

Press information

Making Africa – A Continent of Contemporary Design

14.03. – 13.09.2015

Special programme March – September 2015

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein

Making Africa – Ideas and Objects for a Continent to Come

Okwui Enwezor & Amelie Klein

OPENING TALK (EN) | 13 March 2015

5:30 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Okwui Enwezor is one of the foremost experts on the African cultural landscape and the consulting curator for the exhibition »Making Africa«. He was the artistic director of documenta 2002 and currently serves as the director of the 2015 Venice Art Biennale as well as the director of Haus der Kunst in Munich. To mark the opening of »Making Africa«, Okwui Enwezor will talk with Amelie Klein, curator of the exhibition, about the development of the exhibition, its themes and hypotheses, and some of the most interesting exhibits and protagonists, as well as the question of how contemporary art and design are shaping the continent's future. Free admission, registration: events@design-museum.de

Kunlé Adeyemi – NLÉ Architects

TALK (EN) | 2 April 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Kunlé Adeyemi is the founder of NLÉ, an up-and-coming architecture and design studio based in Amsterdam and Lagos, Nigeria. In his talk, he presents selected projects including the African Water Cities Project, which focuses on the development of Africa's coastal regions in view of climate change and increasing urbanization. One of the most well-known projects is the much-publicised Makoko Floating School, a floating schoolhouse and community centre on Lagos Lagoon. Adeyemi's design for Chicoco Radio in Port Harcourt earned him a prize at the Regional Holcim Awards 2014 Africa Middle East. Free admission

Dialogues on the Future of Design

TALK (EN) | 15 April 2015

Salone del Mobile, Milan

In conjunction with the »Making Africa« exhibition, a symposium will be held at the Salone del Mobile. Designers and researchers from Africa, Europe and the U.S. discuss possible future scenarios for the role of design and how it is understood in the 21. Century. The full programme is available online prior to the event at www.design-museum.de. Free admission

Expand Design Ltd – Intuition as Method

TALK (EN) | 23 April 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

The Expand Design Ltd label was founded in London in 2008 by Nigerian Ifeanyi Oganwu and rapidly gained international acclaim for its futuristic furniture. In his talk, Oganwu offers insights into the complex high-tech manufacturing methods of his designs and explains how he develops their formal language. With its six CNC-milled aluminium panels, for instance, the chair »Splice« represents the outcome of a multi-year research and development process. Free admission

Cinema Africa! – »Coz ov moni«, »Pumzi«, »Afronauts«

FILM (EN) | 7 Mai 2015

6:30 pm, Stadtkino Basel

The evening features three films exemplifying the current African cinema scene. »Coz ov moni« (»Cause of Money«, 2010) bills itself as the first Pidgin English musical in the history of film and the first album by the Ghanaian rap duo Fokn Bois. In her short science fiction film »Pumzi« (2009), the Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu portrays a future society in which water has become the most scarce and precious commodity. Inspired by real-life events, »Afronauts« (2014) by Frances Bodomo tells the story of the Zambian Space Academy and its attempt to beat the American space mission Apollo 11 to the moon in July 1969. Following the screenings, Amelie Klein, curator of the exhibition »Making Africa«, talks with filmmaker Frances Bodomo about developments in contemporary African cinema. The film night is hosted in cooperation with Stadtkino Basel. Admission: CHF 17.00 per person

Designing Identities – Africa’s Postcolonial Shift in Design and Architecture

Manuel Herz & Achille Mbembe

TALK (EN) | 28 May 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

In the initial decades of independence in many African nations, the applied arts and everyday culture served as a prominent vehicle for the construction of new, often pan-African identities, thus becoming part of the social experiment of African reinvention. The Cameroonian postcolonial theorist Achille Mbembe and the architect and author Manuel Herz discuss the role of design and architecture from the 1950s through to the 1970s. The historic past is also probed for its present-day relevance: can looking back at this era provide inspiration for current and future design tendencies? How can design and architecture trace and reflect certain political processes or even help shape them and thus contribute to social change? Free admission

Maker Library – Drop-in Workshop

SPECIAL (EN) | 15 – 19 June 2015

10 am – 5 pm daily, Vitra Design Museum Gallery

During Art Basel/Design Miami 2015, the Maker Library Network will be occupying the Vitra Design Museum Gallery. Each day, members of the network will invite visitors to work alongside them in open workshops or to create their own projects. At 4 pm each day, there will be a presentation of the projects produced over the course of the day. Free admission

