

# Georges Adéagbo

## Geneva, Switzerland of Yesterday and Geneva, Switzerland of Today

MAISON TAVEL, GENEVA  
3 MAY – 8 JULY 2018

PALAIS DES NATIONS (UN), GENEVA  
3 MAY – 18 MAY 2018

### PRESS RELEASE

*Geneva, April 2018* The Museums of Art and History, the United Nations Office at Geneva and ART for The World are honoured to present a two-part exhibition – at the Maison Tavel and at the Palais des Nations – by Beninese artist Georges Adéagbo. In these two original installations, the artist highlights both the permanent collection of the oldest private residence in Geneva, and the UN archives kept in the Library of the Palais des Nations.

The first African artist ever to receive the Jury's Grand Prize at the Venice Biennale in 1999, Georges Adéagbo knows how to reveal the affinities and the similarities, sometimes unsuspected, that can arise between different cultures. For his first personal show in Geneva, the artist, who currently works between Cotonou and Hamburg, has chosen the Maison Tavel and the archives of the United Nations to complete a two-part reflexion: the first on the history of Geneva, the second on the city's openness to the world.

Pursuing his work initiated more than twenty years ago, Adéagbo uses objects he has collected through time on the streets, on the markets in Africa (found objects, books, sculptures, paintings, press clippings ...) and in the countries where he travels. Each installation is the result of a careful selection completed with his personal writings. Everything is then displayed on the ground and on the walls, in an organic fashion, and the various elements gain life through often unexpected connections. Matching visual components with written material, these works take on a symbolic value and are left to the interpretation of the visitor who, with his own sensitivity, can create his own story.

For this exhibition titled *Geneva, Switzerland of Yesterday and Geneva, Switzerland of Today*, Adéagbo has added to these objects iconographic material linked to the Genevan history and the Maison Tavel, which he gathered by going through book and flea markets in Geneva. In the city's oldest private residence, the artist had weaved his installations in three distinct spaces (the cistern, the turret and the courtyard), initiating an original dialogue between his artistic approach and the permanent collections.



*This project has been conceived, organised and produced by ART for The World in collaboration with the Museums of Art and History and the Library of the United Nations at Geneva and the South-North Kulturforum Sud-Nord, Hamburg – Cotonou. It benefits from the support of the Fonds municipal d'art contemporain (FMAC), the Leenards Foundation and the Loterie romande.*

Curator : Adon Peres, XXX

**Exhibition opening: 3 May 2018, at 6 pm**

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## **Contacts**

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## **Additional Information**

### **Maison Tavel**

Rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre 6

1204 Genève

Exhibition open from 11 am to 6 pm

Closed on Monday

### **Palais des Nations (ONU)**

Avenue de la Paix 8-14

1211 Genève

Common space between buildings A and C, 3rd floor

*Registrations to visit the exhibition at*

*<http://reg.unog.ch/georgesadeagbo>*

**Website** : [www.mah-geneve.ch](http://www.mah-geneve.ch)

[www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch)

**Blog** : [www.blog.mahgeneve.ch](http://www.blog.mahgeneve.ch)

**Facebook** : [www.facebook.com/mahgeneve](http://www.facebook.com/mahgeneve)

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