



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



Sommaire/Contents

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Congo

Ghana

Madagascar

Mali

Maurice/Mauritius

Niger

Nigeria

Sénégal/Senegal

Seychelles

Liste des œuvres/List of works

B o t s w a n a



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



LERATO BAALAEYSI
Chariot à boeufs / 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
caelbasse / gourd
10 cm (diamètre / diameter)



SENI SAWADOGO
Lion / Lion
bois / wood
16cm (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 POTOPO TO
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 / Bicyclic
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



VOLOLOMIANA 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
calabasse / gourd
10x10x13 cm / 13x6x6 cm



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



niger

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



HÀOUÀ ALTINE
Moto / Motorcycle
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
Fibres 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



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



EVARISTE 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 Toubato
26 cm (hauteur / height)



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



Sénégal/Senegal



Arrosoir / Watering can
cannette / beer can
18x14x8 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



POUPE SIFON

Poupe en chiffon / Cloth doll

Poupe en

textile / cloth

26 cm (hauteur/height)

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

PAYS/COUNTRY	TITRE / TITLE	ARTISANS	CONTACT
BOTSWANA			
	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	
BURKINA FASO			
	Poupées / <i>Dolls</i>	----	Centre des handicapés de la Cathédrale 01 B.P. 3903 Ouagadougou 01
	Eléphant (enalebasse) / <i>Eléphant</i>		Tel. (226) 30 75 56
	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.
BURUNDI			
	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
CONGO			
	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	
GHANA			
	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
MADAGASCAR			
	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
MALI			
	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
MAURICE / MAURITIUS			
	Cheval Poussé / <i>Horse on wheels</i> Oiseaux qui sifflent / <i>Whistling birds</i> Carrusel	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
NIGER			
	Moto & Vélo / <i>Motor & 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
NIGERIA			
	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
SÉNÉGAL / SENEGAL			
	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
SÉNÉGAL			
	Camion Arachide / <i>Pea-nut truck</i>		Atelier RAFETE
	Arrosoir / <i>Watering can</i>		B.P. 6011, Dakar Etoile
	Fourneau & marmite / <i>Cooking stove & 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	
SEYCHELLES			
	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



