

## Press Release #8

# Opening and Public Program of the 12th Berlin Biennale

Berlin, June 9, 2022

On the evening of June 10, 2022, 7–10 pm, the 12th Berlin Biennale titled *Still Present!* opens at several venues in the city. Various performances and activations will take place during the preview days and opening weekend, and will be repeated regularly throughout the exhibition's duration. More information can be found below under the section *Events* and online.

Learn more about the works of the 70 artists and artist collectives here.

The 12th Berlin Biennale takes place from June 11 to September 18, 2022 and is curated by Kader Attia in collaboration with Ana Teixeira Pinto, Đỗ Tường Linh, Marie Helene Pereira, Noam Segal, and Rasha Salti.

The exhibition is on view at: Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg and Pariser Platz, Dekoloniale Memory Culture in the City, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, and Stasi Headquarters. Campus for Democracy.

#### **Artists per Venues**

#### Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg

Exhibiting artists: Ammar Bouras, Calida Garcia Rawles, Clément Cogitore, DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti, Dana Levy, Đào Châu Hải, Florian Sông Nguyễn, Forensic Architecture, Imani Jacqueline Brown, Lamia Joreige, Mai Nguyễn-Long, Sammy

Baloji, Susan Schuppli, Sven Johne, Tammy Nguyen, Tejswini Narayan Sonawane, Temitayo Ogunbiyi, Tuấn Andrew Nguyễn, Yuyan Wang

#### Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz

Exhibiting artists: Deneth Piumakshi Veda Arachchige, Dubréus Lhérisson, Elske Rosenfeld, Jihan El-Tahri, Khandakar Ohida, Moses März, Prabhakar Kamble, Sajjad Abbas, Taloi Havini, The School of Mutants (Boris Raux, Hamedine Kane, Lou Mo, Stéphane Verlet Bottéro, Valérie Osouf), Uriel Orlow

#### **Dekoloniale Memory Culture in the City**

Exhibiting artist: Nil Yalter

#### <u> Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin</u>

Exhibiting artists: Alex Prager, Amal Kenawy, Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Birender Yadav, Calida Garcia Rawles, Clément Cogitore, David Chavalarias, Driss Ouadahi, Elske Rosenfeld, Forensic Architecture, Jean-Jacques Lebel, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Layth Kareem, Noel W Anderson, PEROU – Pôle d'Exploration des Ressources Urbaines, Praneet Soi, Raed Mutar, Sajjad Abbas, Tammy Nguyen, Thùy-Hân Nguyễn-Chí, Tuấn Andrew Nguyễn, Zach Blas

#### KW Institute for Contemporary Art

Exhibiting artists: Alex Prager; Amal Kenawy; Antonio Recalcati, Enrico Baj, Erró, Gianni Dova, Jean-Jacques Lebel, Roberto Crippa; Ariella Aïsha Azoulay; Asim Abdulaziz; Binta Diaw; Christine Safatly; Deneth Piumakshi Veda Arachchige; Etinosa Yvonne; Jeneen Frei Njootli; João Polido; Mai Nguyễn-Long; Maithu Bùi; Marta Popivoda/Ana Vujanović; Mathieu Pernot; Mayuri Chari; Mila Turajlić; Mónica de Miranda; Myriam El Haïk; Nil Yalter; Simone Fattal; Susan Schuppli; Taysir Batniji; Tejswini Narayan Sonawane; Zuzanna Hertzberg

#### Stasi Zentrale. Campus for Democracy

Exhibiting artists: Haig Aivazian, Hasan Özgür Top, Ngô Thành Bắc, Omer Fast, Susan Schuppli, The School of Mutants (Valérie Osouf), Zach Blas

#### **Public Program**

The exhibition of the 12th Berlin Biennale is accompanied by a comprehensive public program. In addition to thematic tours, workshops, performances, and film screenings, a series of conferences will explore how colonialism and imperialism continue to operate in the present.

Information about the public program, on-site participation, and livestreaming can be found <u>online</u>.

#### **Mediation Program**

For the 12th Berlin Biennale critical mediation formats provide us the opportunity to engage and exchange with one another in workshops and focus tours. In dialogues with local and decolonial voices, we focus on the multiple meanings of what decolonial art education could be.

#### **Guided Tours**

During our guided tours, we walk together through the exhibition and actively engage with the physical space. In public tours, art facilitators guide visitors through the exhibition venues of the 12th Berlin Biennale. The tours take place on Friday evenings and weekends. Our public tours are organized by Museumsdienst Berlin; they are free of charge.

