



**MESCHAC GABA**

(b. 1961, Benin, lives and works in Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

**EDUCATION**

1997        Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

**SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2010        Museum of contemporary African art & more, Centro Atlantico de Arto Modero- CAAM- Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- 2009        The Street, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town South Africa  
Sweetness, Ullens centre for contemporary Art, Beijing, China  
Museum of Contemporary African Art, De Paviljoens, Almere, Netherlands  
Museum of Contemporary African Art, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
- 2008        Gluck, artistic display-scenography for the Deutsches Hygiene Museum, Dresden, Germany  
Trace, Lumen Travo gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2007        Tresses and other recent projects, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
Tresses, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006        Tresses, inIVA, London, (street) performance, United-Kingdom  
Défilé de perruques, City of Paris, (street) performance, France  
Glue Me Peace, Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, Norway
- 2005        Library of the Museum, BiblioNova, Geleen, Netherlands  
Glue Me Peace, Tate Modern, London, United-Kingdom  
Le Pain Migrateur, Artra Gallery, Milano, Italy  
Meschac Gaba: Tresse, The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York, NY, USA  
Peace Maker, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2004        Peace Maker, Ernest G. Welch School of Arts & Design, Gallery of the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia
- 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 and Geneva, Italy  
Le Discothèque du Musée - Museum of Contemporary African Art, SBK Tramremise (Stichting Beeldende Kunst), 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, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA  
Library of the Museum - Museum of Contemporary African Art Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Der Inforaum /The Info-room, Kunsthalle Bern, witzerland
- 2000        Meschac Gaba: Salle de Jeux- Museum of Contemporary African Art, S.M.A.K. Ghent, 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 detaille, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, 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 knsm-eiland, 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: in conjunction with the exhibition Bazar Bizar, Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1995  
 Art festival Pour la FrancophoniePalace of the President of Bénin, Cotonou, Benin
- 1993  
 Biennale de Dakar, Galerie Ife, Dakar, Senegal
- 1991  
 Meschac Gaba, Centre Culturelle Français de Cotonou, Benin

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009  
 Sweetness, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China  
 Esposizione Universale, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo, Italy
- 2008  
 Biennale Cuvée, OK Center for Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria  
 Port City, A Foundation, Greenland Street, London, United-Kingdom  
 Sonsbeek 2008, Arnhem, The Netherlands  
 Carried away – Procession in art, Museum of contemporary art in Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2007  
 Africa Remix, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg South Africa  
 Port City, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton, Arnolfini, Bristol, United- Kingdom  
 Brocken Memory, Ghana National art Museum, Accra  
 Residents, Espace EDF Electra, Paris, France  
 Suitcase Illuminated #5 Parallel Economies, P74 Center and Gallery, Ljubljana
- 2006  
 Meschac Gaba/Hermann Pitz: Tresse,Galerie Fernand Leger, Ivry, Paris, France  
 Sweetness and Museum Shop, São Paulo Biennale, How to Live Together, Brazil  
 Fever Variations,6th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea  
 La Maison, Sydney Biennale Contact Zones, Sydney, Australia  
 Qui Veut Cajoux, Je Veux Cajoux, second edition of 'De Kleine Biënnale' (The Little Biennial for children) Fort op de Ruigenhoeksedijk, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
 Boulangerie Africaine, in Africa Remix (traveling exhibition), Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
 Tresses, Biennale of Havana, Cuba  
 Global Tour: Tresses, W139, Amsterdam  
 Respect! Formes de cohabitation : Peace Maker, Musée Dar Si Saïd, Marrakech, Morocco  
 Biennale of Sydney, Australia  
 Biennale de La Habana, Cuba
- 2005  
 Ouvertures - on Water: Water Village,City of Munich, Art Circolo Kunstprojekt, Munich, Germany  
 "Trace of a Structure of Ideas: Archaeology of a Utopia in the Hardau", City of Zurich, Switzerland: proposal Embassy, competition project  
 Boulangerie Africaine, Hayward Gallery, London, United-Kingdom  
 Africa Remix: Identità & Nomadismo, Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy  
 Africa Remix: Boulangerie Africaine, Centre George Pompidou, Paris, France  
 San Francisco, Monuments for the USA: Peace Mountain, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA  
 Dressing Ourselves, Meschac Gaba, La Triennale di Milano, Italy
- 2004  
 Horizons: Rules of the Game, Museum of World Cultures, Göteborg, Sweden

