



## CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRICA

### UNESCO PUBLICATION



Following the publication of the book “African Children’s Toys” (EDISUD/UNESCO publications), the first exhibition African children’s toys was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 26 March to 6 April 2001 at the UNESCO Section for Crafts and Design in the endeavour to work in favour together with the International community.

By holding this exhibition, we wish to share with you the invigorating message of children being transmitted by their toys and to demonstrate the great creativity of the African crafts workers and children.

**UNESCO** is grateful to the African Member States, museums and crafts associations without which this exhibition would not have, taken place. However, we send our special regards to the African children and crafts workers who lend us their own toys.



Twenty-nine crafts workers from twelve different countries were involved. Their work was designed for girls and boys under the age of 12.

These toys clearly remind us of those made by children to entertain themselves and play with, which is why we included them in the exhibition.

Toys are an essential part of children's living environment. Girls imitate family life, looking after smaller children, cooking and tending the land. Boys, on the other hand, are more interested in physical activities linked to speed, dexterity technology and movement. Other toys appeal to girls and boys alike: musical instruments, board games and all toys aimed at children under 5.

Dolls dominate the first category. Crafts workers endeavour to bring alive the shiny material they use to clothe the dolls, with their faces painted like so many masks inherited from the past. Some dress them in traditional costumes in order to preserve the memory of ancient customs and pass them on to future generations. Examples are the Sarikely, typical characters from the high plateaux of Madagascar or the Signare from Coree, Senegal. This educational element is always accompanied by an aesthetic desire to create a high-quality product far beyond the crafts worker's intentions, the child uses the doll to symbolise a baby, a mother, even itself or some other person, child or adult, real or imaginary.

Boys prefer models of bicycles, motorbikes, aeroplanes, boats and particularly cars. Each material used requires a specific technique. An object made of wire is transparent, although it begins to take shape as the wire symbolises its outline while bringing to life the elements normally kept hidden. Often brightened up by an aluminium colour, the wire takes on a new sparkle which makes it easier to decipher its complex convolutions.



Cars, made of drink cans cut up and meticulously assembled, are covered in the calligraphic lettering of advertisements. Unlike the wire models, here everything is on the surface - your gaze hits the bodywork and glides across the heavy reds, brilliant blues, vivid yellows and the play of words and pictures. Based on models observed around them or publications of various sorts, or complete fabrications, some models are scaled down, exact replicas of the original, while others are evocative creations based purely on imagination and fantasy.

Cuddly toys emerge from the depths of the forest and the savannah - elephants, monkeys, giraffes, tortoises, a gladiator dressed in African colours. The under-6 year olds are captivated by things they can push, from a simple tin can attached to the end of a stick to boisterous horses, not forgetting the helicopter with the propeller made of small coloured plastic spoons. Musical instruments and board games, inextricably linked to community life, appeal to and unite people of all ages.

*Children's creations are different from the more complex articles made by crafts workers.*

*However, some youngsters can rival the quality, speed and technical skill of the professionals.*

African children know how to choose materials suitable for the types of toys they are making. Thin wires and steel bars for the axles, bottle tops for wheels, tin cans for the wheels of heavy vehicles, strips of metal for the rims. Children then add cloth or used inner tubes, which they cut into strips and use as ligatures, axle stops and tyres.

The child mechanics in Brazzaville prefer to make their cars in groups and take as much pleasure in building them as in competing at the wheel in races, over obstacle courses or simply driving them around the district.

These groups are organised in accordance with principles similar to those of co-operative foundations. Excellent places of learning, these groups, rather like age groups, also seem to facilitate the social integration of their members, helping them adapt to their changing cultural environment. The groups equally succeed in organising outside the field of parents, uncles and aunts while integrating perfectly in harmony with family life. The organisations thus appear to be particularly enriching for children's social and psychological development.

Children voluntarily enter into a space that allows them to put their personal mark on the creations they use at leisure. They are very good at breaking games by chasing and smashing them, necessitating new creations.