During our guided tours, we walk together through the exhibition and actively engage with the physical space.

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg Saturdays 2 pm (German) Sundays 4 pm (English)

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz Fridays 5 pm (alternating German and English; further information online)

Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin Saturdays 2 pm (German) Sundays 4 pm (English)

KW Institute for Contemporary Art Saturdays 2 pm (German) Sundays 4 pm (English)

Public tours are free of charge with a valid exhibition ticket. Advance reservation is not required, but capacity is limited. Meeting point is the ticket desk of each venue. Duration: 90 minutes; Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz: 60 minutes.

Guided tours can be requested in various languages for small and large groups or school and university classes by contacting the Museumsdienst (see below).

Group tour prices: 60 minutes: 75 € 90 minutes: 100 € Plus admission fee Max. 25 participants

Discounted rates for educational institutions/schools:

60 minutes: 60 € 90 minutes: 85 € Plus admission fee Max. class size

Further information and booking: T + 49 30 24749-888 museumsdienst@kulturprojekte.berlin https://www.museumsdienst.berlin

#### Focus Tours

Focus tours invite you to explore inside and outside the exhibition space and sharpen your seeing, listening, and thinking, based on specific themes. Focus tours are a mix between public tours and workshops. They are free of charge and are organized by the Berlin Biennale educational team. A focus tour in German sign language (DGS) will also be available. This tour is conducted by an art mediator together with a sign language interpreter. It focuses on one exhibition venue and takes place twice during the 12th Berlin Biennale.

Mediators of the 12th Berlin Biennale: Arootin Mirzakhani, Christopher Wierling, Duc Vu Manh, Feben Amara, Heiko-Thandeka Ncube, Jeanne-Ange Wagne, Nesrine Ben Mansour, Raoul Zoellner, Thị Minh Huyền Nguyễn

Guest mediators: To include a variety of critical approaches, we invited artist and curator Moshtari Hilal and political geographer and essayist Sinthujan Varatharajah to address their practices in relation to the exhibition themes and venues of the 12th Berlin Biennale in three tours.

For more information on focus tours, workshops, and various collaborative projects, please visit the website of the 12th Berlin Biennale.

Focus tours are organized by the Mediation of the 12th Berlin Biennale; they are free of charge. Please find further information <u>online</u>.

#### AR project: Augmented Monuments

Augmented Monuments is an independent nonprofit app developed by Farhan Khalid and Mikala Hyldig Dal. Premiering at the 12th Berlin Biennale with collective augmented reality artworks reflecting on decolonization and democratic activism in the context of state surveillance and data theft, Augmented Monuments focuses on site-specific interventions in digital space.

On the former site of the Reichskanzlei or Reich Chancellery, where colonial powers divided the African continent into zones of exploitation during the so-called "Congo Conference" or "Berlin Conference," Augmented Monument #1BERLIN CONFERENCE reflects on the troubled history of the now nondescript space. Today, the space of Dekoloniale Memory Culture in the City is located here, one of the venues of the 12th Berlin Biennale. The collective artwork Augmented Monument #2 STASI HEADQUARTERS engages with Stasi Headquarters. Campus for Democracy, another venue of the 12th Berlin Biennale.

https://augmentedmonuments.com

For more information on focus tours, workshops, and various collaborative projects, please visit the <u>website</u> of the 12th Berlin Biennale.

#### **Discursive Program**

Bénédicte Savoy and Felwine Sarr's 2018 report on *The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage* has sparked a broader conversation in Europe about colonialism. Institutions have started to engage with their colonial heritage and the looted objects in their collections, and governments are committing themselves to restitution. These are first steps towards a reappropriation of cultural heritage and decolonization. But how can this willingness to face the colonial past be used to intervene into a present that is firmly in the grips of what Cedric J. Robinson has called *racial capitalism*, describing capitalism as a system based on the exploitation of a racially constructed Other?

Taking the restitution debate as a point of departure, the workshops and conferences of the 12th Berlin Biennale's discursive program convene scholars, activists, and artists to explore how colonialism and imperialism continue to operate in the present. Participants address the impact of Europe's imperial expansion on the earth's ecosystems. They discuss contemporary struggles and strategies around feminisms from the South. They examine how racism is backed by the cultural technologies and universalist ideals of the Enlightenment. They take up the issues of BIPoC who are living in the Global North and engage with antiracist practices as well as structures of solidarity. They ask how restitution can go beyond the material gesture of giving back cultural artifacts, and how action-oriented research can transform practices through "objects" contained in colonial collections. Finally, they illuminate how algorithmic governance (re)produces the same processes of racial ascription, immiseration, and exclusion that the digital revolution was meant to solve.

