

# Barthelemy Togu

## CV

Born in 1967 in Cameroon.

École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, École Supérieure d'Art de Grenoble, France, Kunstakademie of Düsseldorf, Germany.

Lives and works between Paris, Bandjoun (Cameroon) & New York.

Knight in the Order of Arts and Litterature, France.

Chevalier des Arts et Lettres, France.

## Expositions personnelles / Solo Exhibitions

### 2015

- *Les diables et les dieux*, Château de Tanlay, France
- Maison des Arts de Chatillon
- Château Lynch-Bages

### 2014

- *Here Africa*, Château de Penthes, Geneve-Pregny
- *The house of secrets*, La Chaufferie, HEAR, France
- *An Afropolitan View*, Uppsala Art Museum, Sweden (cat.)
- Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Narbonne, France
- Solo show, Cap Town, Afrique du Sud
- MAM Mario Mauroner - Contemporay Art Vienna, Autriche
- Michael Stevenson Gallery, Afrique du Sud
- Nousbaum Reding Gallery, Luxembourg

### 2013

- *BARTHÉLÉMY TOGUO: coexistence on earth*, Wooson Gallery, Daegu, South Korea (cat.)
- *Talking to the Moon*, Musée d'art moderne de Saint-Etienne, Métropole, France (cat.)
- *Hidden Faces*, Galerie Lelong, Paris
- *Print Schock*, Musée du Dessin et de l'Estampe Originale de Gravelines, France (cat.)
- *Dérives*, Marseille 2013, Cathédrale Sainte Anne, Arles, France
- Specific Creation Woosong Gallery, Bonsandong, Jung-gu, Daegu, Korea
- "Signs in The Leaves", Médiathèque Benjamin Rabier, La Roche Sur Yon, France.
- *How far away is the horizon?*, Part of Images of The World Festival, "Occupy Utopia", Aalborg, Kobenhavn, Aarhus, Denmark

### 2012

- *A World Child Looking At The Landscape New Works*, Nosbaum & Reding Art Contemporain, Luxembourg

### 2011

- New Ceramics, Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres, Paris.
- New Poster for "Roland Garros", Paris.
- Specific creation *Criminal Tribunal* By Mario Mauroner contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria.
- PUMA African Football Kits project, Design Museum, London.
- International Print Biennale 2011, Print Awards, *Who is the true terrorist* Hatton Gallery,

Claremont Road, Newcastle, UK.

- Specific creation, *The Well Water* New Performance, shower life La Verrière by Hermès, Brussels, Belgium.

- « J'ai deux amours », Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris

- Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, États-Unis

- « The Unhomely », Biennial Of Contemporary Art, Séville, Espagne

## **2010**

- «Guo Wei/Barthelemy Toguo », Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery, Pekin

- *The Lost Dogs' Orchestra* - Galerie Lelong, Paris, France (cat.)

- « Devils head », salon du dessin contemporain, Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery, Pékin

- *Cissé / Toguo*, Dak'Art Biennale de Dakar, Institut Français de Dakar, Senegal

- *Rencontre de Bamako* – Foto Museum Anvers, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Cape Town National Gallery, and Centre culturel Franco-Mozambicain, Maputo, Mozambique

- *The World Examination* - Centre d'Art Contemporain de Châtelleraut, France

- *Liberty Leading the People* - Fundação Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal"

- « Barthélémy Toguo / Pascal Pinaud, Workshop and performance », Villa Arson, Nice

- *Lyrics Night* - Royal Museum of Bandjoun, Cameroon

- *Galerie de la ville de Poitiers*

Centre Culturel Français de Pointe Noire, Congo

- *The World Examination* - Item Editions, Paris, France

## **2009**

- "*The Pregnant Mountain*" at Robert Miller Gallery, New York, NYC

- "road for exile" Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, Palace of Marquis de Pombal, Lisbon. Portugal.

- "... *et la parole fut*", Frac île de la Reunion, saint-denis, france.

- "*The world examination*", Item Editions, Paris.

- "*The aids issue cannot be solved thanks to the distribution of condoms. -Benedict XVI*"- Mario Mauroner Contemporary, Art Vienna, Austria.

## **2008**

*Heart Beat* - Baltic, Centre for Contemporary Art, New-Casttle, UK.

*Spiritual Genocide* – Art Brussels- Bruxelles, Belgium.