The transformed object, even the most basic one, is then carried by personal imagination that is inscribed in space marked by collective imagination. Individual imagination is capable of incorporating surrounding models, playing with and questioning reality, over indulging, parodying, teasing or challenging it as well as blending inspirational sources. Everything seems possible.

**Michel MASSAL**



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# B o t s w a n a



KAPA MONYALO  
Femmes herero / Herero Women  
Mokherro  
textile / cloth  
65cm (hauteur/height)



LERATO BAALAEZI  
Chariot à boeuf / Ox wagon  
Kara ga Dikgomo  
bois et métal / wood and metal  
100x10x15cm



013  
013  
013  
013  
013  
013  
013



# B u r k i n a



*Éléphant / Elephant  
calabasse / gourd  
10 cm (diamètre/diameter)*



*Poupées / Dolls  
textile / cloth  
10 cm (hauteur/height)*



# F a s o



SENI SAWADOGO  
Tortue / Tortoise  
calèche / gourd  
10 cm (diamètre / diameter)



SENI SAWADOGO  
Lion / Lion  
bois / wood  
16 cm (hauteur / height)

SENI SAWADOGO  
Éléphant puzzle / Elephant  
bois / wood  
18 cm (hauteur / height)



SENI SAWADOGO  
Girafe puzzle / Giraffe  
bois / wood  
10 cm (hauteur / height)

SENI SAWADOGO  
Sauterelle / Grass hopper  
bois / wood  
10 cm (longueur / length)





# B u r u n d i

DAVID SHUMBUSHO  
Assiette / Plate / tshani  
bois / wood  
10,5 cm (diamètre / diameter)



DAVID SHUMBUSHO  
Casseroles / Casseroles / tshirungu  
bois / wood  
19cm (diamètre / diameter)

## LES ENFANTS DE BRAZZAVILLE / CHILDREN OF BRAZZAVILLE

Diligence / Diligence  
fil de fer / wire  
60x20x10 cm

# C o n g o



# C o n g o



LES ENFANTS DE BRAZZAVILLE /  
CHILDREN OF BRAZZAVILLE  
Voiture / Car  
fil de fer / wire  
30x10x10 cm



ATELIER DE POTOPOTO  
BRAZZAVILLE  
Moto / Motorcar  
fil de fer / wire  
30x10x10 cm



LES ENFANTS DE BRAZZAVILLE / CHILDREN OF BRAZZAVILLE  
Voiture à tirer / Car  
fil de fer / wire  
30x16x16 cm



ATELIER DE POTOPO TO BRAZZAVILLE  
Velo tandem passoir / Bicycle  
fil de fer / wire  
10x10x70cm



ATELIER DE POTOPO TO  
BRAZZAVILLE  
Locomotive / Locomotive  
fil de fer / wire  
10x17x10 cm



ATELIER DE POTOPO TO  
BRAZZAVILLE  
Boxeur passoir / Boxers on wheel  
fil de fer / wire  
10x10x60 cm



# G h a n a



MICHAEL KOFI (13 ans/ years old)  
Bateau / Ship  
carton / card board  
10x60x46 cm

RICHARD OSEI (16 ans/ years old)  
Bicyclette / Bicycle  
carton / card board  
10x16x11 cm



# Madagascar



VOLOLONIANA KAZANAKISEHENO  
Personages / Figurines / Sarikely  
bois / wood  
16 cm (hauteur/height)



# Madagascar



VOLOLOVIAINA KAZANAKISEHENO  
Oiseaux articulés / Articulating birds  
Vorona Mitsaingoka  
bois / wood  
Ran (largeur/large)





RAMENJA  
Koufées / Dais / Saribakay  
textile / cloth  
30cm (hauteur/height)

