

UNEXPECTED LESSONS

Decolonizing Memory and Knowledge



**11 & 12
June 2021**

**Akademie
der Künste
am Pariser
Platz,
Berlin**

**Urban
Landscape,
Nairobi**

**World
Wide
Web**

»The Western Archive is exhausted!« – Felwine Sarr

What can knowledge be today, beyond European knowledge systems? New perspectives and different questions are needed in order to break up colonial thought patterns and challenge Eurocentric, white views. The Project TALKING OBJECTS aims to negotiate these questions on the African continent and in Germany. Five thematic fields are in the foreground: decolonizing memory, decolonizing knowledge, the re-evaluation of objects from colonial contexts, empowerment by and opportunities of artistic perspectives, and questions about classical museum forms of preservation and presentation.

On 11th and 12th of June 2021, we start with the performative discursive event **»UNEXPECTED LESSONS - Decolonizing Memory and Knowledge«**.

The programme will be held in English with German translation. – Only the panel *Repenser l'histoire d'art / Reconsidering Art History* will be held in French with English translation.

TALKING OBJECTS is aimed to be a longterm project consisting of the TALKING OBJECTS LAB and the TALKING OBJECTS ARCHIVE.

PROGRAMME

Friday,
11 June 2021

- 1.30 pm** *Welcome Remarks*
Mahret Ifeoma Kupka, Isabel Raabe (Curators of UNEXPECTED LESSONS), **Jim Chuchu, Njoki Ngumi** (The Nest Collective), **Chao Tayiana** (Curators of the programme in Nairobi)
- 2.00 pm** *Keynote*
Recreating Ecologies of Knowledge
Nana Oforiatta Ayim
(writer, art historian, filmmaker)
- 2.30 pm** *Keynote*
Music, Knowledge and Transmission
Felwine Sarr (Economist, musician)
- 3.00 pm** *Talk*
Epistemic shift in Memory and Knowledge
Conversation with **Nana Oforiatta Ayim** and **Felwine Sarr**. Moderation: **Aïcha Diallo** (Cultural scientist)
- 4.00 pm** **Sound Performance**
Elsa M'Bala
- 4.30 pm** *Break and Film*
A New England Document.
By Che Applewhaite
- 5.00 pm** *In Nairobi:*
Decolonization Labour is emotional Labour
Vox Pops—Sentiments on the Street
What I Felt / What I Said—Artistic Presentation
Interactive Discussion
- 6.30 pm** **Sound Performance**
Elsa M'Bala
- 7.00 pm** *Break*
- 7.30 pm** *Artist Talk*
Who heals here?
with **Nathalie Anguezomo Mba Bikoro** and **Elsa M'Bala**. Moderation **Magnus Elias Rosengarten** (Artist, writer)
- 8.30 pm** *Performance*
Where is your Fire?
Nathalie Anguezomo Mba Bikoro

PROGRAMME

Saturday,
12 June 2021

- 11.00 pm** *Talk*
Black (European) Studies - Mapping Academia
Natasha A. Kelly (Sociologist), **Peggy Piesche** (Cultural Scientist), **Vanessa Eileen Thompson** (Sociologist), Moderation: **Mahret Ifeoma Kupka** (Curator, art historian)
- 12.30 pm** *In Nairobi:*
The Other Objects
Renaming
- 1.30 pm** *Break and Film*
Un-Documented: Unlearning Imperial Plunder
by **Ariella Aisha Azouley**
- 2.00 pm** **De-Westernization - On African Philosophy**
Digital Input with **Nadia Yala Kisukidi** (Philosopher)
- 2.30 pm** *Poetry-Performance*
Opuwo with **Stefanie-Lahya Aukongo** (Poet, curator, singer)
- 3.00 pm** *Break*
- 3.30 pm** **Colonialities and Education in Museums**
Input **Carmen Mörsch** and **Nora Landkammer** (Cultural mediators and art educators)
- 4.15 pm** *In Nairobi:*
The Other Objects
A New Behaviour
- 5.00 pm** *Break and Film*
a so-called archive
by **Onyeka Igwe**
- 5.30 pm** **Repenser l'histoire d'art / Re-considering Art History**
Bénédicte Savoy (Art historian), **El Hadji Malick Ndiaye** (Art historian, curator)
Moderation: **Ibou Coulibaly Diop** (Literary scholar) – *In French with English translation*
- 7.00 pm** *In Nairobi:*
Becoming Kaspale
Performance **Syowia Kyambi**

FILM PROGRAMME online

A New England Document

(2020. USA. 16min. By **Che Applewhaite**)

a so-called Archive

(2020. UK. 20min. By **Onyeka Igwe**)

Un-Documented: Unlearning Imperial Plunder

(2019. UK. 34min. By **Ariella Aisha Azouley**)

The films will be available online throughout the event days.

WALK online

A *Video City Walk* with an interactive map along colonial traces in the urban space in cooperation with **DEKOLONIALE Memory Culture in the City** from the Brandenburger Tor to Wilhelmstraße, historical venue of the Berlin Conference (1884/85). With **Mnyaka Sururu Mboro, Paulette Reed-Anderson, Israel Kaunatjike** and **Zaida Horstmann**.
– www.dekoloniale.de

Curatorial Team UNEXPECTED LESSONS

Jim Chuchu and Njoki Ngumi (Artist Collective The Nest, Nairobi), Chao Tayiana (African Digital Heritage, Nairobi), Mahret Ifeoma Kupka (curator, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main), Isabel Raabe (curator and project developer, Berlin), film programme by Nnenna Onuoha (filmmaker and visual anthropologist, Berlin), city walk curated by Dekoloniale Memory Culture in the City.

Visit & Participate

The whole event will be accessible via Livestream on www.talkingobjectslab.org and will later be accessible on our blog. Additional material and videos will be published on our Blog. Information for visiting the event will be available on talkingobjectslab.org from the end of May.

Contact & Info

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Design by Visual Intelligence.
Image by Syowia Kyambi:
Kaspale/The Lecture Room
Intervention, Video Still.
Photo by Carl Kühl, MARKK Museum 2019.

Co-operation partner

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

Dekoloniale

UNEXPECTED LESSONS is supported by