*The Devilish Human Temptations* - Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, Vienne, Austria.

## **2007**

*Purifications* Arco 2007, Madrid, by Mario Mauroner contemporary Art Salzburg and Vienna, Austria.

## **2006**

*La Magie du Souffle*, Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Marseille, France.

*The Wildcats' Dinner*, Ateliers d'Artistes de la Ville de Marseille, France.

*The Wildcats' Dinner*, Mario Marauer Contemporary Art Salzburg, Austria.

## **2005**

*The Human Mirror*, école supérieure d'Art, Lorient, France.

## **2004**

*The Sick Opera*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (cat.)

*Swallowing the World/Avalez le monde*, aliceday, Bruxelles, Belgium.

*La guerre des sexes n'aura pas lieu*, école des Beaux Arts de Valence, France.

## **2003**

*Pure and Clean*, Institute of Visual Art Milwaukee, WI, USA.

## **2002**

*Puk, Puk, Puk*, CCC, Tours, France.

*Emergency Exit*, le Lieu Unique, Nantes, France (cat.)

*Épidémies*, Goethe Institut, Yaoundé, Cameroun.

**2001**

*Das Bett*, école régionale des Beaux-Arts de Dunkerque, France.

*Art Unlimited*, Art Basel, Bâle, Suisse.

*Barthélémy Togo*, The Box Associati Gallery, Turin, Italy.

**2000**

*Virgin Forest*, La Criée centre d'Art contemporain, Rennes, France (cat.)

*Pénicilline*, Centre Culturel Français, Turin, Italie.

**1999**

*Baptism*, Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf in der Tonhalle, Düsseldorf, Germany.

*Migrateurs*, ARC, musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, France.

*Barthélémy Togo*, chez François Barnoud, Dijon, France.

**1998**

*Parasites*, centre d'Arts plastiques, Saint-Fons, France (cat.)

**1996**

*Barthélémy Togo*, Goethe Institut, Yaoundé, Cameroun.

**1994**

*Pôle européen*, Saint-Martin d'Hères, Grenoble, France.

- « *The Pregnant Mountain* », Robert Miller Gallery, New York

- « "road for exile" *Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa* », Palace of Marquis de Pombal, Lisbonne, Portugal

- « ... *et la parole fut* », Frac, île de la Réunion, Saint-Denis de la Réunion

- « *The world examination* », Item Éditions, Paris

**Expositions collectives / Group Exhibitions**

**2015**

- *All the world's future*, Urban Requiem, Biennale de Venise, Italie

**2014**

- *Here Africa*, Château de Penthes, Genève-Pregny, France

- *FOOD*, SESC Pinheiros, Sao Paulo, Bresil, Marseille

- *Drawing Now*, artiste focus au stand Galerie Lelong

- Biennale de l'aquarelle de Narbonne

- ART for the World, Suisse

- Mairie de Thonon-les-Bains, France

- Saline Royale – Cité des utopies, France

- Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale - Nova Southeastern University's Museum of Art, Etats-Unis

- Fondazione Palazzo Magnani per la Direzione Artistico-Organizzativa, Italie

- Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

- Artopie - Centre de Création Artistique, France

- Galleria Alessandro Bagnai, Italie

- Galerie Lelong, TRIO, Paris, France

- *Vivre(s)*, Domaine Départementale de Chamarande, France

- Biennale Nationale de la sculpture contemporaine, Trois Rivières, Canada Quebec

- Le chateau d'eau, Strasbourg

- No fixed abode, the New Church, Cape Town, Afrique du Sud

## 2013

- XBorder Art Biennial 2013, Luleå Rovaniemi Severomorsk, Sweden

- "Juegos de Lenguaje." Caceres, Spain

- *Egarements*, château d'Avignon, Avignon, France

- *Aqua Vitalis*, Festival, Normandie Impressioniste, Caen, France

- Galopéc, Espace culturelle MARC JACQUET, Barbizon, France

- *Le Pont*, Project Marseille 2013, Musée d'art contemporain de Marseille, Marseille, France

- *Le Voyages Parallèles*, Neuilly-sur-Marne France

- *Against the Grain : Wood in Contemporary Art*, Museum of arts and design, New York, USA

## 2012

- Triennale de Paris, Intense Proximité, 2012, Paris.

- Eleventh Havana Biennial Art Practices And Social Imaginaries, Installation, and new performance, Havana, Cuba.

