

# YINKA SHONIBARE CBE

## WINDY CHAIR

LADBROKE HALL | 16 MAY – 22 SEPTEMBER



CARPENTERSWORKSHOP GALLERY

Carpenters Workshop Gallery is pleased to present the newest iteration of Yinka Shonibare's CBE, *Windy Chair*.

Originally commissioned by Carpenters Workshop Gallery in 2014, *Windy Chair* is a limited-edition series of three – each piece being unique in their Dutch-wax inspired patterns. Yinka Shonibare CBE skillfully creates the illusion of the dynamic movement of a piece of fabric caught in a gust of wind, symbolising the fluidity and adaptability of human experience in an increasingly interconnected world.

*Windy Chair* carries deeper layers of meaning, touching on themes of migration, cultural exchange and the transience of identity. The use of waxed African print textiles adds layers of cultural and historical significance, challenging conventional notions of identity and representation.

Shonibare's artworks continue to resonate deeply in contemporary artistic discourse, particularly through the use of Dutch wax print that provokes critical reflections on cultural identity and globalization. At the Venice Biennale this year, the artist exhibited his *Refugee Astronaut* piece, a reworked space suit composed of Dutch wax printed cotton textile, which warns us about what might happen in the future if we ignore the climate crisis. In Shonibare's first London solo show in 20 years at the Serpentine Gallery, which opened in April, he exhibited *Sanctuary City* (2024) – comprised on miniature buildings nodding to places of refuge – and *The War Library* (2024), which was made of 5,000 books crafted in his signature print.

Yinka Shonibare CBE uses Western art history and literature to explore contemporary culture and national identities. His work explores issues of race and class through the media of painting, sculpture, photography, and film. Shonibare CBE was a Turner Prize nominee in 2004 and was also awarded the decoration of Commander of the Order of the British Empire, or CBE.

Yinka Shonibare's CBE *Windy Sculptures* have been exhibited at prestigious institutions worldwide, including:

- / The British Museum, London, UK
- / The Tate Modern, London, UK
- / The Royal Academy of Art, London, UK
- / The Serpentine Galleries, London, UK
- / The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- / The Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- / The Museum of Modern Arts (MoMA), New York, USA
- / The Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA
- / The Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- / The Louvre Museum, Paris, France



**YINKA SHONIBARE CBE**

WINDY CHAIR  
2014

Hand Painted Aluminium, Stainless Steel, Resin  
167.4 x 177.3 x 189.4 cm  
65 7/8 x 69 3/4 x 74 5/8 in  
Unique, Edition 2 of 3 with 2 AP

[→ MORE OF THIS WORK](#)



## DESIGN

In *Windy Chair*, Yinka Shonibare CBE skillfully creates the illusion of the dynamic movement of a piece of fabric caught in a gust of wind, despite the artwork being crafted from weighty aluminum and steel. The surface of the work is populated with colorful and playful patterns, inspired by Dutch-wax fabric which acts as a nod to the construction of cultural identities – a theme prevalent in many of the artist's works. The artwork reflects an innovative approach to contemporary design and fabrication, achieving remarkable energy and balance in a gravity-defying form.



BIOGRAPHY

Yinka Shonibare CBE was born in 1962 in London and moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study art first at Central Saint Martins College and then at Goldsmiths, where he received his master’s in fine arts. Shonibare’s work explores issues of race and class through the media of painting, sculpture, photography, and film. Shonibare was a Turner Prize nominee in 2004 and was also awarded the decoration of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, or CBE.

He was commissioned by Okwui Enwezor at Documenta in 2002 to create *Gallantry and Criminal Conversation*, the work that launched him on the international stage. His *Nelson’s Ship in a Bottle* was displayed in London’s Trafalgar Square. It was the first such commission by a black British artist and was part of a national fundraising campaign organized by the Art Fund and the National Maritime Museum; it is now permanently displayed outside the museum’s new entrance in London. In 2012, the Royal Opera House commissioned his *Globe Head Ballerina*. The life-sized ballerina encased within a giant snow globe spins slowly as if caught mid-dance. Shonibare’s works are also included in prominent museums, including the Tate in London, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna in Rome, and the VandenBroek Foundation in the Netherlands.