Economies, Art and Gallery, Milano, Italy  
 Strange Planet: Peace Maker, Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery  
 of the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia USA  
 Contemporary Archeology, The Fiction of Authenticity, Miller Gallery of the  
 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
 Money Bed, Lustwarance 04, City Park project, Fundament Foundation,  
 Netherlands  
 Africa Remix: Boulangerie Africaine, Kunstpalast, Dusseldorf, Germany  
 Visa For Thirteen, International Studio Program exhibition: Peace Maker, PS1  
 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY, USA  
 Les Afriques: Poulet Morgue, Le Tri Postal, Lille/Cultural Capital of Europe,  
 France  
 We Are The World/Rotterdam Edition of Dutch Pavillion at Venice Biennale  
 Ginger Bar, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 Ginger Bar, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 Open Studios, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY, USA

2003

Contemporary Archeology, Fiction of Authenticity, Forum of Contemporary  
 Art, St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
 Water, Water Village, Amsterdamse Duinwaterleidingen, Amsterdam, The  
 Netherlands  
 Democracy Game, Exhibition of Exhibitions, Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York, USA  
 We Are The World: Ginger Bar, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy: Dutch  
 Pavillion  
 Plasticiens en Mouvement/Kunstenaars 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

2001

Geld und Währung / Das letzte Tabu: Museum Shop, EXPO, Switzerland  
 Ensemble : Michel François & Meschac Gaba, Galerie Lumen Travo, Amsterdam,  
 The Netherlands  
 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  
 Design for National Slavery Monument, Slave Route, City Hall Amsterdam, The  
 Netherlands Réalité Revisitée: Expérimenter le Réel : Atlantique,  
 Cimaïse & Portique  
 centre departmental d'art contemporain, Albi, France  
 Mirror's Edge, Museum of Contemporary African Art - The Architecture of the  
 Museum, curated by Okwui Enwezor, travelling exhibition: Tramway, Glasgow,  
 Scotland  
 Red Ribbon Art: Money Box, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands

2000

Mirror's Edge, Architecture of the Museum - Museum of Contemporary African  
 Art, Castello di Rivoli, Turin Italy  
 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, Taiwan: Taipei Biennale  
 L'Art dans le Monde : Pain et Marteaux, Paris Musées/Revue des Beaux Arts,  
 Pont Alexandre III, Paris, France  
 East/International: Museum of Contemporary African Art - Draft Room,  
 Norwich Gallery, Norwich, United-Kingdom  
 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 Discothèque du Musée - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- ARCO, Art fair, Dialogues, Museum Shop presented by Lumen Travo Gallery, Spain
- Worthless (invaluable). The concept of value in contemporary art: Draft Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- NoTitle, Lumen Travo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Mirror's Edge, Architecture of the Museum -Museum of Contemporary African Art, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- Chess Game, part of Game Room - Museum of Contemporary African Art, presented by Galerie Gebauer, Berlin. Kunstmesse, Basel, Switzerland
- 1999
- Mirror's Edge: Architecture of the Museum - Museum of Contemporary African Art, Bildmuseet, Umeå, 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 Pavé Dans La Mare, Besançon, 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. extra muros, Ghent, Belgium
- Nationaal Museum Weekend: 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
- Virtual exhibition at [africaserver.nl/virtual/exhibitions/gaba](http://africaserver.nl/virtual/exhibitions/gaba)
- 1996
- Rasa Foundation, Utrecht, The Netherlands
- Open Ateliers, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1995
- Ewole, Lome, Togo
- German Embassy, Cotonou, Benin
- 1994
- on the occasion of the top Africa/America, Libreville, Gabon
- Biennale d'Abidjan 1994, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- Centre Culturelle Chinois, Cotonou, Benin
- Galerie GO, Cotonou, Benin
- 1993
- Centre Culturelle Americain, Cotonou, Bénin
- 1992
- Arts sur 7. S.O.S. Artistes, Halle des Sports, Cotonou, Benin
- Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France