- 8ème Festival International du Film sur L'argile et le verre de Montpellier, France.

- *J'ai deux amours* Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris.

- *Judith facing Olopherne*, New Ceramics, Pavillon des Arts et du Design, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris.

- *Fliegen/Flying*, New Painting, Projet by 2 und 50 UG, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany.

- Nodes Of Mobility: transnational transfer zones and terminals Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, Austria.

- *We Face Foward*, Specific Creation. Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK.

- Friktionerfriction International Performance Art Festival, Uppsala Art Museum,

Uppsala, Sweden. - Museum of Arts and Design, New York. - When Attitudes Became

Form, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA.

- Art Brussels, New Works Brussels Expo, Belgium.

- Art Cologne, Köln, Germany.

- *J'ai deux amours* Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration

## 2011

- Environment and Object in Recent African Art, Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Museum, NY.

- Mises à l'eau, Maison de la Culture de la Province de Namur, Belgique.

- ARS 11, Museum of Contemporary Art KIASMA, Helsinki, Finland.

- Fabula Graphica 3, Grandes Galeries de l'Aître Saint Maclou, Ecole des Beaux-arts de Rouen, France.

- Border, Bamako Encounters, The Gulbenkian Foundation Lisboa, Portugal.

- State of the Union, Freies Museum Berlin.

- Island Never Found, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italia / Museum of modern art, Saint-Etienne, France.

- Longing for Sea-Change, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, CA

- Habiter la Terre, Biennale internationale d'art contemporain de Melle, France.

- Luleå Art Biennial 2011, The Art Gallery of the House of Culture. The Regional Museum of Norrbotten. The Museum Park, Sweden.

- Là où se fait notre histoire, Frac Corse, Corte, France.
- 11ème Biennale de Lyon : Une terrible beauté est née, Specific creation The Time, Lyon, France.
- 8th Mercosul Biennial 2011, Specific creation New Performance Essays on Geopoetics, At, Porto Alegre, Brazil.
- Mind The Gap And Bridge It! An international seminar on integration Arkitekturmässan, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- J'ai deux amours Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration "Mutations", Barthélémy Togo /Martin Sulzer. Curated by Mario Casanova. Centro d'arte Contemporanea Ticino, Bellinzona, Switzerland
- Biennale internationale d'art contemporain - Curated by Dominique Truco. Melle, France
- "Fabula Graphica 3" - Curated by Stéphane Carrayrou. Grandes Galeries de l'Aître Saint Maclou. Ecole des Beaux-arts de Rouen, France
- "ARS 11" - Curated by Jari-Pekka Vanhala. Museum of Contemporary Art KIASMA, Helsinki, Finland
- "Mises à l'eau" - Curated by Jean-Michel François. Maison de la Culture de la Province de Namur, Belgium
- "Togo / Cissé" - Curated by Alban Corbier and Hubert Maheux. Centre culturel Français de Douala, Cameroon
- "Environment and Object in Recent African Art" - Curated by John Weber, Lisa Aronson. Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, NYC
- "Promenade, 9" - Curated by Dr Lőránd Heygi. Fondation Kogart, Budapest, Hungary
- 2010**
- "The Production of Space" - Curated by Tasha Parker. Studio Museum Harlem, New York, USA
- "Le jugement dernier" - Curated by Eric Girard-Miclet. Centre culturel Français de Pointe Noire, Congo
- "Forum d'avignon 2010" - Curated by Laure Kaltenbach, and Alexandre Joux. Palais des Papes, Avignon, France
- "Africa: See You, See Me!" - curated by Awan Amkpa, Museu Da Cidade- Pailhao Preto, Lisbon, Portugal
- "Longing for Sea-Change" Curated by Barbara Thompson and Phyllis Wattis - Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, CA, USA
- "Rencontres de Bamako"- FotoMuseum Antwerp, Belgium; Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa; Cape Town National Gallery, South Africa and Centre Culturel Franco-Mozambicain, Maputo, Mozambique
- "Fragile, Fields of Empathy" - Musée d'Art Moderne Saint-Etienne Métropole, France
- "Philagrafika 2010, The Graphic Unconscious" - Philadelphia, USA
- "Island Never Found" - Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy; State Museum of Contemporary Art, travelling through 2011: Thessaloniki, Greece; Musée d'Art Moderne Saint-Etienne Métropole, France
- "Les Hivernales d'Avignon" - Théâtre des Hivernales, Avignon, France
- "World in Hand / Welt in der Hand" - Kunsthaus Dresden, Germany
- "Dialogue among Civilizations", Durban University of Technology, Durban, South Africa
- "Océan"- Palais Bellevue, Biarritz, France
- Venice Architecture Biennial, Italy
- "The Smell of God" - MCAD and OBSIDIAN ARTS, Minneapolis, USA
- "Work in Progress" - Manufacture nationale de Sèvres, France
- "Space: Currencies in Contemporary African Art" - Museum Africa, Johannesburg,

