

## PRESS RELEASE

### **JAPANCONGO (8 July – 14 August 2011)**

*Japancongo*, a unique show curated by artist Carsten Höller, bringing together works from Jean Pigozzi's collection of Japanese and Congolese art, will be presented at Moscow's Garage Center for Contemporary Culture this summer from 8 July to 14 August 2011.

Carsten Höller has chosen works by 16 Congolese artists including Pierre Bodo, Chéri Samba, Pathy Tshindele, Jean Depara, Cheik Ledy, and Bodys Isek Kingelez which will be shown in counterpoint to those by 47 Japanese artists including Natsumi Nagao, Nobuyoshi Araki, Akihiro Higuchi, Kazuna Taguchi, Teppei Kaneuji, Hiroki Tsukuda, and Keiichi Tanaami.

The exhibition's design and installation positions Japan on one side and Congo on the other, highlighting the similarities and differences between the two groups of work. At the narrowest point, the visitor becomes the missing link between the two walls and the cultural personalities of Japan and Congo draw closer but also draw attention to the precision and complexity of Japan versus the *art brut* style of the Congo.

*JapanCongo* has evolved from Höller's continued exploration of the concept of duality. He divides and re-divides spaces and objects, such as *The Giant Triple Mushrooms* exhibited at Garage last year. Recently however, his interest in division has been engaged in the explorations of the theme of cultural specificity. In association with Fondazione Prada, he created *The Double Club* in London (2008-2009) - the famous bar, restaurant and discotheque, where visitors' experience of the interiors, music and dining were divided completely into 'Congolese' and 'Western' parts.

### **Curator's Biography**

**Carsten Höller** (b. Brussels, 1961) is a German artist working and living in Stockholm, Sweden. Höller's artistic practice focuses on personal experience, and often involves viewer participation. His intention is to produce a specific, individual or social experience that occurs the moment one comes into contact with the artwork.

His works have been shown internationally over the last two decades, including solo exhibitions at Fondazione Prada, Milan (2000), the ICA Boston (2003), Musée d'Art Contemporain, Marseille (2004), MASS MoCA, (2006), and Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2008). In 2006, he conceived the giant slide installation *Test Site* at the Turbine Hall in London's Tate Modern, and represented Sweden (with Miriam Bäckström) at the 51st Biennale di Venezia. Recently he opened the Congolese and Western restaurant, nightclub, disco *The Double Club* in London in collaboration with Fondazione Prada for a six-month period.

## Collector's Biography

**Jean Pigozzi** (born 1952) is an Italian businessman, art collector and photographer. He lives between Geneva, New York and Panama. Over the last twenty years, Pigozzi has put together the world's largest collection of contemporary African art ([www.caacart.com](http://www.caacart.com)). The collection is based in Geneva and has been presented in major museums around the world. For the last three years, he has also been collecting contemporary Japanese art by young Japanese artists ([www.japigozzicollection.com](http://www.japigozzicollection.com)).

Jean Pigozzi started taking pictures at age 7. Since then, he never stopped photographing everything around him, which meant friends, dogs, icebergs, himself and a great many celebrities. His photographs have been shown at the Modern Art Museum in Paris, the Light Gallery in New York, the Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin, the Rencontres de la Photographie in Arles and recently at Gagolian Gallery in New York. His latest book: *Catalogue Deraisonne* (Steidl-Dangin) was published in October 2010.

Frustrated that he could not find clothing that matched his colorful and casual aesthetics, Jean Pigozzi created LimoLand, a men's clothing and accessories line, in 2007. As founder and creative director, Jean is the heart and soul of the brand, which represents the culmination of his many years collecting, working with colors and prints and traveling the world. It now has its own LimoLand store in New York. The brand has been featured in such influential fashion magazines as Vogue, GQ, Vanity Fair, T: The New York Times Magazine and The International Herald Tribune ([www.alimoland.com](http://www.alimoland.com)). In 1996, Jean started buying land in Panama, on the pacific coast, and created the Liquid Jungle lab that is dedicated to research in marine biology and brings high technology to environmental conservation. Scientists and students from around the world use the marine lab facilities and experimental farm to conduct their research ([www.liquidjunglelab.com](http://www.liquidjunglelab.com)).

## Further information

**Garage Center for Contemporary Culture** is a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture which opened in 2008. There are two distinct areas of programming—to bring important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow and to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and encourage a new generation of Russian artists. These are explored through a series of exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important collections to single-artist retrospectives or group exhibitions. Garage also hosts a strong program of special on-site events, including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children. Garage's space includes galleries, open exhibition spaces, courtyard, cafe, kids space, purpose-built auditorium and media room, all designed by award winning architect Jamie Fobert.

Garage is a project of The Iris Foundation, founded by Daria Zhukova.

**JapanCongo** is organized by **MAGASIN, Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble**

**JapanCongo**  
**8 July - 14 August 2011**

**Garage Center for Contemporary Culture**

19A Ulitsa Obraztsova  
Moscow, Russia  
Tel: +7 495 6450520  
www.garageccc.com  
Center opening hours:  
Mon – Thurs 11.00 - 21.00  
Fri – Sun: 11.00 - 22.00

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND IMAGES:**

**Erica Bolton**

Bolton & Quinn  
Tel: +44 20 7221 5000  
E mail: [erica@boltonquinn.com](mailto:erica@boltonquinn.com)

**ГАРАЖ**  
ЦЕНТР  
СОВРЕМЕННОЙ  
КУЛЬТУРЫ

127005, Россия, Москва  
Улица Образцова, 19А  
+7 495 645 05 10 тел.  
+7 495 645 05 11 факс  
[welcome@garageccc.com](mailto:welcome@garageccc.com)  
[www.garageccc.com](http://www.garageccc.com)