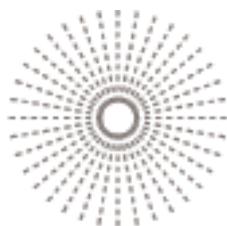


“Egg Fight”

Yinka  
Shonibare  
MBE



fondation **Blachère**

# Yinka Shonibare MBE

## “Egg Fight”

Exhibition - Blachère Fondation - mai 23 - september 20 - 2014

This summer, Fondation Blachère will be presenting an exhibition and new outdoor light commission by British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare MBE at its art centre in Apt, in the Vaucluse.

The exhibition will be organised around the artist's powerful 'Egg Fight' installation that has now joined the Blachère Collection. This representation of conflict, based on the tale of a long-running battle in Jonathan Swift's 'Gullivers Travels, is a thinly veiled allegory for the religious differences between Protestants and Catholics, epitomizes Shonibare's fascination with cultural, political and social collision.

Whilst the two figures engaged in the 'Egg Fight' square off across a physical divide, the protagonists of the 'Odile and Odette' film and photographs, made in collaboration with the Royal Opera House, London, mirror each other's expression on either side of an ornate Baroque frame. Here, the artist has created a complex and subtle interplay between two dancers in which the duality of the characters is played out in racial difference.

Also included is the artist's iconic sculptural tableaux 'The Crowning', inspired by the work of Jean- Honoré Fragonard, which was commissioned in 2007 by Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. This work, alongside the 'Little Rich Girls' wall installation, links leisure, wealth, pleasure and excess to exploitation of slave labour, asking questions about colonisation and its consequences. The rococo excesses and perfumed romance of 'The Crowning' heighten this collision between power and morality, a battle that can result in revolution, also epitomized by 'Revolution Kid (Calf)', and death, a fate realised with 'Copenhagen Girl with a Hole in the Head' and the 'Fake Death' photographic series. Shonibare's representation of literal and symbolic collision continues with the 'Climate Shit Drawings', works that engage with the issue of climate change, a new and important global battleground.

'Egg Fight' and the accompanying major works, lent by various institutions, galleries and private collections, relate to Shonibare's focus on the battle between opposing forces, both real and metaphorical, whether between or over religion, wealth, power, morality, pleasure, colonialisation, the environment or through the arts.

These clashes are neatly summarised by the textiles synonymous with his work, batik fabric that is commonly used in African dress, but in fact is a mass produced textile manufactured by the Dutch after original Indonesian wax designs. Intended for mass export, the fabric was rejected by the Indonesians and became popularised in West Africa as emergent nations created their identities during the break up of Colonial rule. The trade routes that both produced and consumed the fabric are used by Shonibare to mine the complex production of identity and power in the post-colonial period. These patterns will be replicated in the artist's new four metre high outdoor light commission of a Victorian dress, produced in conjunction with Blachère Illumination, which will be on display in the grounds in front of the Foundation building.

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### About Yinka Shonibare MBE

Yinka Shonibare MBE (born 1962 in London, UK) moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study Fine Art and received his MFA from Goldsmiths College in 1991. He gained notoriety on the international stage via his commission for Okwui Enwezor's Documenta 10, 'Gallantry and Criminal Conversation' (2002), and was a Turner Prize nominee in 2004. In 2005 he was awarded the decoration of Member of the 'Most Excellent Order of the British Empire', a title that he officially added to his professional name. In 2011, the artist's sculpture 'Nelson's Ship in a Bottle' was selected for the Fourth Plinth commission series in London's Trafalgar Square, now on permanent display outside the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Shonibare's works were featured in the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007), and a mid-career survey toured from 2008 to 2009 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Brooklyn Museum, New York; and the Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. In 2013, a major solo exhibition was mounted at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK, and travelled to GL Strand, Copenhagen, Denmark. In October 2013, he was elected a Royal Academician. Shonibare's work is currently subject of a large museum show at The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA and has an upcoming solo museum exhibition in 2014 at the Gerisch-Stiftung, Neumünster, Germany. He is represented by Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

[www.yinkashonibaremb.com](http://www.yinkashonibaremb.com)

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### About Blachère Fondation

Since 2004, the Jean-Paul Blachère enterprise foundation has wished to participate in the development of Africa by helping contemporary creativity and promoting its artists. At its art centre situated in the heart of the company, in the midst of an industrial estate, it presents exhibitions and welcomes resident artists. It also organises creative workshops in Africa and Europe and participates in the major African biennial events. It is responsible for conserving the works in the Blachère collection.

Blachère is the leading European company for festive illumination in the urban environment. This family SME, based in Apt, Provence, which has about twenty subsidiaries, has just celebrated its 40th birthday. Its creative activity, in particular it invented the architecture of the Fil Lumière [light wire] at the universal exhibition in Seville in 1992, is on a par with artists and designers. Blachère SA is also active in the fields of humanitarian work and sustainable development.

[www.fondationblachere.org](http://www.fondationblachere.org)

### About Stephen Friedman Gallery

Stephen Friedman Gallery was established in 1995 and is now recognised amongst the leading international galleries in the field of contemporary art. The gallery represents both established and emerging artists and the Estates of artists working worldwide today.

Since its inauguration the gallery has been based on Old Burlington Street in Central London. In 2005 it expanded, taking on adjacent premises designed by Caruso St John and in 2011 an additional gallery space was opened at No11 Old Burlington St designed by David Kohn. The gallery hosts seven exhibitions each year alongside a project-based programme in the No 11. space. One person exhibitions and curated, group exhibitions are featured in the programme and have included the first exhibitions in the UK by leading artists such as; William Kentridge, Kara Walker, Beatriz Milhazes, Rivane Neuenschwander, Rudolf Stingel, Mira Schendel and Anne Truitt amongst others. In generous private rooms and office spaces additional works can be viewed by appointment. There is also a facility to display art in a newly landscaped private garden.

[www.stephenfreidmangallery.com](http://www.stephenfreidmangallery.com)

# Yinka Shonibare MBE

## “Egg Fight”

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### Yinka Shonibare MBE

“Egg Fight” - 2009

Two mannequins, Dutch wax printed cotton textile, leather boots, replica guns, rope, polystyrène eggs and silicone.

Variable dimensions

Blachère Fondation collection

SHO 515

# Yinka Shonibare MBE

## “Egg Fight”

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**Yinka Shonibare MBE**

**“The Crowning” - 2007**

Two mannequins, Dutch waw printed cotton textile,  
shoes, coir matting, artificial flowers

63 x 110 x 88 in

SHO 355

# Yinka Shonibare MBE

## “Egg Fight”

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Yinka Shonibare MBE

“Odile et Odette IV” - 2005/2006

C-type print

49 x 63 1/2 in

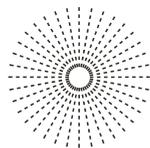
Courtesy the artist & Stephen Friedman Gallery London

SHO 564

# Yinka Shonibare MBE

## “Egg Fight”

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fondation**Blachère**

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