



Georges Adéagbo. *La lumière qui fait le bonheur...*

28 March – 25 July 2021

Maschinenhaus M2

Curated by Kathrin Becker in cooperation with Stephan Köhler

The assemblages by the Beninese artist Georges Adéagbo follow the life courses and fates of people using the traces they leave behind: objects and documents attest to encounters and individual decisions. By having craftsmen in Benin produce paintings and sculptures based on photos and printed items collected on his travels, the artist opens up new perspectives on the seemingly familiar and challenges visitors to examine clichéd ideas and stereotypes. Adéagbo's installations are always site-specific and dissolve hierarchies: all things are of equal importance to him. In his work, phenomena from pop culture transport stories just as much as canonised high culture: antiques from Benin can be found alongside "airport kitsch", records by Beethoven alongside carnival music, commissioned oil paintings alongside reproductions from art history. Georges Adéagbo's practice is an open system that is meant to be augmented and transformed by the viewers and challenges the conventional aesthetics of cohesive works as well as the singular icon acclaimed by the art market.

For his most extensive solo exhibition to date, Adéagbo is developing an installation at the KINDL that will occupy the entire exhibition space, drawing on elements from central works such as *Tout de moi à tous* (2007) and *Une espace avec le monde* (2007) and updating them with found objects from Neukölln and the KINDL archives.

Georges Adéagbo (* 1942 in Cotonou, Benin) lives in Cotonou and Hamburg. His work has been shown internationally including the Biennials of Shanghai (2016), Dakar (2014), Venice (2009 and 1999, awarded the Jury Prize), São Paulo (1998), and Johannesburg (1997), and at documenta 11 (Kassel, 2002). He has had solo exhibitions at the Warburg-Haus, Hamburg (2019); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rouen (2018); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2016); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2014); MAK, Vienna (2009); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2004); and P.S.1 in New York (2000), among others. In 2006 and 2007 he had a residency in Berlin with a grant from the DAAD's Artists in Berlin Programme. Adéagbo's works are part of the collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; and Museum Ludwig, Cologne, among others.

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

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