

## CLAY APENOUVON

Born in 1970, Lomé, (Togo) he works and lives in Aubervilliers, Mantes la Jolie (France), Lomé (Togo)

After various experiences in painting, graphic design and screen-printing workshops, Clay Apenouvon born in Lomé (Togo) leaves his homeland to establish himself in Paris (France). In Paris, Apenouvon comes into contact with artists such as Claude Viallat (movement Support Surface) and Mounir Fatmi. He achieves his first artistic co-production "Africa en Yvelines" in Mante La Jolie with the designer and artist Jules Wokam. Art is a cure, a way to express, and helps Clay to exorcise personal suffering from his past.

Clay Apenouvon explores the possibilities of materials. He uses cardboards as a physical support and artistic medium. In Clay's mind, the cardboard is the symbolic material to address the issue of packaging, a major subject of his thinking and his approach: packing things or vacuum packaging. In 2006 Clay Apenouvon recorded his own unexpected and remarkable performance at the opening of the FIAC Paris. Passing a small cardboard sign for an object containing a priceless work of art, he re-routes the attention of security personnel who become convinced that a work of art at the Fair has been stolen right before their eyes. The packaging and cardboard simple containers were perceived as having the same value as the contents.

With a militant and engaged personality, Clay Apenouvon becomes interested in plastic. Influenced by the work of Steve McPherson and Marthine Tayou, he creates the concept "Plastic Attack" in 2010. Leveraging installation as the mode of presentation, Plastic Attach raises awareness of the harm and danger that plastic poses to the environment on a global scale. In these works, Apenouvon seeks to express the concept of the "fatal beauty" of plastic. His insider/outsider position, allows him a remarkable versatility to portray a foreseen disaster.

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He will be showing his installation at an international fair, at 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair, London, UK, 2015.

### Selected shows

2015

Film de Lampedusa, Eglise Saint-Merri, Paris, France

1-54: Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK

Visibles / Invisibles Fondation Blachère, Apt, France

2014

Installation « Plastic Attack monumental », 9<sup>ème</sup> édition du Festival Cahors Juin Jardin, Cahors

« Takeaway », installation, Futuroscope de Poitiers, France

2012

« Plastic Attack 5 », Futuroscope de Poitiers, France

« Plastic Attack 6 », Symposium View Equinox, Brasilijs, Lituanie

2010

« Plastic attack » Fresh winds in Gardur (Island).

Festival Panafricain Ficoba Irun. (Espagne)

*Portez vous bien?* Centre Culturel André Malraux, Bourget, France

2007

*Homme-Age* dans le cadre d'Afrique en Yvelines, with Jules Wokam, Mantes la Jolie, France

2006

*Carton en carton sur carton* Galerie Atelier Kao Paris, France

2003

*L'homme Porte la clef, le monde porte plainte* with Saïd Bahij à La Chapelle Saint-Jacques à Mantes la Jolie, France

2002

, *L'image dans la tête* with Mounir Fatmi, Centre Culturel le Chaplin à Mantes la Jolie, France

2001

Malta Internationale Art Biennale à Paris: 1er prix du Collage au Malta International Art Biennale 2003 à Paris Atelier Z.

