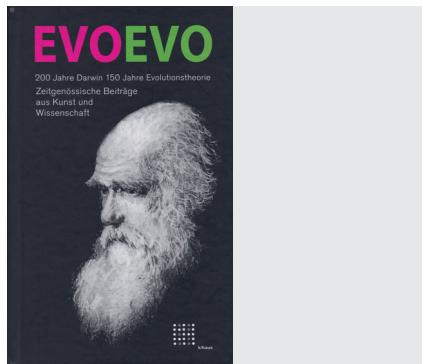


Works



MATEUS- BERR

**EVOEVO 200 Years
Darwin, 150 Years
Evolutiontheory. Cont-
emporary statements
from Art & Science**
KÜNSTLERHAUS VIENNA

DATE

4.9.-11. 10. 2009

KEYWORDS

**Staged Photography, Racism,
Social Darwinism, Postcolonialism**



DESCRIPTION

NUMBERS AND MISMEASUREMENT. SOCIALDARWINISM AND RASCISM OF TODAY

2009 was the “Darwin Year”. In Austria one only art exhibition (Künstlerhaus, Vienna) took place related to this topic. In my work of art MISMEASUREMENT, which was part of the show at Künstlerhaus, I refer to Socialdarwinism, which was used as pseudoscientific justification for imperialism and rassism at the time of the Nationalsocialism, and which today represents an essential feature of right-wing radicalism. Ruth Mateus-Berr works with staged photography. The models take the instruments for measurement in their own hands. A paradox and cynical situation is created. It challenges the observer to scrutinize the power of judgment.

In her photographies Austrian National team members (black colored) or a sport teacher (who was mistaken in Viennas subway with a drugdealer and was hit until disability) are posing with instruments.

VIENNA — Mike Brennan was getting off a Vienna subway when two undercover police officers pounced on him, mistaking him for a drug dealer. Months later, the 35-year-old black American is still recovering from his injuries — and waiting for a satisfactory apology. A recent Europe-wide study by the Vienna-based EU Fundamental Rights Agency found 55 percent of minorities and immigrants think “discrimination based on ethnic origin is widespread in their country.” Associate Press. 21.6.2009: http://www.nbcnews.com/id/31475522/ns/world_news-europe/t/attack-us-man-austria-brings-racism/#.WPWrSo6kJR



Mensmetingen door de nazi's (links) en door kunstenares Ruth Mateus-Berr (2010, rechts). Dirk Huyebrouck. <http://www.scilogs.be/drspi/een-african-american-math-artist/10.11.2016>

UPSIDE

DESCRIPTION

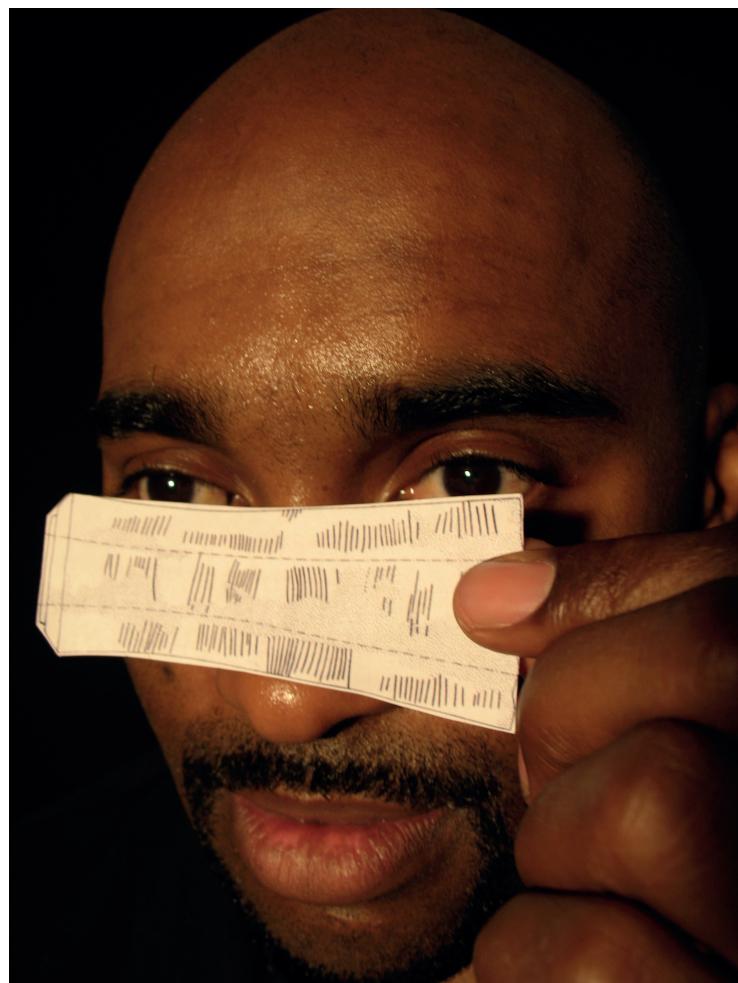


EVOEVO

Staged Photography

Ishango Bone: Maths & Arts

Huylebrouck's survey of African mathematics went back all the way to the oldest object of mathematics, the 22000-years-old Ishango rod, found in Congo. He explained his efforts for the recognition of the object, which was not shown on public display for about 50 years. Actually, today there even is a second Ishango rod, confirming some of the hypotheses about the first Ishango bone, as the discoverer of the rod(s) admitted its existence on his death bed. Despite this rather sad story about colonial or neo-colonial denial of African mathematical awareness, the talk at the "Math Space" was done in a lively way, through demonstrations performed with some members of the audience.



Ruth Mateus-Berr engaged with the Ishango bone, the knowledge of African culture, the neo-colonial denial of western countries.

Performance Math Power

Performance

Measurement

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DESCRIPTION

Performance Math Power

Ruth Mateus-Berr's live execution of a traditional African sand drawing on a table covered with sand. Another challenge for the audience was the measurement of the proportion navel-head compared to the length: using a large "golden section" compass Mateus-Berr could confirm some of the participants were of "ideal" proportions along social-Darwinist theories.

