

Africa Explores:

20th Century
African Art



Ode-Lay headdress by unknown artist from
Freetown, Sierra Leone, late 1970s.
Wood, fur, shells, porcupine quills, and paint.
Photo: Jerry L. Thompson

AFRICA EXPLORES: 20th CENTURY AFRICAN ART

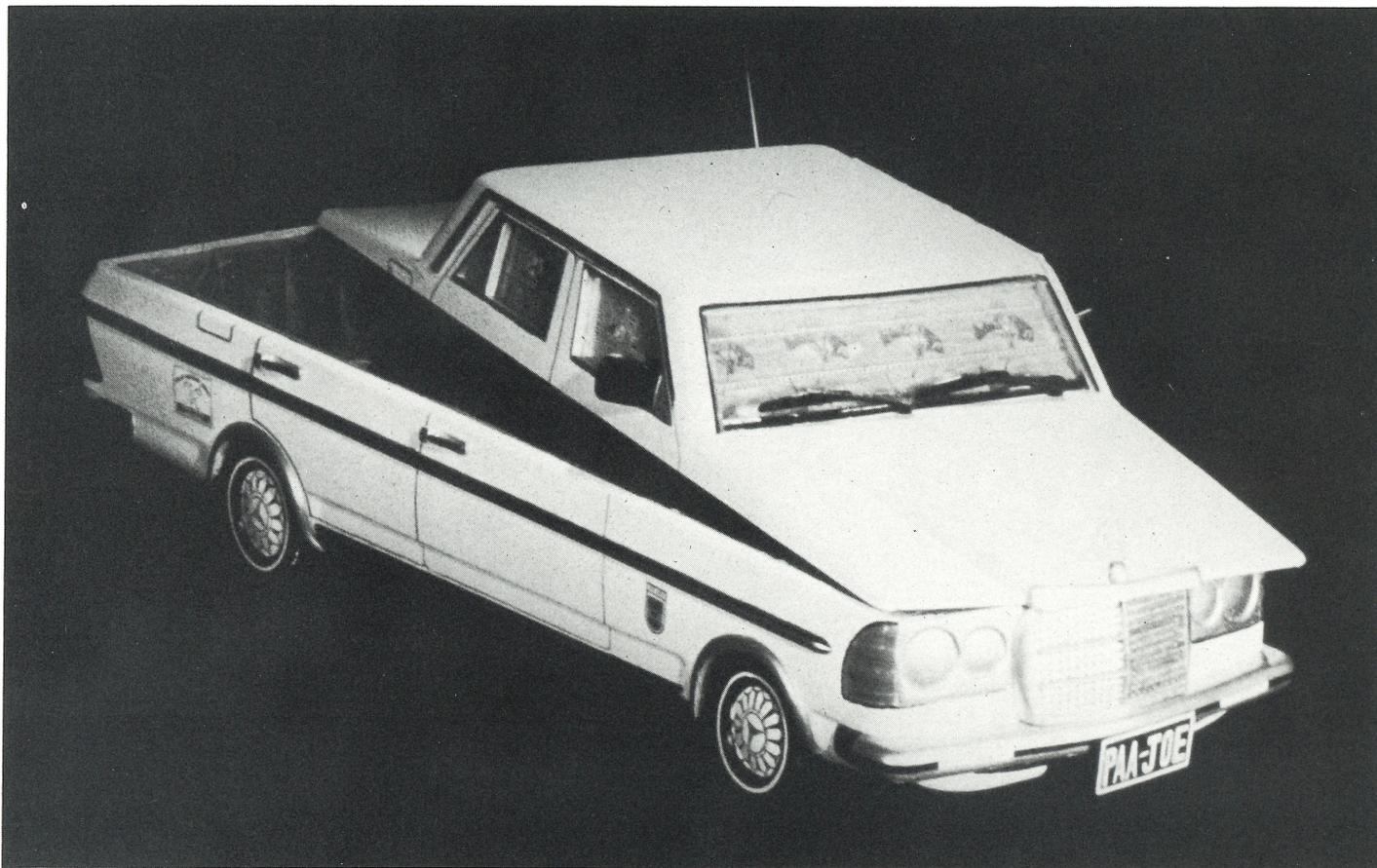
On view simultaneously at:

THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

583 Broadway, through August 18, 1991
(212) 219-1222

THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN ART

54 East 68th Street, through December 1991
(212) 861-1200



Africa Explores is the first exhibition to focus on the major themes and artistic innovations in African art of this century. Organized by Susan Vogel, Executive Director of The Center for African Art, the exhibition explores African art and artists within their own historical and social contexts, speaking with their own voices.

