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Exhibition

Nouveau Musée national de Monaco
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YINKA SHONIBARE, MBE LOOKING UP...™

Written contributions by Princess Caroline of Hanover, Marie-Claude Beaud, Béatrice Blanchy, Cristiano Raimondi, Nathalie Rosticher and Simon Njami

The eyes of a contemporary artist accompany us in discovering the art treasures in the Nouveau Musée national de Monaco.

Yinka Shonibare MBE, an artist of Nigerian origins living in London, where he was born in 1962, likes to unite different worlds in a single space, because he himself is a product of the multiculturalism that now pervades the modern world. His reflections on identity and memory blend these two cultures in an entirely new aesthetic idiom. When he began to use wax in the 1990s as the material with which he modelled figures from the middle classes of the Victorian era, whom he represented as headless mannequins, he created an artistic trademark that made his work instantly recognizable. Whether models, sculptures, photographs or videos, the artworks of Yinka Shonibare have been exhibited in rooms of the Nouveau Musée national de Monaco that are rarely open to the public, and which encourage us to explore this part of the Principality's artistic history.

Monte Carlo has always been the centre of a lively performing arts scene, and there are several collections that reflect this fact: Visconti's "*maquettothèque*" at the Monte Carlo Opera, Eugène Frey's extraordinary and brightly coloured stage sets, the curious collection of transparent paintings that belonged to the Marquis du Périer du Mouriez, religious boxes from the Galéa Collection made by Carmelite monks in Provence, and thousands of other *artificialia* unearthed in the storerooms. A costume preservation workshop, which will remain open throughout the exhibition, will enable visitors to discover one of the hidden faces of the museum.