozen Mirrors", KAI 1, Düsseldorf

"Révélation! Art Contemporaine du Bénin", Conciergerie, Paris

2023

"Machinations", Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain

2021

"The Self-Taught Enigma", Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole, France

"Nimmersatt? Imagining Society without Growth", Kunsthalle Münster, LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany

2020

"Global(e) Résistance", Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

"Stoa169", Polling, Germany

2019

"Kunstbetriebe 3", Kunsthalle St. Annen, Lübeck, Germany

"Anarchive", Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig, Germany

2018

"der grosse Anspruch des kleinen Bildes", Galerie Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany

"Deutschland ist keine Insel", Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany

2017

"Beyond the Box. Sammlung Dohmen", Leopold-Hoesch-Museum, Düren, Germany

"Between Departure and Arrival", Schloss Agathenburg, Germany

"AFRICA. Telling a world", Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy

"The White Hunter: African memories and representations", FM Centre for Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy

2016

"Georges Adéagbo and Otobong Nkanga", Gallery Lumen Travo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

"Wir nennen es Ludwig", Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

"THE INCANTATION OF THE DISQUIETING MUSE. On Divinity, Parallel- and Supra-realities or the Exorcisement of 'Witchery', SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany

"Why not Ask Again?", 11th Shanghai Biennale, China

"An Age Of Our Own Making", Images Biennial, Holbaek, Denmark

"... und eine welt noch", Kunsthaus Hamburg, Germany

2015

"After Babel", Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

"Global Imagination", Museum de Lakenhal, Leiden, Netherlands

"The Problem of God", Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany

2014

"Bois Secret", Dakar Biennale, Off event curated by Martine Boucher, Dakar, Senegal



"Colonia Apócrifa", Re-installation of "The Mission and Missionaries", MUSAC, León, Spain
"L'Allemagne avant la guerre et L'Allemagne après la guerre..!", Re-installation, Iwalewa Haus, Bayreuth, Germany

"Artevida", School of Visual Arts Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2013

"DECOLONIZE MÜNCHEN" at the Stadtmuseum München, Germany
"L'Allemagne avant la guerre et L'Allemagne après la guerre..!", Iwalewa Haus, Bayreuth, Germany

2012

Paris Triennial, Palais de Tokyo, France, curated by Okwui Enwezor
"We Face Forward", Whitworth Art Gallery Manchester, UK
"The Storytellers", The Stenersen Museum Oslo, Norway
"Biennale Regard Benin 2012", Porto Novo and Togbin Plage, Cotonou, Benin

2011

"ARS 11", Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
"ABSOLUTT INSTALLASJON National Museum for Art", Architecture and Design. Oslo, Norway.
Reinstallation of the work commissioned for the exhibition "Hypocrisy" in 2009

2010

"Transparency" Trasparenze, Macro Futuro Rome, Italy, curated by Laura Cherubini and Sauro Bocchi, hosted by Fabula in Art
"Transparency" Trasparenze, MADRE Napoli, Italy

2009

"Hypocrisy-The Site Specificity of Morality" Oslo National Museum of Contemporary Art, Norway
"Fare Mondi" 53rd Venice Biennial, Italy

2008

"Ephemeral Fringes", Art Brussels, Belgium
"Regardez l'histoire!" in "See History 2008" Kunsthalle Kiel, Germany
"Intolerance" Ravello Festival, Sorento, Italy

2007

"Créer le monde en faisant des collections- hommage a Christoph Weickmann", in "Weickmann's Wunderkammer", Ulmer Museum, Ulm, Germany
"Un espace avec le Monde", in "Beyond the Wall", Stiftung Brandenburger Tor, Max Liebermann Haus, Berlin, Germany

2006

"Abraham, l'ami de Dieu" (Philadelphia version) Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
in "Notations: Out of Words" that included also Bruce Nauman, On Kawara, Glenn Ligon and Joseph Kosuth

2005

"Dieu-créateur dans la création" and "AC-DC Archiv des Museum Ludwig" both in modified versions at Galerie Kaufmann, Zürich, Switzerland



"La Colonisation Belge en Afrique Noir", modified version in Belgique Visionnaire, Bozar, Brussels, curated by Harald Szeemann

