

## EVENTS ACCOMPANYING THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION

can be found in the programme on the museum's website at [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programmueberblick/](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programmueberblick/)

## FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSEUM

subscribe to our newsletter at [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/newsletter.html](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/newsletter.html)

## VISIT US ONLINE

[www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de)  
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All photos:  
Photography – Fine Art Print © Stéphane Gladieu

Cover: Stéphane Gladieu, 2022  
*L'homme bidon / The Canister Man*  
Artist: Diambaka Gedeon  
Kalamu district, Kinshasa (DR Congo)

Below: Stéphane 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](http://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](http://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  
Stéphane Gladieu  
31.3.–6.8.2023



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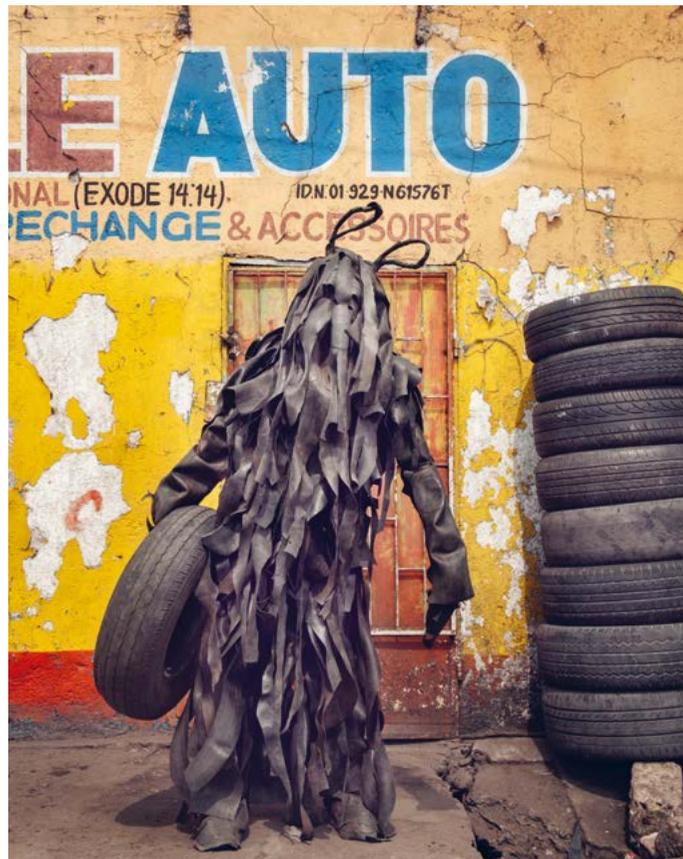
# FROM MYSTIC TO PLASTIC

**African masks**  
**Photographs by Stéphan Gladieu**  
**31.3.–6.8.2023**

The exhibition presents two series by the internationally renowned French photographer Stéphan 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

Stéphan 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. Stéphan 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

Stéphan 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.

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



## PUBLICATION

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