The Musée d’Arts Africains, Océaniens, Amérindiens (MAAOA) /

Open to the public since 1992, it is the only museum in France, with the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris, exclusively dedicated to the arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. The MAAOA presents rich collections of works which are both outstanding testimonies and artworks in their own right. Various perspectives have been successively brought to these objects. At first, they were considered as objects of pure curiosity, before contributing towards testimonies and artworks in their own right. Various perspectives have been successively brought to these objects. At first, they were considered as objects of pure curiosity, before contributing towards the understanding of cultural diversity around the world in the 20th century. The Mexico room

The room for the national collections dedicated to Latin America was created in 1992 due to its large and varied collections of Mexican artworks. Open to the public since 1992, it is the only museum in France, with the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris, exclusively dedicated to the arts of Latin America. The Mexico room presents rich collections of works which are both outstanding testimonies and artworks in their own right. Various perspectives have been successively brought to these objects. At first, they were considered as objects of pure curiosity, before contributing towards the understanding of cultural diversity around the world in the 20th century.

The Africa room

The room is entirely devoted to the African room which was enhanced in 1992 due to its large and varied collections of African artworks. It is the only museum in France, with the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris, exclusively dedicated to the arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. The MAAOA presents rich collections of works which are both outstanding testimonies and artworks in their own right. Various perspectives have been successively brought to these objects. At first, they were considered as objects of pure curiosity, before contributing towards the understanding of cultural diversity around the world in the 20th century.

The Oceania-Americas room

The Oceania-Americas room presents a rich collection of Amerindian feathers, originally from the donation of Marcel Soligny. An exquisite array of Amerindian feathers, originally from the donation of Marcel Soligny, were displayed in the Centre National Georges Pompidou in Paris, during the “Les magiciens secrets” exhibition. In the Musée d’Archéologie Méditerranéenne – Centre de la Vieille Charité, this space brings together artworks originating from these two continents, including those from the collection forms the very basis of the collection of African art at the MAAOA. Along with this collection, the museum has created a unique collection of the distinguished Marseilles-born neurologist, Henri Gastaut (1915-1995). It was in 1989 that the city of Marseilles acquired this series of more than 80 sculpted, painted, moulded and even engraved human skulls, collected from all over the world. A Kanak mourner mask (New Ireland), which faithfully recreates the features of the deceased, and spider webs which resemble hair. There is also an exceptional collection of Alebrijes. These shocking papier-mâché monsters were created by Adrian Telay, otherwise known as “Doctor X”, in his hometown of Oaxaca (Mexico). It was in 1991 that the city of Marseilles acquired this series of more than 80 sculpted, painted, moulded and even engraved human skulls, collected from all over the world. A Kanak mourner mask (New Ireland), which faithfully recreates the features of the deceased, and spider webs which resemble hair.

Several remarkable artworks include:

1. A Mende mask (Sierra Leone). This is one of the most beautiful masks ever created and is an inspiration for many contemporary artists. The mask is made from a combination of materials including wood, fabric, and cowrie shells. It is a symbol of fertility.

2. An ambivalent animal made of a material that is considered both a dangerous beast which must be fought and a symbol of fertility. It is a symbol of fertility.

3. An exceptional collection of Alebrijes. These shocking papier-mâché monsters were created by Adrian Telay, otherwise known as “Doctor X”, in his hometown of Oaxaca (Mexico). It was in 1991 that the city of Marseilles acquired this series of more than 80 sculpted, painted, moulded and even engraved human skulls, collected from all over the world. A Kanak mourner mask (New Ireland), which faithfully recreates the features of the deceased, and spider webs which resemble hair. There is also an exceptional collection of Alebrijes. These shocking papier-mâché monsters were created by Adrian Telay, otherwise known as “Doctor X”, in his hometown of Oaxaca (Mexico). It was in 1991 that the city of Marseilles acquired this series of more than 80 sculpted, painted, moulded and even engraved human skulls, collected from all over the world. A Kanak mourner mask (New Ireland), which faithfully recreates the features of the deceased, and spider webs which resemble hair.

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The Egyptology department

In 1861, the city acquired for her collection of a true scholar — the talented Doctor Antoine Clôt, in partnership with the Musée du LOUVRE and the DRASSM for the gifting of works from Mediterranean civilisations. Works were moved to the Bastide Borély and stayed there until 1989, with the acquisition of the Egyptology collections of Doctor Clôt, the oriental by merchants, including the Borély family. In 1861, notably, the city acquired the rich collection of a true scholar — the talented Doctor Antoine Clôt. Marseille joined the ranks of the major museums in the world with this unique collection.