While considering several overlapping but distinct areas of current artistic exploration, *Africa Explores* reveals that, while Africa's contact with the West has been an important influence in the 20th century, Western imagery and ideas are only elements in a matrix of pre-existing African styles and philosophies.

Nearly 150 works of art by approximately 30 artists divided between the two institutions reflect an extraordinarily broad range of media and styles. They include such unfamiliar objects as coffins in the shape of onions and airplanes constructed for modern day funerals; realistically painted, life-size cement figures made for modern tombs; contemporary paintings on canvas and glass; and traditional wood masks and figures made from the beginning of the century to the present. Older objects will also be presented, such as Benin bronze plaques and Kota figures that are no longer made but have a powerful presence in today's Africa.

Kane Kwei, Mercedes Benz-shaped coffin, 1989, wood and enamel paint.



In conjunction with *Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art*, a symposium will be presented (location and time to be announced), investigating a range of topics including the role of various social and political ideologies in the shaping of contemporary African culture; the limits as well as possibilities of the museum in the representation of non-Western cultures; and history, memory, and nostalgia, and the reconstruction of traditional identities in post-colonial Africa and African art today. In addition a series of informal gallery talks will be conducted on Saturdays at the Museum by a group of artists, historians, and critics. Please call the Museum for a complete schedule.

A catalogue, published by The Center for African Art and Prestel, will accompany the exhibition, with articles by scholars from the fields of art history, cultural anthropology, folklore, history, art criticism, and comparative literature.

Funding for Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art at The New Museum has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Moke, *Motorcade with Mitterrand and Mobutu*, 1990, paint on flour sack.

ON VIEW PROGRAM

MAY 11 THROUGH
AUGUST 18, 1991

The Museum's On View Program is a forum for artists' projects and for the presentation of small thematic exhibitions. Located in the New Work Gallery, WorkSpace Gallery, the Window on Broadway, and Mercer Street Window, the program enables the Museum to respond to the continually changing focus of contemporary art by presenting new works of art and new artists in a timely fashion.

