

HANEKAZE

by WAFRICA



Wafrika and Toyota Europe Design & Development present a vehicle art form that combines Japanese and West Africa esthetic at Maison de la Culture du Japon in Paris as a part of exposition " Japon Afrique intimes"

The exhibition from feb 18th - March 21st showcases unique Wafrika art pieces while highlighting "Hanekaze" (feather wind), the vision of designer-artist Serge Mouangue produced in collaboration with Toyota Europe Design Development and Eric Charles-Donatien feather artist.

PARIS, February 2020 – The year of Africa in France, la Maison de la Culture du Japon in the 15th arrondissement in Paris features a distinctive, free to public exhibition "Wafrika - Japon Afrique Intime" in the Great ground Hall in which an preternatural 3,6 meter long sculpture redefines motion through mysticism. Cameroon born designer-artist Serge Mouangue collaborates with Toyota Europe Design Development, ED² in short, and Eric Charles Donatien, feather artist, to give life to "Hanekaze" (feather wind), capturing spiritual presence common between West Africa and Japanese cultures through voodooism and Shintoism.

With "Hanekaze", a levitating sculpture, Serge Mouangue continues to create bridges between Japan and West Africa. Both animist and sophisticated, the two cultures combine in Wafrika art works express "the 3rd esthetic", encapsulating both culture's evidenced sensitivities. "A beautiful cultural blend" The Japan Times. "Putting an African twist on Japanese culture" CNN.

Toyota ED² is the European advanced design studio for Toyota and Lexus. Located in the Côte d'Azur, France, ED² aims to provide advanced concept proposals and groundbreaking design from a European perspective. Recent works from ED² are LF-30 Electrified and future mobility including e-palette shown in Tokyo Motor Show in 2019.

About Serge Mouangue

Cameroon born Serge Mouangue, is the founder and art director of Wafrika, a designer, artist and a TEDFellow. He was previously the head of the Innovation Lab and then Brand Strategy director an automotive maker. He lived and worked in Japan for 5 years and has exhibited his work all around the World including the Museum of Art and Design in NY. In January 2020 his work will be part of the Victoria & Albert Museum (London) exhibition on Kimono.

About Wafrika

Wafrika traces its origins to 2007 when Serge Mouangue developed the concept to breath new life into an ancient Japanese tradition of the kimono with innovative textiles that represent Africa. The name Wafrika name combines Wa (和), meaning the spirit of Japan, with Africa, encapsulating both West African and Japanese ancient sophisticated aesthetics to create a new territory, redefining our sense of origin and celebrating the diversity of two ancient, strong, and sophisticated cultures.

Now based in Paris, the Wafrika project has a small team in Tokyo, Kyoto and Yaoundé Cameroon.

www.wafrika.art

About Eric Charles-Donatien

Eric Charles-Donatien is a designer and feathercraft specialist, graduated from Ecole Duperré and the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture Parisienne. He joined the famous feather Master André Lemarié. He was promoted DA of Ateliers Lemarié, and he collaborated with major French and international houses such as, Chanel, Cartier, Jean Paul Gaultier, Roger Vivier, Vera Wang ...

In 2010, Eric Charles-Donatien founded his house, a real laboratory of developing creativity, tailor-made accessories, design objects, and even flirting with contemporary art with sculptures that he presents each year during the Cannes festival at the villa UGC. , under the guidance of the Enrico Navarra gallery. He is the author of a permanent work in the alcove of Tristan Auer's spa at the famous palace Hotel de Crillon Paris. In 2019, thanks to Mr. Manfred T. Mugler, he is embellishing Kim Kardashian for the second time for the Met Gala; and this same year he presented a conference on the evolution of links between fashion designers and Art craftsmen at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts on the occasion of the opening of the exceptional exhibition on haute couture of the house of MUGLER. Since January 2020, he is exhibited in the selection of Rare Talents of the Michelangelo Foundation in Geneva.

contact@ericcharlesdonatien.com / insta: [ericcharlesdonatien](https://www.instagram.com/ericcharlesdonatien)