Photography – Constructing an African Image

Iwan Baan, Rory Bester, James Muriuki & Azu Nwagbogu

TALK (EN) | 16 June 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

On the occasion of Art Basel/Design Miami 2015, the renowned Dutch photographer Iwan Baan, who has documented a multitude of contemporary buildings on the African continent, will chat to the Kenyan artist and photographer James Muriuki, the curator and critic Rory Bester and Azu Nwagbogu, founder of the Lagos Photo Festival, about the power of images of the African continent. The talk will address artistic tendencies but also examine how photography shapes our conception of design and architecture as well as everyday life in Africa: What is artistic construction? What is the local reality? Free admission, registration: events@design-museum.de

Maker Library – Drop-in Workshop

SPECIAL (EN) | 4 July 2015

12 – 5 pm, Vitra Design Museum Gallery

As a part of the exhibition »Maker Library Network«, young designers will be working in the Vitra Design Museum Gallery. Visitors of all ages are invited to take part and join in the process of creating new designs. Free admission

Koyo Kouoh – The Multiple Forms of Designing the Social

TALK (EN) | 23 July 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Koyo Kouoh is the founder and director of the Raw Material Company, a mobile exhibition space for art and discourse in Dakar. Kouoh will discuss her understanding of social design and elaborate on how the Raw Material Company and similar centres for contemporary art in Africa are setting social and political transformations in motion. As a curator specializing in photography, video and public installations, she is extremely well-acquainted with the contemporary art scene in Africa and creates international exhibition projects. Free admission

Maker Library – Drop-in Workshop

SPECIAL (EN) | 1 August 2015

12 – 5 pm, Vitra Design Museum Gallery

As part of the exhibition »Maker Library Network«, young designers will be working in the Vitra Design Museum Gallery. Visitors of all ages are invited to take part and join in the process of creating new designs. Free admission

Cheick Diallo – Designing Social Change

TALK (FR/DE) | 20 August 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Cheick Diallo studied architecture and design in France and today works as a designer in France and Mali. In their materiality and formal language, his furniture and objects call into question the perception of African design. In cooperation with Design Academy Eindhoven, Diallo is presently working on introducing a study programme in the field of design in Mali. In his talk, he will address the objectives of this project as well as his own work and current developments in African design. Free admission

Yinka Ilori – The Art of Storytelling through Chairs

SPECIAL (EN) | 5 – 6 September 2015

12 – 5 pm, Vitra Design Museum

In a two-day workshop conducted by the product and furniture designer Yinka Ilori, participants will help to make old chairs shine with new splendour. In his own upcycling works, Ilori not only employs physical materials like colourful Dutch Wax fabrics, but also incorporates intangible elements, such as the traditional Yoruba parables he grew up with as the son of Nigerian immigrants in London. Likewise on the basis of stories, he will work with participants to redesign old chairs that people have brought from home or which were selected on site. Registration: events@design-museum.de, Free admission.

Edgar Pieterse – African Urbanism

TALK (EN) | 10 September 2015

6 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Edgar Pieterse is one of the most influential urbanists in Africa. The founder of the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa, talks about the development of cities – around the world and on the African continent. The growing urbanisation of many regions of Africa – with 50 percent of inhabitants expected to live in cities by the year 2030 – raises questions about the design of an urban space that can also provide a productive impetus for the development of cities on other continents. Free admission

SPECIAL TOURS

Making Africa – A Journey of Discovery

CHILDREN'S TOUR (DE) | 12 April, 10 May,

14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September 2015

2:30 pm, Vitra Design Museum

Immerse yourself in the rich and varied world of African design! We will explore furniture, music videos, video games and works of art in the exhibition »Making Africa«. Illuminating the continent from a different angle, African design provides wholly new and surprising insights and perspectives. Following a tour of the exhibition, each child will make a pair of glasses to take home as a souvenir of this novel vantage point on Africa. For children aged 6 to 12. € 7.00 per child, registration: info@design-museum.de

Making Africa – Curator's Tour

WEDNESDAY MATINEE (DE) | 22 July 2015

10 am, Vitra Design Museum

The curator Amelie Klein hosts a guided tour of the exhibition, explaining the concept and development process behind this special exhibition project and answering any questions. € 7.00 per person

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

Workshop topics, dates and additional information is available at www.design-museum.de

Registration: info@design-museum.de