The discursive program draws on the concept of repair as developed by curator Kader Attia in his artistic practice—first of objects and physical injuries, and then of individual and societal traumas. Throughout his practice, repair has emerged as a mode of cultural resistance, a form of agency that finds expression in diverse practices and fields of knowledge. Making this form of agency the starting point, the program involves contributors and audiences in a critical conversation, in order to find ways together to care for the now.

Curator: Kader Attia

Advisors: Ana Teixeira Pinto, Felwine Sarr, Françoise Vergès, Irit Rogoff, Jean Lassègue, Katrin Becker, Lukas Fuchsgruber, Paola Bacchetta, Ramak Molavi, Rolando Vázquez, Stefania Pandolfo, Tarek El-Ariss, Thomas Oberender, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson

The discursive program is realized in cooperation with several institutions and organizations: Afrolution Festival, Berlin; Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin; La Colonie Nomade, Paris; Technische Universität Berlin

**Dates Discursive Program:** 

Conference: Imperial Ecologies

22.-23.6.2022

Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin, Invalidenstraße 50–51, 10557

Berlin

Curated by: Kader Attia

With: Ana Teixeira Pinto, Doreen Mende, Etinosa Yvonne, Eyal Weizman, Imani Jacqueline Brown, Joseph Tonda, Jürgen Zimmerer, Layth Kareem, Malcom Ferdinand, Rijin Sahakian, Samaneh Moafi, Stefania Pandolfo, Susan Schuppli

(Detailed information on the conference is available here.)

Panel: Afrofeminisms. Bridging the Gap

24.6.2022

Each One Teach One (EOTO) e. V., Togostraße 76,

13351 Berlin

Organized by: Afrolution Festival

With: Emilia Roig, Fania Noël, Pumla Dineo Gqola, Tiffany N. Florvil

(Detailed information on the panel is available here.)

Conference: Whose Universal?

2.-3.7.2022

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Organized by: Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) in collaboration with the 12th Berlin

Biennale

Curated by: Ana Teixeira Pinto, Anselm Franke

With: Darla Migan, Dirk Moses, Françoise Vergès, Katrine Dirckinck-Holmfeld, Max Jorge Hinderer Cruz, Prabhat Patnaik, Priyamvada Gopal, Rasha Salti, Siraj Ahmed, Sladja Blažan, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, a.o.

#### Workshop and Performance: Building Refuges and Sanctuaries

12.-13.8.2022

Dekoloniale Memory Culture in the City, Wilhelmstraße 92, 10117 Berlin, and public space Curated by: Françoise Vergès

#### Workshop and Presentation: Recovering Features

17.-19.8.2022

KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Auguststraße 69,

10117 Berlin

Curated by: Informal Collective on Western Sahara

With: Fatima Mahfoud, Francesco Bastagli, Patrizio Esposito, Sophie Oukka, Yasmine

Eid-Sabbagh, a.o.

Conference: Bandung of the North

3.-4.9.2022

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Organized by: La Colonie Nomade

With: Abbéy Odunlami, Andreas Malm, Françoise Vergès, Michèle Sibony, Mohamed Amer Meziane, Olivier Marboeuf, Ramón Grosfoguel, Sandew Hira, Selim Nadi, and a performance by Susana Pilar

Presentation: Re-connecting "Objects"

9.9.2022

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Organized by: Prof. Dr. Bénédicte Savoy (Head of Project) and Dr. Lotte Arndt, Technische Universität Berlin; Prof. Dr. Ciraj Rassool and Dr. Sophie Schasiepen, University of the Western Cape; Prof. Dr. Albert Gouaffo and Dr. Lucie Mbogni, Université de Dschang; Dr. El Hadj Malick Ndiaye and Dr. Rossila Goussanou, Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire

(IFAN), Théodore Monod African Art Museum, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar; Prof. Dr. Dan Hicks and Dr. Lennon Mishi, University of Oxford, Pitt Rivers Museum; Dr. Marian Nur Goni, Université Paris VIII; in exchange with: La Villa Hermosa (Ayoh Kré Duchâtelet, Lionel Maes)

With: Lennon Mhishi, Lotte Arndt, Lucie Mbogni Nankeng, Marian Nur Goni, Rossila Goussanou, Sophie Schasiepen

Conference: From Restitution to Repair

10.-11.9.2022

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Curated by: Kader Attia

With: Albert Gouaffo, Bénédicte Savoy, Ciraj Rassool, Dan Hicks, Deneth Piumakshi Veda Arachchige, El Hadji Malick Ndiaye, Felwine Sarr, Jihan El-Tahri, Jürgen Zimmerer, Marie Helene Pereira, Uta Kornmeier, and a performance by Myriam El Haïk

Conference: The Digital Divide

15.-16.9.2022

Stasi Headquarters. Campus for Democracy,

Ruschestraße 103, 10365 Berlin

Curated by: Kader Attia and Noam Segal With: Evgeny Morozov, Katrin Becker, a.o.