#### WEBSITES

- 2006 [www.gabatresses.org](http://www.gabatresses.org)
- 2002 [www.imal.org/gaba](http://www.imal.org/gaba)

## AWARDS

- 2002 Will Grohmann Preis (Akademie der Kunst, Berlin, Germany)  
AICA Award (International Association of Art Critiques)

## MONOGRAPHS

- 2005 Meschac Gaba: Tresse, The Studio Museum, New York  
2001 Library of the Museum / Bibliothèque du Musée, Vol. 1, Museum of Contemporary African Art, Artimo Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

## CATALOGUES, ART BOOKS, DVD's

- 2006 How To Live Together, Sao Paulo Bienal, Brazil  
Fever Variations, Gwangju Bienal, South Korea  
Contact Zones, Sydney Bienal, Australia
- 2005 Identità & Nomadismo, Lorenzo Fusi, Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea, Silvana Editoriale Spa, Milan, Italy  
Monuments for the USA, Ralph Rugoff, , California College of the Arts/Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA  
Unlocked # 2. Rabo kunstcollectie/art collection, Jaap Bremer, Marieke van Schijndel, Rabobank Nederland, Amsterdam  
Expérimenter le reel/réalité revisitée, Albi, France
- 2004 Intruders. Reflections on Art and the Ethnological Museum, Gerard Drosterij, Toine Ooms, Ken Vos (eds.) National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Netherlands, Uitgeverij Waanders, Zwolle, Netherlands  
Strange Planet, Cathy Byrd and Chika Okeke, , Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery, Georgia State University & Saltworks Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia, United States  
Visa for Thirteen, PS1 International Studio Program Exhibition, PS1/MoMa Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY, United States  
DVD - Plasticiens en Mouvement / Kunstenaars in beweging, De Markten, Brussels, Belgium  
Op Hoogte Gedacht. Beeldende Kunst op Groninger Kerkhoven, Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken, Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2003 Water, Amsterdamse Duinwaterleidingen, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy,  
We Are The World/Dutch Pavillion Venice Biennale, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2002 Le Salon du Musée, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
Amsterdamse Duinwaterleidingen, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2001 Locus/Focus, Sonsbeek 9, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2000 For Real. Een voorstel tot Gemeentelijke Kunstaankopen / A Proposal for Municipal Art Acquisitions, 1999/2000, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
The Sky is the Limit, Taipei Biennale, Taipei, Taiwan,  
East/International, Norwich Gallery, Norwich, United Kingdom  
L'Art dans le Monde, Paris Musées/Revue des Beaux Arts, Paris, France  
Continental Shift. A Voyage between Cultures, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
Maastricht, The Netherlands  
'Perché? (belongs to the future). Because art doesn't change the world, it shapes the world'  
Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, no. 1, curated by Giacinto Di Pietrantonio, Rome, Italy  
1999 Trafique, S.M.A.K extra muros, Ghent, Belgium  
Waardige Zaken. 14 Wonderkamers in Noord-Holland van beeldende

kunstenaars, De Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem, Netherlands  
Mirror's Edge, Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden  
South Meets West, National Museum of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, i.c.w.  
Kunsthalle/Historische Museum, Bern, Switzerland  
Unlimited.nl-2, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
TroubleSpot.Painting, NICC and MUHKA, Antwerp, Belgium  
1998 Copy Culture. 40 Jaar Amsterdams Grafisch Atelier, Arti et Amicitiae,  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
1997 Moneta Exotica. Oorspronkelijk geld uit de hele wereld, Rijksmuseum Het  
Koninklijk Penningkabinet, Leiden, Netherlands  
Blueprint (Hong Kong Project), De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, The  
Netherlands <a