JEAN-BAPTISTE RAMAROLAHY  
1 CV Taxi  
métal / metal  
20x10x10 cm

FALAM  
Décapotable / All-weather car  
Cannette / beer can  
10x17x16 cm



M a l i



Vélo / Bicycle  
fil de fer / wire  
11 cm

mali

# Maurice/Mauritius



SILAMÉEMAH JUMMUN  
Oiseaux qui sifflent / Whistling birds  
polystyrène et support en bambou /  
polystyrene and bamboo stick  
60 cm



SILAMÉEMAH JUMMUN  
Cheval Poulain / Horse on wheels  
bois / wood  
15x15x90



YOÛAL AUÛDOOLAH  
Carrousel / Carrousel  
pots et cuillères plastiques / plastic pots and spoons  
10 cm (diamètre / diameter)

maurice



# Niger



HAOUA AL TINE  
Voiture / Car  
caoutchouc / gourd  
10x10x12 cm / 12x6x6 cm



HAOUA AL TINE  
Maison / House / Wind  
contre plaqué et fibre naturelle /  
pig wood and natural fibers  
18x4x62 cm



niger

MOUSSA SANI  
Moto / Motorcycle / Landajo  
boîte de conserve / tin can  
16x11 cm



HÀOUA ALTINE  
Motos / Motorbikes  
fil de fer / wire  
7-10 cm



MOUSSA SANI  
Vélo / Bicycle  
fil de fer / wire  
10 cm





# Nigeria

## YERIMA GIGIN

Instruments de musique / Music instrument / Moko  
Fives de plante / plant fibres  
46 x 22.5 cm



Instruments de musique /  
Music instrument / Caraga  
bois / wood  
10 cm



Bigorneau /  
Periwinkle shells /  
Okoto Koto



RABU BALA  
Eventail / Wind propelled fan / Filifine  
papier et bambou / paper and bamboo  
16 cm (hauteur/height)



O'BINWA  
jeu / game / arho  
bois / wood  
25x16x14 cm



# Sénégal/Senegal

Les enfants du Sénégal  
Voiture / cars  
Cannette et boîte de conserve /  
Beer can and tin can  
7 x 14 x 10 cm, 10 x 11 x 16 cm



YOUSSOU KANE  
Avion / Aero-plane  
fil de fer / wire  
45 x 10 x 16 cm



ÉVARISTE KUSHIKA NYDATA  
45 x 4  
fil de fer / wire  
10 x 16 x 17 cm



Bateau / Boat  
bois / wood  
60 x 10 x 11 cm





EMMANUEL NDENE  
Bus  
carton / cardboard  
10x11x16 cm

ABDOULAYE MBOW  
4 x 4 / 4 x 4  
bombe pesticide / insect spray can  
11 x 10 cm



Canon agricole / Peanut Truck  
canette / beer can  
14 x 10 x 10 cm



Véhicule / Car  
Canette / beer can  
13 x 11 x 11



# Sénégal/Senegal

HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Âne / Donkey  
cotton / cotton  
14 cm (hauteur/height)



HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Tortue / Tortoise  
cotton / cotton  
24 cm (longeur/length)



HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Éléphant / Elephant  
cotton / cotton  
47 cm (hauteur/height)



HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Singe / Monkey  
cotton / cotton  
16 cm (hauteur/height)



HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Girafe / Giraffe  
cotton / cotton  
34 cm (hauteur/height)





HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Signare sénégalaise / Seneg. woman  
cotton / cotton  
26 cm (hauteur/height)



HÉLÈNE DIOUF  
Poupée africaine /  
African doll /  
Dome Tontals  
26 cm (hauteur / height)



Poupée / Doll  
Textile / cloth  
10 cm (hauteur / height)



# Sénégal/Senegal



Arrosoir / Watering can  
cannette / beer can  
18x10x8 cm



MOUHAMADOU  
MOUSTAPHA NDIAYE  
Toupie / Spinning top  
bois / wood  
14 cm (diamètre/diameter)



