

Real Wax



Real Wax is a painting workshop that draws on Dutch wax fabric as its main inspiration.

Based on Indonesian batik fabric and then appropriated by European commercial interests, Dutch-wax fabric was first introduced to Africa during colonization. Today it has come to be associated with a pan-African identity and it is the conceptual and formal device used in almost all of Yinka Shonibare MBE's work.

During the workshop, participants will create their own design — a hybrid comprising fabric and paint that uses Dutch wax fabric as a starting point. Participants thus transform the fabric in creative, subjective, and improvised ways.

Drawing on Shonibare's approach, *Real Wax* combines playful gestures with critical reflection. The pleasure of working with Dutch wax fabric - its colours, textures, and patterns – creates space for a critical exploration of identity, appropriation, abstraction, hybridity, and authenticity.

Since 2011, DHC/ART workshops have been designed with local artists. *Real Wax* is the result of a collaboration between DHC/ART — Education and artist Moridja Kitenge Banza.

Born in Kinshasa in 1980, Moridja Kitenge Banza, graduated from the Fine Arts Academy of Kinshasa in 1999. In 2003 he continued his artistic studies at the Nantes School of Art (*Beaux-arts Nantes*) in France, where he obtained a National Higher Diploma in Visual Expression.

In 2010 he was awarded first prize at the Dakar Biennale for his video *Hymne à nous* and his installation *1848 à nos jours*. In 2011 he participated in THE EPHEMERAL exhibition at the Arndt Gallery in Berlin, along with fellow artists Joseph Beuys and Sophie Calle. His works have been exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum of Roskilde in Denmark, at the first edition of the Casablanca biennale, and at the National Arts Festival of Grahamstown in South Africa.

His artistic approach lies somewhere between fiction and reality and serves as the means by which he questions history, memory and identity through the lens of social, economic and political contexts.



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