South Africa

"Longing for Sea-Change" - Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, USA

"Environment and Object in Recent African Art" - Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, USA

"The Beauty of Distance" - 17th Biennial of Sydney, Australia

## **2009**

"Biennale Africaine de la photographie 2009, Musée de Bamako, Bamako, Mali

"Une Collection", Espace Vallès, Saint Martin d'Herres, France.

"Elusive dreams", Les Hauts du Ru, La Cathédrale, Montreuil, France.

"Art Albertina", Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria.

"The Crisis of the Genre", International Sculpture Triennial in Poznan, Culture centrum Zamek, Poznan, Poland.

Persona, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium.

Fragile, Les champs de l'empathie, Musée d'art moderne de Saint-Etienne, France.

Arco 2009, Madrid, Spain.

Art Dubai, Mario Mauroner contemporary art, Dubai.

Homless in the city, Cornelius strasse, Düsseldorf, Germany.

## **2008**

Laughing in a Foreign Language, at the Hayward Gallery, London, uk.

Un voyage sentimentale, 1st Poznan Biennial, Poland.

Farewell to Post-Colonialism, The 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China.

Une Histoire Partagée..., Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France.

Traversia, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Iles Canaries.

Black Paris - Musée d'Ixelles, Bruxelles, Belgique.

Der Mensch in der Zeichnung, Im Traklhaus, Salzburg, Vienna, Austria.

Collection in context: Four Decades, Studio Museum, Harlem, USA.

Des territoires à partager, Ve Biennale d'Art et de Culture de Sao Tomé et Principe.

Mondo e Terra, Musée d'Art de la Province de Nuoro, Sardaigne, Italie.

Cité idéale, Abbaye de Fontevraud, France.

Micro-Narratives, Musée d'art moderne, Saint-Etienne, France.

## **2007**

De Schwitters à Togo, un choix, Cabinet d'art graphique, centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

Die Schöne und Das Ungeheuer - Geschichten ungewöhnlicher Liebespaare, Residenzgalerie, Salzburg, Austria.

Black Paris- Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth, and Museum Der Weltkulturen, Frankfurt, Germany.

De leur temps (2), Musée de Grenoble, France.

Et voilà le travail, Galerie d'art du conseil Général des Bouches du Rhône, Aix-En Provence, France.

Chenzhen Biennale, HE- Xiangning Museum, Chenzhen, Chiana.

Micro-Narratives, Museum 25th May- Museum of Yugoslav History, Serbia.

Foodscapes-Art and Gastronomy, Ex-Cinema Trento, Parma, Italy.

African Way Orangerie de Madame Elisabeth, Versailles, France.

Society must be defended The 1st Thessaloniki Biennale, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece.

## **2006**

Biennale de Shenzhen, Chine.

Paris Black, Iwalewa Haus, Bayreuth, Germany.

*The Unhomely 2nd International Biennial Of Contemporary Art Of Seville*, Spain.  
*Africa Remix*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (cat.)  
*Nuit Blanche: «La goutte d'eau, de l'or qui coule»*, Quartier Goutte d'Or, Paris, France.  
*Carton Rouge*, Atelier Tampon-Ramier, Paris, France.  
*Des Hommes sans Histoire ?* musée des Arts derniers, Paris, France.  
*Distant Relatives / Relative Distance*, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (cat.)  
*Africa Remix*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (cat.)  
*La Force de l'art : Un nouveau rendez vous avec la création en France*, Grand Palais, Paris, France.  
*Festival photo et vidéo de Biarritz : Passages en ville*, Bellevue, Biarritz, France  
*Profils : 15 ans de création artistique en France*, Institut français d'Istanbul, Turkey (cat.)  
*Accion tricontinental*, Nouvelle Biennale de la Havanne 2006 / Galeria 23 y 12, La Havane, Cuba.  
*Le Monde coloré*, Musée d'Art Africain Belgrade, Serbia.  
*Wien Mozart 2006 : Hidden Histories – Remapping Mozart / Configuration 2*, Wien, Austria.  
*Notre Histoire...*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France. ((cat.)