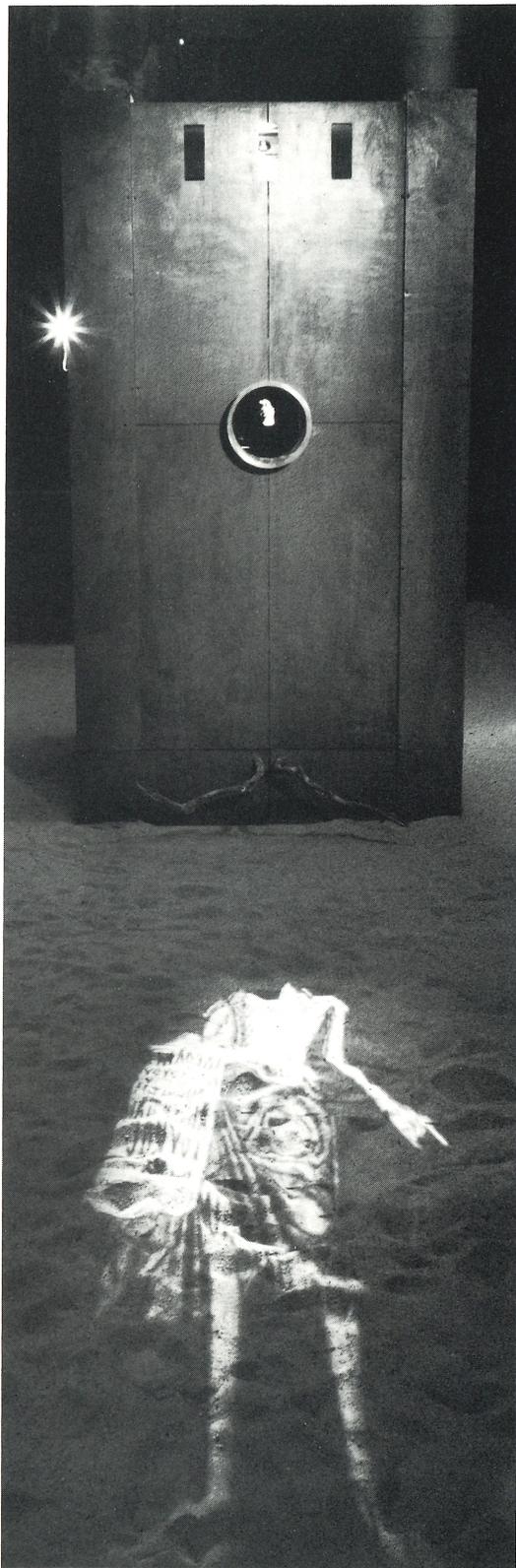
EMBODYING FAITH

Organized by Assistant Curator Alice Yang

Embodying Faith presents five artists whose works examine the symbolic use of the body as a vehicle for religious meaning in the West. This exhibition in the WorkSpace Gallery looks at how references to the physical in Christian symbols and language, such as Christ's Passion and the mortification of the flesh, shape our notions of the body and its representation. Christopher Doyle, for instance, considers notions of birth, decay, and death in his sculptural object *The Production of Relics*. Two large black boxes contain, in one, a plant commonly known as the Crown of Thorns, and, in the other, a colony of beetles that clean the carcasses of a dove and a snake to ivory white. Cristina Emmanuel's work draws on the popular arts as well as images from the African-Catholic religions of her native Puerto Rico. Through painting, drawing, and the collage of everyday materials, Emmanuel's work constructs a dialogue between desire and devotion, spiritual faith, and physical healing. Also included in the exhibition are works by Christine Davis, Angel Suarez-Rosado, and Jon Tower.

Embodying Faith was funded in part by the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Right: Christopher Doyle, *Reliquary* (for the head of St. John the Baptist) (detail), 1990. Installation, Art in the Anchorage, Creative Time, Brooklyn, New York.



SUMMER 1991

Featured exhibition:
**AFRICA EXPLORES:
20th CENTURY AFRICAN ART**

MAY

11 SATURDAY

Summer exhibitions
open to the public

16 THURSDAY 7:30 - 9:00

MEMBERS RECEPTION
for Summer exhibitions

22 WEDNESDAY 3:00-4:30

**TEACHER & STUDENT
WORKSHOP**

"Contemporary African Art"
In conjunction with *Africa
Explores*, this free workshop
will shed light on both recent
directions in African art
and cultural identity in post-
colonial Africa. It will be
held in an informal setting,
allowing for an open ex-
change of ideas. For more
information or to register,
please call the Museum.

31 FRIDAY NOON - 7:30

**ANGELS HAVE BEEN
SENT TO ME**

An interactive project, by
performance artist Jerri Allyn
with composer Helen
Thorington, on aging and
disability

JUNE

7 FRIDAY NOON - 5:30

LINDA MONTANO

Seven Years of Living Art
Also Sunday, July 7 and
Wednesday, August 7
As part of a seven-year
project, performance artist
Linda Montano sits once a
month in the Mercer Street
Window, meeting with
visitors to discuss art and life.

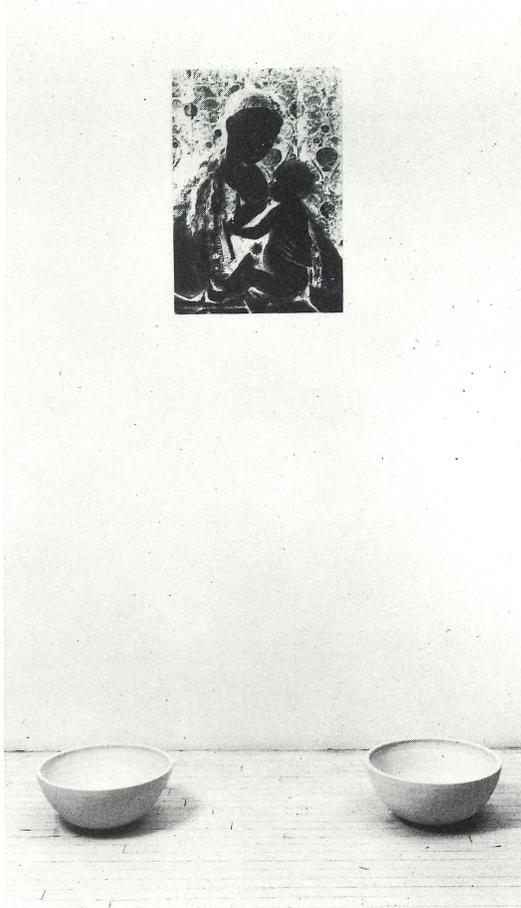
ECLIPSE OF THE EARTH

KAZUO KATASE

In his installations, Kazuo Katase employs an array of metaphoric objects as well as lighting and coloration techniques to call into question the visibility and obscurity of meanings. Katase bathes this installation in the New Work Gallery in blue light and tints the objects placed within it red, which, in the presence of the ethereal lighting, makes the objects appear black. A simple round table, a symbolic site of power and social discourse, a blue image of a sun, and an image of Jacques-Louis David's painting, *The Oath of the Horatii*, have a particular resonance in view of recent armed conflict. By focusing on David's famous depiction of ultimate renunciation and sacrifice for the benefit of the state, Katase continues an ongoing dialogue with the tradition of Western art history while alluding to social and political concerns.

