Yinka Shonibare: Double Dutch Annotation

This exhibition catalogue was published in conjunction with the most comprehensive showing of Yinka Shonibare’s work to date. Shonibare, a London based artist of Yoruba heritage, refers to himself as a “post-colonial hybrid,” a label which emphasizes the intercultural nature of his work (8). Considering the exhibition broadly, Double Dutch was not intended to be a retrospective. It focuses primarily on Shonibare’s three-dimensional sculpture in the curators’ efforts to present major themes including hybridization, cultural exchange, colonialism, and identity. The catalogue is well-illustrated and contains a number of large-format reproductions of Shonibare’s work. Scholarly contributions include six short essays and an interview with the artist. These essays include a diverse set of approaches to the analysis of Shonibare’s work, ranging from Manthia Diawara’s exploration of the artist’s use of stereotypes as a source of inspiration to Achille Mbembe’s discussion focused on African identity. Of special interest to scholars researching Shonibare’s work, the catalogue contains a brief biography of the artist’s exhibitions and education in addition to a substantial bibliography.

Reviews available for consultation:

Reed, Margaret E. Reviewing Yinka Shonibare: Double Dutch, edited by Jaap Guldemond, Gabriele Macerate, and Barbera van Kooij. African Arts 38, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 91.

By Lauren M. Freese