## **2005**

*La Collection permanente : L'art en France depuis 1950 à la création la plus contemporaine*,  
MAC/VAL, musée d'Art contemporain en Val-de-Marne, Vitry-sur-Seine, France (cat.).  
*Scheizer Krankheit + die Sehnsut neach der Ferne*, Kunsthaus Dresden, Dresden, Germany.  
*À Fleur de peau : Le dessin à l'épreuve*, galerie Éric Dupont, Paris, France.  
*Short Cuts Between Reality and Fiction*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, USA.  
*Faire signe*, La Criée centre d'art contemporain, Rennes, France (cat.).  
*Playgrounds and Toys*, Hangar Bicocca, Milano, Italy.  
*Foire internationale des arts derniers : Les Afriques 2*, musée des Arts derniers, Paris, France.  
*Donna Donne*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy (cat.).  
*Femme Femmes*, Musée de Carouge, Genève, Switzerland.  
*African Art Now*, œuvres de la collection J. Pigozzi, Musée des Beaux-arts de Houston, USA (cat.).  
*Exotic Ambivalence*, Skulpturens Hus, Stockholm, Sweden (CDrom).  
*The Giving Person*, Palazzo Delle Arti Napoli, Italy (cat.).  
*Art of Africa*, œuvres de la collection J. Pigozzi, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco.  
*Got Sehen*, Kunstmueum Des Kantons Thurgau, Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland. (cat.)  
*Singuliers*, Musée d'Art du Guangdon, China (cat.)  
*De lo real y lo fictiocio : art comtemporaneo de Francia*, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico, Mexico  
*Africa Urbis : Perspectives Urbaines*, musée des Arts derniers, Paris, France.  
*Africa Remix*, Centre George Pompidou, Paris, France.  
*Le Mélange des genres : créatures hybrides et mystérieuses*, Frac Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, France (cat.)  
*Domicile privé/public*, musée d'art moderne de Saint-Étienne métropole, France (cat.)  
*Barthélémy Togu*, Cyril André, école des Beaux-Arts de Grenoble, France.  
*Africa Remix*, Hayward Gallery, Londres, The United Kingdom (cat.)

## **2004**

*Exposition collective de sculpture*, galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France.

*Africa Remix*, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany (cat.)  
*@rtscreen*, Biennale de Dakar, Senegal.  
*Dessins et des autres II*, Galerie Catherine Bastide, Bruxelles, Belgium.  
*Burning down the house – Joyce Pensato*, Isabella Brancolini Arte Contemporaneo, Firenze, Italy.  
*Les Afriques*, Tri Postal, Lille 2004, Lille, France.  
*Settlements*, musée d'Art moderne, Saint-Étienne, France (cat.)  
*Cabinet des dessins N°1 : Quelle est l'origine d'une œuvre*, musée d'Art moderne, Saint-Étienne, France.  
*Playground & Toys*, La Manufacture des Oeillets, Ivry-sur-Seine, France ; Musée océanographique, Monaco.

### **2003**

*Great Expectations !*, Ferrotel, Pescara, Italy (cat.)  
*Mouvements de fonds, acquisitions 2002 du FNAC*, mac, Galeries contemporaines des Musées de Marseille et Vieille Charité, Marseille, France.  
8ème Biennale de la Havane, Cuba.  
*Achtung Rottweiler*, Forum Kunst Rottweil, Germany (cat.)  
*Love Zones*, galerie Barnoud, Dijon, France.  
*Outlook*, Athènes, Greece (cat.)  
*The Ideal City*, Bienal de Valencia 2003, Spain (cat.)  
*Zanimaux*, galerie Éloge de l'Ombre, Uzès, France.  
*L'Europe Fantôme*, Espace Vertebra, Bruxelles, Belgium (cat.)  
*Heimatkunst.com*, Rottweil, Allemagne.  
*Dolce Tocco*, Napoli, Italy.  
*Singuliers voyages*, Domaine de Chamarande, Chamarande, France (cat.)  
*Party*, Autori Cambi, Roma, Italy.  
*Ökonomien der Zeit*, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich, Switzerland (cat.)

