

Press Release | 11 March 2022

A major new work by celebrated British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare sits alongside artworks by Pablo Picasso in an upcoming show.



Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, *Hybrid Mask (Baule/Yaure)*, 2021, Painted wood
Courtesy the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery. Photographer: Stephen White & Co.

***Hybrid Mask (Baule/Yaure)* by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA**

On show as part of *Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth*

13 March – 17 July 2022

High-resolution image available for download: <https://bit.ly/3KrgfRf>

Sainsbury Centre are to acquire a major work by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA (b.1962), the first example of his work to join the collection.

Shonibare engages with the complexities inherent in identity, describing his own as 'post-colonial hybrid'. Shonibare's latest works, a group of *Hybrid Masks*, are based on examples in Picasso's collection. Describing the series as 'Picasso in reverse', Shonibare says 'Picasso was interested in appropriating from another culture, and I also appropriate from European ethnic art'.

The objects that Picasso amassed around him demonstrate his interest in the metamorphosis between human and animal. With a human face and horns, *Hybrid Mask (Baule/Yaure)* is based on a ceremonial mask from the Baule or Yaure peoples of Côte d'Ivoire. Masks from both these cultural groups are in the Sainsbury Centre collection.

The hand-painted pattern, distinctive of Shonibare's work, references batik. Batik fabrics were made to Indonesian designs and mass-produced by the Dutch to sell to the colonies in West Africa. Shonibare buys the fabrics in Brixton, London. He is interested in how the fabrics have come to symbolise West Africa – including his native Nigeria – but are in fact multicultural and bound in the history of trade and colonialism.

Hybrid Mask (Baule/Yaure) is on public view for the first time in the Sainsbury Centre's exhibition *Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth* (13 March – 17 July 2022). This is the first time a piece from Shonibare's latest body of work is presented alongside work by Picasso. Currently on loan from the artist, the Sainsbury Centre is fundraising to acquire the mask. This acquisition will be the first by Yinka Shonibare to join the Sainsbury Centre's collection and furthers our aims of diversifying the collection by incorporating the work of important Black artists working across the world.

Tickets are available to buy online at sainsburycentre.ac.uk, £13/£12 concessions. Free parking subject to availability, two cafes, shop.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

Press Enquiries

Amber Lawrence | amber.lawrence@uea.ac.uk

Penelope Lucas | p.lucas@uea.ac.uk

Exhibition Information

Pablo Picasso: The Legacy of Youth

13 March – 17 July 2022

Tickets £13/£12 concessions

Visit sainsburycentre.ac.uk or call 01603 593199 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)

Follow @sainsburycentre on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram #TheLegacyOfYouth

About Yinka Shonibare CBE RA

British-Nigerian artist, Yinka Shonibare CBE RA was born in 1962 in Britain to Nigerian parents. He moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three, returning to the UK to study fine art, where he continues his practice. Shonibare was elected for the Turner Prize in 2004 and became a Royal Academician in 2013. He was awarded MBE in 2004 and CBE in 2019. Shonibare first displayed work inspired by Picasso in his 2021 exhibition at Stephen Friedman Gallery, *African Spirits of Modernism*, which included masks, sculptures and quilts. He is showing a selection of *Hybrid Masks* in his presentation at the gallery restaurant in Sketch, London where he has transformed the interiors with architect and designer India Mahdavi.

yinkashonibare.com

About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. It was founded in 1973 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation's great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury,

who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late 20th century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Elisabeth Frink, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Sonia Delaunay, Tess Jaray, Francis Bacon, Cornelia Parker, Jean Arp, Mary Martin, Rachel Kneebone and Amedeo Modigliani. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Medieval Europe. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England.

sainsburycentre.ac.uk