Attendance at the conferences is possible at the respective venues without advance registration, admission is free.

The conferences will be livestreamed and made available afterwards in the media library of the <u>website</u> of the 12th Berlin Biennale.

The livestreams are conceived and realized by the Berliner Hochschule für Technik (BHT).

The discursive program is funded by the Open Society Foundations, the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education), and the Beauftragte für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media) in the frame of NEUSTART KULTUR.

#### Film Program

Information on the film program curated by Rasha Salti will be announced at a later date.

#### **Events**

<u>DAAR: Ente di Decolonizzazione – Borgo Rizza / Berlin Activation</u> <u>Decolonial Assembly</u> Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Thursday, 9.6.2022, 2–5 pm Friday, 10.6.2022, 2–5 pm Saturday, 11.6.2022, 2–5 pm

The Ente di Decolonizzazione – Borgo Rizza is a new installation by DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti. It explores possibilities for the critical reappropriation, reuse, and subversion of fascist colonial architecture and its modernist legacy. Through Decolonial Assemblies, a direct dialogue is initiated with groups, individuals, and associations that critically address the colonial past of the various contexts in which the work is installed. On June 10, the Decolonial Assembly will be realized in conversation with the UIA 2023 World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen Science Track.

With the support of Italian Council (10th Edition 2021) program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity for the Italian Ministry of Culture

Cocommissioned and coproduced by Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, UIA 2023 World Congress Copenhagen Science Track

#### Myriam El Haïk: Please Patterns

Live wall-drawing and piano performance KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Auguststraße 69, 10117 Berlin

Friday, 10.6.2022 2:30–3 pm Live wall-drawing 3:30–3:45 pm Live piano performance 4–4:15 pm Live piano performance 4:30–4:45 pm Live piano performance 4:45–5:15 pm Live wall-drawing

Thursdays, from 16.6.2022 (except 21.7.) 3:30–4 pm Live wall-drawing 4:30–4:45 pm Live piano performance 5–5:15 pm Live piano performance 5:30–5:45 pm Live piano performance 5:45–6:15 pm Live wall-drawing

Throughout the duration of the 12th Berlin Biennale, the artist will be present each Thursday afternoon to carry out a ritual of performing a large-scale wall-drawing and the original composition for piano Please Patterns. Both transform space, time, and their perception.

Commissioned and produced by the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

Uriel Orlow: Reading Wood

Performance
English, German, Portuguese
Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

Thursday, 9.6.2022 3–3:30 pm 4–4:30 pm

Friday, 10.6.2022 3–3:30 pm 4–4:30 pm Saturday, 11.6.2022 12–12:30 pm 1–1:30 pm

Every Sunday, from 12.6.2022 (except 3.7.; 17.7.; 7.8.; 21.8.; 4.9.; 11.9.) 3–3:30 pm 4–4:30 pm

If we are in a Library of Wood in which trees have become books, how do we read them? And if we realize they have all been taken without consent, how do we return them, and to whom? This activation/performance suggests restitution as an ongoing practice of memory and repair. With Berlin-based Portuguese performer Fabíola.

Commissioned and coproduced by the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art With the support of Schweizer Kulturstiftung Pro Helvetia

Zach Blas: Unknown Ideals

Book launch and conversation

English

KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Auguststraße 69,
10117 Berlin

Sunday, 12.6.2022, 5 pm

With: Ana Teixeira Pinto, Edit Molnár, Marc Siegel, Övül Durmuşoğlu, Zach Blas, and the designers of the book Studio Pandan | Ann Richter and Pia Christmann

The book Unknown Ideals offers an inquiry into Zach Blas' singular practice through a series of newly commissioned essays by Alexander R. Galloway, Pamela M. Lee, Mahan Moalemi, Kris Paulsen, an interview with Zach Blas by Övül Durmuşoğlu, and writings by the artist himself. These insightful contributions expand on the technological, queer, filmic, and cultural inquiries that comprise the rich world of Blas's practice, exemplary among his generation of digital artists.

