

EVENTS ACCOMPANYING THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION

can be found in the programme on the museum's website at

www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programmueberblick/

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All photos:

Photography - Fine Art Print © Stéphan Gladieu

Cover: Stéphan Gladieu, 2022

L'homme bidon / The Canister Man

Artist: Diambaka Gedeon

Kalamu district, Kinshasa (DR Congo)

Below: Stéphan Gladieu, 2018

Egungun masks: Tanman (left) and Bouloukou (right)

Near Cotonou (Rep. Bénin)



MUSEUM FÜNF KONTINENTE

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OPENING TIMES

Tue–Sun 9.30am–5.30pm

For times on public holidays www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de

ADMISSION CHARGES

can be found under English summary

on the museum's website:

www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/oeffnungszeiten.html

GUIDED TOURS AND INFORMATION

Guided tours on request for kindergartens, after school care centres, school classes and groups of adults.



Access for wheelchair users via Knöbelstraße.

Museum staff will be on hand should you require assistance. Please call us beforehand. T (089) 210 136 100

HOW TO GET THERE

U4 and U5 Lehel, S-Bahn Isartor, Tram 16

and 19 Maxmonument

We would like to thank



FROM MYSTIC TO PLASTIC

African masks
Photographs by
Stéphan Gladieu

31.3.–6.8.2023



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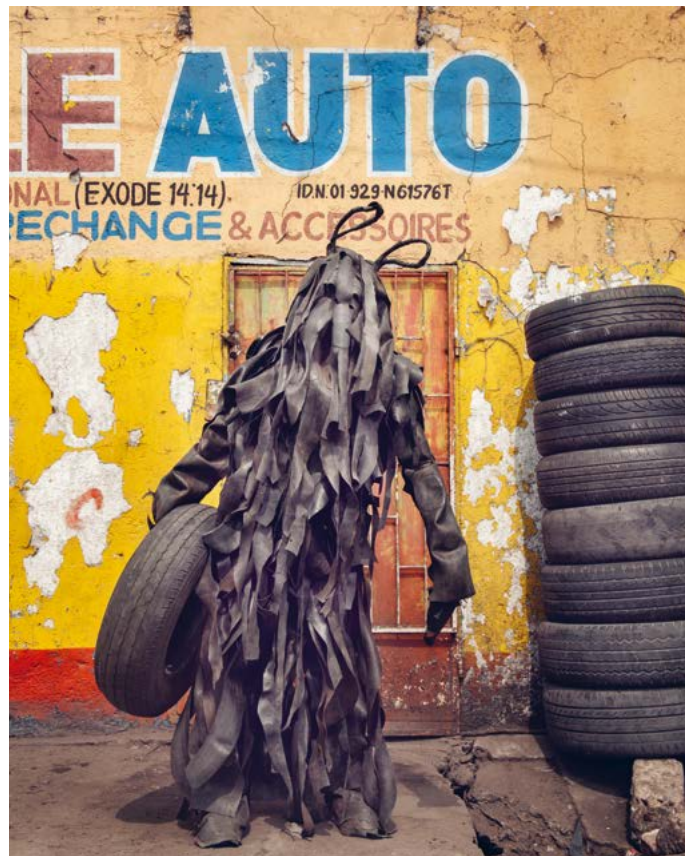
FROM MYSTIC TO PLASTIC

African masks
Photographs by Stéphane Gladieu
31.3.–6.8.2023

The exhibition presents two series by the internationally renowned French photographer Stéphane Gladieu that are devoted to African mask performances.

The *Egungun* cycle (2018–2020) shows photographs of the impressive Egungun mask costumes from the Republic of Bénin. These costumes are used in mask performances that are part of ancestor worship. The dancers in their impressive costumes are possessed by ancestor spirits who return to the community of the living to help them overcome the challenges of life. *Homo Détritus* (2020/21) presents photographs of new mask costumes created by the artist collective Ndaku Ya (Life is Beautiful) from Kinshasa (DR Congo). These are based on the idea that the mineral resources of the DR Congo have

Stéphane Gladieu, 2018
Egungun masks: Elèlou [in Yoruba]
or Agbannon [in Fon] (left)
and Adé (right)
Cotonou, family home of
Gaston Aniambossou (Rep. Bénin)



made it one of the richest countries in the world. However, the vast majority of the Congolese population benefits not in the slightest from this wealth, which is taken out of the country by means of ruthless exploitation. At best, the wealth is returned in the form of second-hand goods or even hazardous waste.

The two photo series are being shown side by side in a museum for the first time. The overall title *From Mystic to Plastic* is a reference to the shared concept of the central importance of mask dances, in which past and present are linked and social challenges that currently face not only African societies are addressed. Gladieu's photographs are however above all an impressive documentation of the complexity of African realities behind the Eurocentric clichés. Stéphane Gladieu, photographer, was born in 1969 and is based in Paris. Self-taught, he began his career by documenting world-shattering conflicts such as the toppling of the Romanian

Stéphane Gladieu, 2020
L'homme pneu / The Tyre Man
Artist: Savant Noir
Matongue Kimpwanza district,
Kinshasa (DR Congo) on 29.08.2020

dictator Ceaușescu and the social consequences of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He then developed a style based mainly on portrait sequences. With his characteristic iconic portrait style, in which he combines aesthetic and documentary aspects, he addresses ethnological and sociological as well as political and ecological issues.

Stéphane Gladieu, 2021
L'homme gobelet / The Cup Man
Artist: Jules Disoluka Sarkozi
Matongue district,
Kinshasa (DR Congo) on 26.10.2021



PUBLICATION

Homo Détritus: Stéphane Gladieu, with texts by Wilfried N'Sondé and Stéphane Gladieu, English/French, Actes Sud 2022.