### **2002**

*Chambre double*, galerie Alain Le Gaillard, Hôtel La Louisiane, Paris, France.  
*Apocalyptique Dance*, Künstlerhaus von Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz, Austria (cat.)  
*Troisième Biennale de Montréal*, Canada (cat.)  
*Biennale de Busan*, Corea.  
*Tutto normale*, Villa Médicis, Académie de France à Rome, Roma, Italy.  
*Ökonomien der Zeit*, Akademie der Künstler, Berlin, Germany. (cat.)  
*Ökonomien der Zeit*, Museum Ludwig, Köln, Germany (cat.)  
*Postcards*, Biennale de Dakar, Senegal.  
*Last minute. To the end of eternity*, Vecchio Ospedale Soave, Codogno, Italy (cat.)

### **2001**

*Intrinsecus/Extrinsecus*, Studio Casoli, Milano, Italy.  
*Selections Fall 2001*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA.  
*De quelques dessins contemporains*, Fondation Guerlain, Les Mesnils, France.  
*Naturaleza, Utopias y Realidades*, International Contemporary Art Meeting, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.  
*Mercancias*, Espacio C, Camargo, Spain (cat.)  
*Killing me softly*, BildMuseet, Umeå, Sweden.  
*Political Ecology*, White Box, New York, USA.

### **2000**

*Bruit de fond*, centre national de la Photographie, Paris, France.  
*Chosen Drawings*, Alliance Éthio-Française, Addis-Abeba, Ethiopia (cat.)  
*Exit Congo Museum*, Africa Museum, Tervuren, Belgium.



*Paradise Zéro*, Uppsala International Contemporary Art Biennial, Sweden.

*Continental Shift*, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, Netherlands (cat.)

*Heimat Kunst*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany (cat.)

*Mikse*, Aentre d'art, Marnay-sur-Seine, France.

*Partage d'exotismes*, biennale de Lyon, France (cat.)

*Alimentation d'Art*, biennale internationale de Dakar, Senegal.

### **1999**

*Zeme triennale der Kleinplastik*, SW Forum Europa-Africa, Stuttgart, Germany.

*Managers de l'immatrité*, Le Magasin, centre national d'Art contemporain, Grenoble, France (cat.)

*Fantasy Heckler*, Tracey, biennale de Liverpool, The United Kingdom.

*Diaspora*, International Art Meeting, Oviedo, Spain.

### **1998**

*Vidéo 98*, musée d'Art contemporain, Lyon, France.

*À quoi rêvent les années 90*, Espace Miraphalaina, Montreuil, France (cat.)

Goethe Institut, Yaoundé, Cameroun.

Biennale Internationale de Dakar, Senegal.

### **1997**

Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, Germany.

Centre Genève de Gravure Contemporaine, Genève, Switzerland.

*Artistphotos*, In Vitro, Genève, Switzerland.

Südwest LB, Stuttgart, Mannheim, Germany. (cat.)

### **1996**

*Magnolia*, La Casamaure, Saint-Martin-le-Vinoux, France

*Das Bett*, Hohenstaufenring, Cologne, Germany.

### **1995**

Musée Wilhem Lehbruck, Duisburg, Germany. (cat.)

Stadtische Museen, Heilbronn, Germany. (cat.)

Museum Schloss Friedenstein, Gotha, Germany. (cat.)

### **1994**

Biennale Internationale de Saint-Quentin, France (cat.)

### **1993**

Goethe Institut Insaac, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Festival des Cultures du Monde et des Droits de l'Homme, Paris, France.

### **1991**

700 ans de Confédération Suisse, Bâle, Switzerland.

Jeunes Créateurs Francophones, Évry, France.

## **Biography**

Barthélémy Togo, born in 1967 in Cameroon, lives and works today in Paris and Bandjoun, Cameroon. He began his studies at the Abidjan School of Fine Arts, Côte d'Ivoire. His artistic apprenticeship at first involved his fashioning copies of classic European sculptures, until he took part in a workshop in 1992 devoted to woodcarving, an event that enabled him to radically modify his approach. He decided then to continue his studies in France in order to experience a different type of instruction and enjoy greater liberty in his personal creative research. He took classes at Grenoble's Graduate School of Art and later enrolled in Klaus Rinke's studio at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf.