Fourneau et marmite Cooking  
stove and pot  
métal / metal  
19 cm (hauteur / height)  
16 cm (diamètre / diameter)

# Seychelles



POUPEY SIFON

Poupey en chiffon / Cloth doll

Poupey sifon

textile / cloth

26 cm (hauteur/height)

**JOUETS DES ENFANTS D'AFRIQUE  
CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRICA**

PAYS/COUNTRY	TITRE / TITLE	ARTISANS	CONTACT
<b>BOTSWANA</b>			
	Chariot à bœufs / <i>Ox wagon</i> KOLOI YA DIKGOMO	Lerato Baalaetsi	Botswana National Museum 331 Independence Avenue Gaborone, Private Bag 00114
	Femmes herero / <i>Herero Women</i> MOHERERO	Kapa Monyalo	Tel: (267) 374 616 Fax: (267) 302 797
	Anier/ donkey rider / MOPALAMI WA TONKI	Phakedi Jeta	
<b>BURKINA FASO</b>			
	Poupées / <i>Dolls</i>	----	Centre des handicapés de la Cathédrale 01 B.P. 3903 Ouagadougou 01 Tel. (226) 30 75 56
	Eléphant (enalebasse) / <i>Eléphant</i>		
	Lion / <i>Lion</i> Eléphant - puzzle / <i>Eléphant</i> Tortue -alebasse / <i>Tortoise</i> Girafe - puzzle / <i>Giraffe</i> Sauterelle / <i>Grass hopper</i>	Seni Sawadogo	Association Managrenooma pour la protection des orphelins 01 B.P. 3144 Ouagadougou 01 Tel. (226) 37.02.76.
<b>BURUNDI</b>			
	Casserole / <i>Casserole</i> / ISAFURIYA Assiette / <i>Plate</i> / ISAHANI Poêle / <i>Frying pan</i>	David Shumbusho	Direction du Projet de Promotion d'Artisanat de Kayanza BP 62 Kayanza, Burundi Tel: (257) 928 180 Fax:(257) 224 678
<b>CONGO</b>			
	Moto / <i>Motorcar</i> Locomotive Vélo tandem poussoir / <i>Bicycle</i> Boxeur poussoir / <i>Boxers on wheel</i>	Atelier de Potopoto Brazzaville	Collection privée / <i>Private collection</i> M. Michel Massal
	Diligence Voiture / <i>Car</i> Voiture à tirer / <i>Car</i>	Les enfants de Brazzaville Children of Brazzaville	
<b>GHANA</b>			
	Bicyclette/ <i>Bicycle</i>	Richard Osei (16 ans/ years old)	Centre for National Culture
	Bateau / <i>Ship</i>	Michael Kofi (13 ans/ years old)	28th February Road,
	Machine à coudre / <i>Sewing machine</i>	Amidu Atika (14 ans/ years old)	P.O. Box 2738 Accra, Tel: (233.21) 664099

MAISON DE L'UNESCO, 26 mars - 6 avril 2001  
 UNESCO Headquarters, 26 March - 6 April 2001