Across his works, Blas closely engages the materiality of digital technologies while also drawing out the philosophies and imaginaries lurking in artificial intelligence, the internet, predictive policing, airport security, biometric recognition, and biological warfare. Blas embraces the media of computation, video, sculpture, and music in his installations, which confront biometric surveillance, the cult of optimization, and the reification of data Blas uses research-based practices to scrutinize the relationship between digital technologies and the cultures and politics that animate them. Critical of today's corporate internet giants and their ideological fascination with Ayn Rand, Blas extensively considers the beliefs, desires, fantasies, histories, and symbols latent in technical systems as he dwells on the horizons and edges, or what he calls the "outside," of dominant power structures. Reclaiming Rand's phrase the "unknown ideal," Blas points to both the liberatory potentialities and political challenges of the present: he imagines a proliferation of "unknown ideals" in order to dispute Rand's vision of the future. Refusing technological determinism, Blas's work makes space for escape through its celebration of queer ideality.

Organized by Edith-Russ-Haus for Media Art in collaboration with the 12th Berlin Biennale

Zach Blas: Unknown Ideals, 2022

Published by Sternberg Press and Edith-Russ-Haus for Media Art

English/German

Graphic design: Studio Pandan | Pia Christmann & Ann Richter 17 × 24 cm, 376 pages, 85 color and 11 b/w illustrations, softcover

ISBN 978-3-95679-588-6

Price: 30 €

<u>Zuzanna Hertzberg: Individual and Collective Resistance of Women During the Shoah</u> <u>Artivistic spoken word performance</u>

Enalish

KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Auguststraße 69, 10117 Berlin

Thursday, 9.6.2022, 2–3 pm Saturday, 2.7.2022, 4–5 pm Saturday, 6.8.2022, 4–5 pm Saturday, 3.9.2022, 4–5 pm Friday, 16.9.2022, 4–5 pm Saturday, 17.9.2022, 4–5 pm Sunday, 18.9.2022, 3–4 pm

The Individual and Collective Resistance of Women During the Shoah performance is a continuation of my research and an attempt to recover herstories of resistance of Jewish women from Central and Eastern Europe—their ways of dealing with harsh reality, and the strategies and roles they have chosen in order to create differently built societies which are expanding. What methods did they use? What kind of social bonds allowed them to achieve the impossible? How did they respond to oppression? And how can we use this knowledge today in the battles we fight?

Emancipation in minority groups follows different rules than in majority groups. Patterns cannot be translated; coalitions and alliances are formed for different reasons. Solidarity is a reaction, not a choice. For those about whom I am talking, the most important act was to pass on testimony in various forms: shouted out before a public execution; written on scraps of toilet paper; the last will whispered to a friend before a dying woman's passing—the will to survive. Not as a physical body, but as a part of a collective story to be passed on. Someone/something must survive. Survival is a form of victory. I refer to various attitudes in order to avoid building simplifying clichés.

Recovering biographies from scraps is an act of protest against what is in the textbooks and what is passed on to become the tools used to build fascism. A different view of the past yields new ways of looking at the present, and a chance for an unappropriated future. Lack of resistance is not only the result of powerlessness, but also an effect of social circumstances. Who has the right to remember and to speak for those who are absent? How much does it cost, and what are the rules for the distribution of knowledge? Is working on memory a real job?

I am part of the story. It is a story of sisterhood stretched over an extended timeline, an attempt to maintain dialogue through storytelling and simple human honesty by fulfilling the will of the heroines, who speak from a place of love.

L'chaim! for life! but life and survival is not enough—I take over and pass on the story so that it can come true.

(Text: Zuzanna Hertzberg)

With the support of Adam Mickiewicz Institute; The Tarbut Fellowship; ZAiKS Creativity Support Fund

Visual material and images from the archives Beit Lohamei Haghetaot – Ghetto Fighters' House Museum Archives, Western Galilee; The Yad Vashem – World Holocaust Remembrance Center Archives, Jerusalem; Jewish Historical Institute Archives, Warsaw; Central Archives of Modern Records, Warsaw; The Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Oświęcim

All information about the public program can be found on our website.

The press kit of the 12th Berlin Biennale is available <u>here</u>. You can find a selection of exhibition views in the press section of our <u>website</u>.

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The Berlin Biennale is organized by KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. The Berlin Biennale is funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation). The Kulturstiftung des Bundes is funded by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).

### **Press Contact**

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Berlin Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.

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