It was in Grenoble that Togo discovered photography and video, before his encounter with "German realism" in Düsseldorf. He also became interested in

performance art at this time. In 1996, for example, he undertook the series he called Transit. These performances always took place in airports, train stations and other places of transit. For a flight at Roissy-Charles De Gaulle airport, for instance, the artist arrived for boarding wearing a cartridge belt... filled with caramel candies. Or, picking up his bags upon arriving from Africa, he was stopped by customs because his suitcases were carved from solid wood. Another time, dressed as a street sweeper, he seated himself in the first-class compartment of the Thalys Cologne-Paris train. His peculiar dress made other travelers ill at ease and led the conductor to threaten to have him put off the train.

Humor and a certain form of provocation thus made their way into Toguo's art. This provocation can be seen in his performance Pure & Clean, which he created at White Box (New York) in February 2001. In this piece, the artist washed two American flags by hand before hanging them out to dry on a line. His act is rooted in the place the United States occupies on the international scene, which the artist deems arrogant, i.e., the death penalty, the refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on reducing hothouse gas emissions, and so on.

The artist began to work with watercolor in 1998; born of his many trips and experiences, this practice yields a kind of logbook or travel diary. Toguo has done several such watercolor series. There is Baptism, a celebration of the human body, which was shown for the first time in 1999 at the Kunstmuseum in Düsseldorf, or more recently Dream Catchers (2002-2003). He has also executed series of drawings like Festival of Grapes, Das Bett (1995) a piece inspired by the artist's daily life featuring various objects and living beings.

In 1997, the municipality of Grenoble offered him the wood from a number of sick acacia trees that had to be cut down. Toguo decided to spend two weeks next to these plants to learn what they themselves "saw" and so made the acquaintance of the cross-dressers who took over the park after dark. From the wood of these trees he eventually carved high-heel shoes in reference to the transvestites' getup, calling the pieces Folies nocturnes.

Toguo's work harbors a political dimension as well. He is interested in flows, be it of merchandise or human beings, and those who regulate them. His series of wood sculptures of giant rubber stamps (The New World Climax) that sport inscriptions like "carte de séjour" (resident permit) and "the world of citizens" refers to the individuals who apply, or do not apply, that salutary stamp to one's passport. With his installation Mamadou Airlines, the artist presents a cluttered runway on which the airplanes are stuck. The idea here is to show that the West gladly takes in natural resources from the Third World but far fewer numbers of people from there.

Toguo is likewise concerned by art's presence in Africa and especially Cameroon. Indeed, his native country possessed neither museum nor art school before the artist himself decided to found in 1999 the Institute of Visual Arts in Bandjoun. Devoted to the full range of art disciplines, the institute, which is currently under construction, will make it possible to host exhibitions, informal gatherings, workshops and even residencies for artists.

Recently, the artist has turned his attention to the realm of the stage and the theatrical arrangement of space. At the Lyon biennial in 2000, for example, he showed Unfinished Theater, which combined wood sculpture, inscriptions, photographs and video. This installation seemed like a kind of mise en scène of his experiences and recent travels. In 2004 at the Palais de Tokyo, a site for the contemporary arts, he put

together several theatrical settings under the general title of The Sick Opera. For Toguo, we are all actors, each of us playing a pre-established role in society. His installations are but a reflection of life while his work is life.

Daria Joubert

### **Collection**

Tate Modern, Londres

Barbier-Muller

Centre Georges Pompidou, musée national d'Art moderne, Paris

The Dakis Joannou collection, Athens

Burger collection, Zürich, Hong-Kong

Collection Agnès B., Paris

Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon

Museum of Contemporary Art Miami

Fonds national d'art contemporain, Paris

Kunstsammlungen der Stadt, Düsseldorf

MAC/VAL musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne, Vitry

Musée de l'Immigration, Paris

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme

Frac Haute Normandie, Sotteville-les-Rouen

Collection Antoine De Galbert, Maison Rouge, Paris

Studio museum de Harlem, New-York

Frac Corse, Corte

The Museum of Modern Art, New-York

Musée national d'art moderne de la Palestine

Musée d'art contemporain de Strasbourg, France

Fondation Louis Vuitton

E.S.Stella Matutina de Shyorongi, Kigali, Rwanda