PAYS/COUNTRY	TITRE / TITLE	ARTISANS	CONTACT
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>			
	Personnages / <i>Figurines</i> / SARIKELY Oiseaux articulés / <i>Articulating birds</i> VORONA MITSAINGOKA	Vololoniaina Razanariseheno	Femmes artisanes de Madagascar B.P. 3055, 101 Antananarivo Tel/ Fax (261) 20 22 430 65 E-mail: fam@dts.mg
	Poupées / <i>Dolls</i> / SARIBAKOLY 2 CV Taxi	Ramenja Jean Baptiste Ramarolahy	Association "Recyclades" 11 rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles Tel : 06.10.35.16.80 M. Pape Faye
<b>MALI</b>			
	Vélo / <i>Bicycle</i> Décapotable / <i>All-weather car</i>	--- FNAM	Association "Recyclades" 11 rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles Tel : 06.10.35.16.80 M. Pape Faye
<b>MAURICE / MAURITIUS</b>			
	Cheval Poussé / <i>Horse on wheels</i> Oiseaux qui sifflent / <i>Whistling birds</i> Carrousel	Shameemah Jummun Iqbal Aubdoolah	SPES (Société pour la Promotion des Entreprises Spécialisées) 7 Av. Labourdonnais, Quatre Bornes Tel: (230) 424 7414 Fax: (230) 424 2960 E-mail: spes@bow.intnet.mu
<b>NIGER</b>			
	Moto & Vélo / <i>Motor &amp; bicycle</i> / LAOULAYA Maison / <i>House</i> / WINDI Voiture (en calebasse) / <i>Car</i> Motos en fil de fer / <i>Wire motorbikes</i>	Moussa Sani Haoua Altine	Coopérative WADATA B.P. 11277 Niamey Tel: (227) 74.02.83. Fax: (227) 74.07.83
<b>NIGERIA</b>			
	Bigorneau / <i>Periwinkle shells</i> / OKOTO/KOSO Eventail / FILFIWA Jeu / <i>Game</i> / NCHO Instruments de musique / <i>Music instrument</i> / MOLO Instruments de musique / <i>Music instrument</i> / GARAYA KANA KANA - KURA	Rabiu Bala Obinna Yerima Gigin Bala Haruna	National Council for Arts and Culture PM.B. 252, Garki, Abuja Arts Centre, Moshood Abiola Road, Garki - Abuja Tel/Fax: (234-9) 234 2360
<b>SÉNÉGAL / SENEGAL</b>			
	Singe / <i>Monkey</i> Ane / <i>Donkey</i> Eléphant Girafe / <i>Giraffe</i> Poupée africaine / <i>African doll</i> / DOME TOUBAB Signare goréenne / <i>Goré women</i> Tortue / <i>Tortoise</i>	Hélène Diouf	Boutique CAJOU 30 Rue Amadou Assane Ndoye BP 11498 DAKAR Tel/Fax: (221) 821.96.98 E-mail: cajouhelene@hotmail.com

JOUETS DES ENFANTS D'AFRIQUE  
CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRCIA

PAYS/COUNTRY	TITRE / TITLE	ARTISANS	CONTACT
<b>SÉNÉGAL</b>			
	Camion Arachide / <i>Pea-nut truck</i>		Atelier RAFETE
	Arrosoir / <i>Watering can</i>		B.P. 6011, Dakar Etoile
	Fourneau & marmite / <i>Cooking stove &amp; pot</i>		Tel: (221) 822 38 01
	Voiture / <i>Car</i>		Fax: (221) 839 91 01
	Mallette / <i>Small Trunk</i>		Mme Louise Turpin
	Voitures / <i>Cars</i>	Les enfants du Sénégal / <i>Children of Senegal</i>	
	Avion / <i>Aero-plane</i>		
	Poupée / <i>Doll</i>		Direction de l'artisanat - Dakar
	Puzzles/ <i>Puzzles</i>		Tel: (221) 823.89.93
	Toupie / <i>Spinning top</i>	Mouhamadou Moustapha Ndiaye	Fax (221) 823.89.94
	Avion / <i>aero-plane</i>	Youssou Kane	Association "Recyclades"
	Bus / <i>bus</i>	Emmanuel Ndene	11 rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles
	4 X 4	Abdoulaye Mbow	Tel : 06.10.35.16.80
	Bateau / <i>Boat</i>		M. Pape Faye
	4 X 4	Evariste Kushika Nidata	
<b>SEYCHELLES</b>			
	Poupée en chiffon / <i>Cloth doll</i> POUPET SIFON	Dorcilly Marthe Volcere	Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO c/o Mont Fleuri, P.O. Box 48. Republic of Seychelles Tel: (248) 224028 Fax: (248) 224626