The Blake Byrne Collection, ed. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA

2004

"In the Bed" in: "In Bed." Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyoto, Japan

"Dieu-créateur dans la création", Art Cologne, Stand Galerie Elisabeth Kaufmann, Germany

"AC-DC Archiv des Museum Ludwig", Rheinschau, Cologne, Germany

2002

"L'explorateur et les explorateurs devant l'histoire de l'exploration..!-Le théâtre du monde.. !", in : Documenta 11, Kassel, Germany

2001

"Le Socialisme Africain (African Socialism)" in: "The Short Century" by Okwui Enwezor four venues. Villa Stuck- Munich, Haus der Kulturen der Welt-Berlin, Germany; MCA-Chicago, P.S.1- New York (2002), USA

"Un espace...! Monde (histoire de l'art)" in : Ein Raum ist eine Welt, Kunsthalle Zurich, Switzerland

2000

"ForwArt : a choice", six curators-six artists, Harald Szeemann invited Georges Adéagbo, who composed "La colonisation Belge en Afrique noir" for this exhibition in Brussels hosted by the BBL (banque bruxelles lambert) Belgium

"La resurrection de Edith Piaf" in "Voilà . le monde dans la tête", Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, France

"Hommage à Napoléon le grand" in "la ville, le jardin, la mémoire", Rome, installation in the loggia and the garden of villa Medici, Italy

for "Partage de l'exotisme" at the fifth Biennale de Lyon, France, the piece "La mort et la resurrection (Death and Resurrection", created for the exhibition at Galerie Natalie Obadia, Paris 1997) was partially installed against the artists will

1999

"Venise d'hier-Venise d'aujourd'hui" ("The Story of the Lion") a one-day installation for the Campo dell'Arsenale, June 10, hosted by Joint Adventures Art Projects and the Venice Biennial, Italy, awarded with the 'premio della giuria' (prize of the jury)

"Kunstwelten im Dialog", Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany. Concept: Marc Scheps (Global Art Rheinland 2000) Against Georges Adéagbo's will, the piece "Death and Resurrection" (dedicated for a gallery exhibition in Paris 1997) was partially installed. His offer to create a site specific installation for the occasion and city of Cologne was refused

1998

"Cannibalism" (le canibalisme) in "Roteiros, Roteiros, ...Roteiros", XXIV Biennale de Sao Paolo, Brazil

"The Philosophical Schools" (Les Écoles philosophiques), 7. Triennale der Klein-Plastik, Afrika-Europa, Stuttgart, Germany

1997

Johannesburg Biennial, South Africa



"Contemporary Art and Modern Art" (L'art contemporain et l'art moderne) "Georges Adéagbo and Honoré d'O", Kunsthalle FRI-ART, Fribourg, Switzerland

"Creativity" (la créativité) in "Die anderen Modernen", Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

"The Guardians of the World" (Les veilleurs du monde), studio-session and exhibition at the Centre Culturel Français, Cotonou, Benin and Musée national d'arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France

"The First Year of Democracy" 1997-1998 (L'An 01 de la démocratie) in "Alternating Currents," 2nd Johannesburg Biennial, South Africa

1996

"Images of Africa" (Les images de l'Afrique), in "African Art towards the Year 2000", Round Tower, Copenhagen, Denmark

"The Renaissance" (La renaissance), Galerie du jour Agnès B., Paris, France

1995

"Peace in the World" (La paix dans le monde) in "Dialog des Friedens", Palais of the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

"Art and Evolution", (L'art et l'évolution) in "Big City", The Serpentine Gallery, London, UK

"Archaeology" (L'archéologie) in "African Artists and Aids", Centre Culturel Français, Cotonou, Benin; The Dakar Biennial, Senegal

1994

"Archaeology" (L'archéologie), in "La Route de l'art sur la Route de l'esclave", Saline Royale d'Arc-et-Senans, France; traveling in 1997 to : Centre culturel du SESC Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil, 1998: Musée d'art moderne, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Centre culturel de Fond Saint-Jacques, Sainte-Marie, Martinique, 1999 Artchipel, scène nationale de la Guadeloupe