Eclipse of the Earth was funded in part by the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks to Wewerka & Weiss Galerie, Berlin.

Right: Kazuo Katase, *Mutter* (detail), 1986. Installation, Wewerka & Weiss Galerie, Berlin.



PINTURA I REPRESENTACIÓ

PEREJAUME

Perejaume's installation in the Window on Broadway raises provocative questions about the nature of art viewing and presentation. Rows of theater seats are installed in the window and made accessible, allowing visitors to become, a "display," at the same time that passersby become "actors" to this audience. Perejaume's installation inverts the conventional passive role of the museum visitor and dynamically engages the activity of the street, extending the Museum's boundaries as a site for the experience of art.

Pintura i Representació was funded in part by the Consulate General of Spain, the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks to Materials for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Staret - The Director's Co., and Galeria Joan Prats, Barcelona and New York.

Right: Perejaume, *Pintura i Representació*, 1988. Installation, Galeria Montenegro, Madrid. Photo: Courtesy Galeria Joan Prats, Barcelona and New York.



JULY

7 SUNDAY NOON - 5:30

LINDA MONTANO

Seven Years of Living Art

AUGUST

7 WEDNESDAY 12:00 - 5:30

LINDA MONTANO

Seven Years of Living Art

18 SUNDAY 6:00

Summer exhibitions close

GALLERY TALKS

SATURDAYS AT 2:00

Free with Museum admission

Informal gallery talks on *Africa Explores* will be conducted by critics, curators, educators, and artists. These talks will address interdisciplinary themes related to issues raised by the exhibition. A schedule of topics and speakers is available at the Admissions Desk. Please call for more information.

LOCATION

583 Broadway, between Prince and Houston, New York City 10012
Recorded information: 212-219-1355
Offices: 212-219-1222

HOURS

Wed., Thurs., Sun.:
Noon - 6:00
Fri., Sat.: Noon - 8:00
Mon., Tues.: closed

SUGGESTED ADMISSION

Free summer admission
Noon - 2:00 Wed. to Fri.
\$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists, students, seniors
Members & children under 12, free.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

LIBRARY The Soho Center Library at The New Museum has developed into one of the most important resource centers in New York City for the study of contemporary art and issues. Since its founding in 1985, the Library has amassed over 12,000 volumes. The Library is a free, non-lending resource center. Appointments are preferred.

GROUP VISITS Group visits are available for adult groups and for school groups grades 7 through 12. Gallery talks for visiting groups are designed to stimulate active inquiry into issues in contemporary art and culture through close examination of the Museum's exhibitions. The fee for a gallery talk is \$50. Non-profit groups and schools may be eligible for scholarships. For more information or to arrange a visit, please call Phyllis Gilbert, Docent Coordinator.

INTERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

Museum internships are designed to provide hands-on training in arts management for qualified students. They are offered in various departments throughout the year and give students a comprehensive overview of Museum operations. For more information, please call Anne Naldrett, Intern Coordinator. The Museum also welcomes volunteers to help with a range of behind-the-scenes activities including the gala spring benefit and exhibition openings. To volunteer, please call Richard Barr, Volunteer Coordinator.

ARTQUEST & INSIDE/ART ArtQuest is the Museum's collectors' forum: a knowledgeable group ranging from experienced collectors to those who are simply interested in contemporary art and share a commitment to new and challenging developments in the field. This season the group will travel with Curator Gary Sangster to Brooklyn, where they will visit several emerging artists' studios. In addition to a wide range of special activities that comes with membership, ArtQuest provides invaluable support for the Museum's exhibitions and programs. Membership is \$1,500. For information on joining this group, please call Aleya Saad, Special Events Coordinator.

INSIDE/ART is a group of younger art enthusiasts, who meet to view, discuss, and learn about contemporary art. In May, the group will mark the end of the season with their annual visit to artists' studios. Membership is \$200. For information on joining the group, please call Maren Hensler, INSIDE/ART Coordinator.



Mary Carlson, *Toile Figures*, 1990, nylon. From *THE INTERRUPTED LIFE*.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

THE INTERRUPTED LIFE

Opening on September 13, and organized by Senior Curator France Morin, this group exhibition will examine social, political, and aesthetic themes surrounding death as expressed in contemporary art.

ANGELS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ME

A project by Jerri Allyn with composer Helen Thorington
Friday, May 31, Noon - 7:30, Free with Museum admission.

