



George Osodi: Ebocha Gas Flare, 2004, digital image

Exhibition:

George Osodi's photographic essay, *Oil Rich Niger Delta*, marks the opening of Raw Material Company in Dakar

April 21 – May 19 2011

RAW MATERIAL COMPANY

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21st of April, 2011, marks the date when Raw Material Company, launches a physical art space in Mid Town Dakar, directed by Cameroonian born and Dakar-based exhibition maker and cultural producer, Koyo Kouoh. We are very pleased that this event inaugurates with the exhibition of a photographer whose work lies at the heart of Raw Material Company's vision.

Oil Rich Niger Delta is a body of work that Osodi developed over the course of many years of research in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria. The work has toured extensively internationally; making a stop in Kassel at DOCUMENTA 12 in 2007. This is the first time that *Oil Rich Niger Delta* is shown in Senegal. The exhibition consists of 10 selected, printed photographs alongside a projection of the entire portfolio of (number of images).

Nigerian photographer, George Osodi, began *Oil Rich Niger Delta*-project in 2003 and throughout the next four years he worked to compile an expansive body of work. The result is a gripping visual testimony to the situation faced by the people of the Niger Delta. Osodi's compassionate but realistic eye catches not only the crudeness of a life enmeshed in a regional tragedy, his pictures also succeed to capture the general beauty of 'being' and thus tell the story of human strength and resilience. His lens is not one of pity, but one of utmost respect. Although a sense of right and wrong is present, Osodi's aesthetic sensitivity and formalistic expertise clearly places this work within an artistic discourse as much as it renders a visual documentation of a humanitarian, political and environmental scandal of fifty years of exploitation and mal governance.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 22-page brochure with texts by curator Ruth Noack, art historian Frank A. Ugiemoh with an introduction by Koyo Kouoh.

A program of talks and events includes press and collector's previews on April 20, a guided tour with the director on April 23, an artist's talk on April 26, a panel discussion on May 22 (in collaboration with Codesria) on the paradox of general lack of sufficient supply of energy opposed to its multiple sources that the continent offers.

ABOUT RAW MATERIAL COMPANY

RAW MATERIAL COMPANY is a center for art, knowledge and society. Since its launch in 2008, it has functioned as a mobile art initiative unfolding within the realms of exhibition making, commissioning, knowledge sharing, and archiving of theory and criticism. It works to foster appreciation and growth of artistic and intellectual creativity in Africa. The underlying rationale of its program is the firm belief in visual arts as a potent tool capable of shifting perspectives, and ignite engagement for art practice as a viable path for social and political transformation. The program is transdisciplinary and is equally informed by urbanity, literature, film, architecture, politics, fashion, cuisine, and diasporas.

The core of *RAW MATERIAL COMPANY* is the resource centre, *RAWBASE*, offering a sustained discursive program through artist talks, portfolio review sessions, masterclasses, symposia, lectures, panel and round table discussions and research presentations. *RAWBASE* aims at establishing an extensive library/archive on contemporary art with an emphasis on African and Africa related practices. The facility is directed towards a national as well as an international educational and research audience.

Additional operational tools are *RAW Gallery*, a 100 sq m. exhibition space, and *RAW Residency*, a residential facility for artists, curators and writers specializing in photography, video and art in the public space *La Compagnie*, a roof top bar/restaurant, rounds up the concept of a free space for art practice and critical exchange.

VISITOR INFORMATION

PRESS PREVIEW: April 20 from 3-5 pm

COLLECTOR'S PREVIEW: April 20 from 6-8 pm

OPENING: April 21 from 7-9 pm

GUIDED TOUR: April 23 from 5-6 pm

ARTIST TALK: April 26 from 6– 8 pm (seats are limited)

PANEL DISCUSSION: May (a Saturday) from 5 – 7 pm

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 8 pm

La Compagnie opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday from 12 pm to 12 am

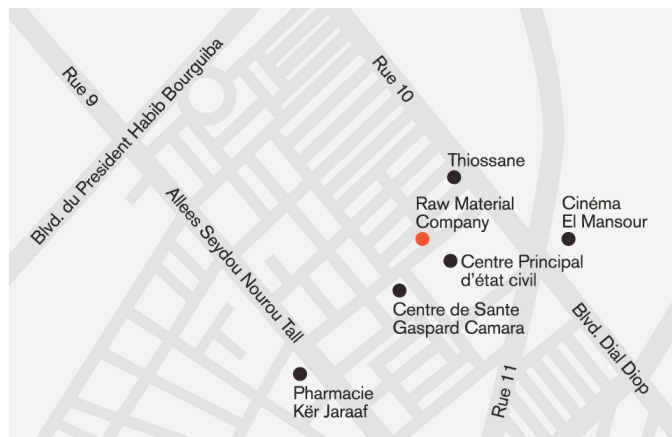
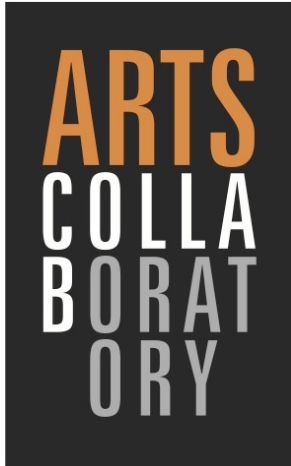
PRESS

For further information please contact info@rawmaterialcompany.org

EDUCATION

We offer special guided tours for students and groups of visitors by appointment.

Avec le soutien de Arts Collaboratory.



RAW MATERIAL COMPANY

Centre pour l'art, le savoir et la société

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Horaires: Mar-Sam: 10h-20h