In *Angels Have Been Sent to Me*, performance artist Jerri Allyn asks participants to use transformed wheelchairs and crutches to temporarily disable themselves while listening to recordings on Walkmans of stories interwoven with music. This interactive art project deals with aging and disability and is based on poignant and humorous narratives told to Allyn by her grandmother and her grandmother's cronies in a critical care home. Please note that there is limited availability of equipment.

MEMBERSHIP

LOCATION

The Membership program is as diverse as our exhibitions and programs and offers a special opportunity to be involved with contemporary art and issues.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS FOR TWO

\$45 CONTRIBUTING—Free admission to exhibitions; quarterly calendar; invitations to members' openings; 15% discount on publications; invitations to members' events; advance notice and discount admission for public programs.

\$100 SUPPORTING—All of the above plus: a complimentary catalogue.

\$300 SUSTAINING—All of the above plus: invitations to Donors' Circle openings; eligibility for Limited Edition project; listing in the Annual Report; complimentary copy of the Annual Report.

\$500 SPONSORING—All of the above plus: invitation to Annual Donors' Luncheon.

DONORS' CIRCLE MEMBERSHIPS FOR TWO

\$1,000 PATRON—All of the above plus: four complimentary catalogues.

\$2,500 BENEFACTOR—All of the above plus: listing on the Benefactor Roster in Museum lobby; invitations to private dinners with Museum trustees, director, staff, and artists.

\$5,000 FOUNDER—All of the above plus: listing on the Founder Roster in the Museum lobby; curatorial advisory service.

ARTIST / STUDENT PASS \$25 : (Must submit a copy of current student ID or artistic resume with application.) Free admission for one to exhibitions; quarterly calendar; admission for one to members' openings; library privileges.

ALSO AVAILABLE Neighborhood Business and Corporate Memberships. Please call the Membership Office for information at 212/219-1222.

583 Broadway between Houston and Prince Streets
New York, NY 10012
Call (212) 219 1355 for further information.

DIRECTIONS

Subway : Lexington Ave. line (#6) to Spring St. or Bleecker St. Broadway line (N/R) to Prince St.

8th Ave. line (A/C/E) to Spring St.

6th Ave. line (B/D/Q/F) to Broadway/Lafayette

Bus : #1/#5/#6/#21 to Houston St. or Broadway

HOURS

Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday: Noon to 6:00

Friday and Saturday: Noon to 8:00

Monday and Tuesday: closed

SUGGESTED ADMISSION

\$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists/students/seniors;

Members and children under 12, free.

Free summer hours: Wed. - Fri., Noon - 2 p.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS

The Museum is grateful for the following recent individual contributions — Leadership Gifts (\$10,000 and above): Allen and Lola Goldring; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luce III; Penny and David McCall; Founders (\$5,000 and above): William N. Copley; Paul C. and Cooie Harper, Jr.; Barbara Horowitz; Nanette L. Laitman; James and Stephania McClennen; Paul and Joanne Schnell; Herman and Marilyn Schwartzman; Susan Unterberg; Benefactors (\$2,500 and above): Martin and Lucille Kantor; Robert W. Wilson; Patron (\$1,000 and above): Lewis W. Bernard; Linda and Greg Fischbach; Mrs. Maurice T. Moore; Carol and Richard Rifkind; Sponsoring (\$500 and above): John Buck and Deborah Butterfield; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Grant; Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Lebworth; Marion Boulton Stroud; Mr. and Mrs. Thurston Twigg-Smith. The Museum extends a special thank you to Vera G. List and Carol and Eric Schwartz for their sponsorship of the celebration that followed the opening of *Cadences: Icon and Abstraction in Context*.

The Museum also wishes to thank the following Corporations and Foundations for recent contributions: Consolidated Edison, The Greenwall Foundation, IBM, the Joe and Emily Lowe Foundation, Marine Midland Bank, and the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company.

The Museum remains grateful to the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts for their continued support.



YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Mr. and Mrs. _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home telephone _____

Business telephone _____

Enclosed is my check payable to The New Museum for \$ _____

Please charge my Visa Mastercard

My Museum membership is new renewed

Credit card acct. # _____ Exp. date _____

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has a matching grant program

The New Museum

O F C O N T E M P O R A R Y A R T

THE NEW MUSEUM
OF CONTEMPORARY ART
583 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
10012

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. P O S T A G E
P A I D
NEW YORK, NY
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FREE
SUMMER
HOURS
WEDNESDAY
THROUGH
FRIDAY
FROM
NOON
UNTIL
2:00