

Zeitz MOCAA gathers global artists, activists and writers online for The Radical Solidarity Summit

Cape Town - This September, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) will host and convene The Radical Solidarity Summit, its first, week-long online gathering that will address urgent issues, explore alternative futures, and discuss the possibilities that can be forged in the cultural field through acts of radical solidarity.

The event will take place over five days, 14-18 September 2020. It will be an unprecedented opportunity to connect with other organisations and individuals, artists, curators, activists, writers and educators who are passionate about learning, supporting and collaborating in a spirit of generosity and who are committed to the continued fostering of the arts from Africa and its diaspora.

Each day of the online event will explore solidarity through a different theme. The summit begins with a discussion on the historic legacies of resistance and the ongoing struggle for black liberation through the context of Pan-African solidarity. Day two examines the development of robust publication cultures including both print and online platforms as well as other methods of knowledge production and transmission. Day three looks at practices of collaboration and collectivity while day four will ask critical questions related to space, urbanism and mobility and its impact on imaginaries. The event concludes with a review of radical artistic and theoretical practice in relation to solidarity.

The programme will take the form of discursive talks alongside performances, film screenings and readings. In honour of the event, Zeitz MOCAA is handing over the reins of its Instagram account for the duration of the summit to blaxTARLINES KUMASI, an experimental incubator of contemporary art and sharing community based in Kumasi, Ghana.

The Radical Solidarity Summit draws on distinguished and leading figures from across the continent and from a range of disciplines spanning political science, film, visual arts, literature and philosophy. Highlights from the programme include Albie Sachs, South African struggle veteran, Achille Mbembe, historian and political theorist and Bukola Oyebo, art writer, editor and publisher, founder and editor-in-chief of art magazine The Sole Adventurer. It will be the first time many of the panellists will have shared the same stage together.

Koyo Kouoh, Executive Director and Chief Curator of Zeitz MOCAA, said:

“This summit, the first multi-day gathering convened by our young museum, comes at a pivotal moment for our global cultural community. We are reeling from the effects of a pandemic while witnessing the impact of systemic inequalities. We saw the urgency for this initiative, to extend a hand of solidarity to others as we collectively navigate unknown times.

The summit will provide a platform for an incredible group of speakers whose demanding and critical voices will discuss bold strategies and map new realities within the cultural field. We know we cannot do it alone, and that it is necessary as individuals and organisations to engage and establish tangible alliances, engagements, families, expressions and platforms to address ongoing issues and to forge a way forward.”

The Radical Solidarity Summit is organised and convened by the Zeitz MOCAA curatorial team: Tandazani Dhlakama, Sakhisizwe Gcina, Storm Janse van Rensburg, Koyo Kouoh, Tammy Langtry and Phokeng Setai.

Tickets are R85 for African guests and R150 (USD \$8.5) for international guests and are available through [Webtickets](#). Zeitz MOCAA is also inviting applications from students for sponsored tickets by contacting the museum directly on education@zeitzmocaa.museum.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

Diana Campbell Betancourt, chief curator Dhaka Art Summit and artistic director Samdani Art Foundation

Chimurenga, a pan-African platform of writing, art and politics

Frieda Ekotto, novelist and literary critic

Haroon Gunn-Salie, commissioned artist

Awa Konaté, critic, curator & founder of @CultureArtSociety

Koyo Kouoh, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Zeitz MOCAA

Mpho Matsipa, lecturer at Wits School of Architecture and Planning and research fellow at WiSER

Achille Mbembe, philosopher, political theorist and public intellectual

Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, screenwriter, film director and visual artist

Nontsikelelo Mutiti, graphic designer, artist and educator

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, contemporary art curator, writer and founder and artistic director at Savvy Contemporary

Rémy Ngamije, novelist and publisher, co-founder of independent literary magazine *Doek!*

Emeka Okereke, visual artist and writer

Bukola Oyebo, art writer, editor and publisher, founder and editor-in-chief of art magazine *The Sole Adventurer*

Marie Helene Pereira, curator and director of programmes, RAW Material Company

Edgar Pieterse, urban scholar, writer and creative agent, founding director African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

ruangrupa, contemporary art collective based in Jakarta, Indonesia

Albie Sachs, struggle veteran, former judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa and Zeitz MOCAA board member

Rasha Salti, researcher, writer, and curator of art and film

Tau Tavengwa, founder and co-editor of *Cityscapes* magazine and Curator-at-Large at African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

Françoise Vergès, political scientist, historian and feminist

More participants to be announced in the coming days.

FULL PROGRAMME

Location: Zoom

Time: 4PM - 8:30PM SAST (GMT+2)

A programme of film screenings, readings and performances will accompany each theme explored.

14 September 2020

4PM – 4:10PM - Introduction by Koyo Kouoh, Chief Curator and Executive Director, Zeitz MOCAA

Topic: *Solidarity: Historic Contexts of Pan-Africanism and the Transnational Struggle*

4:10PM – 6PM - Conversation: Albie Sachs and Achille Mbembe, moderated by Koyo Kouoh

A historical mapping of Pan-Africanism as a political formation and radical solidarity in times of crisis. This will include insight into its inception in the Black Nationalist Movement in the United States of America, stretching into the anti-colonial movements in Africa and its diaspora, and to its present-day manifestations. Pan-Africanism as a school of thought comprises various intellectual traditions, such as the doctrine of Negritude that emerged in the 1920s and other black radical movements of the 20th and 21st century. The teachings of Pan-Africanism are foundational to much of the political self-organisation and mobilisation that occurred in the struggle for independence in Africa during the 20th century. Due to Pan-Africanism's influence, different mechanisms emerged which united African countries against colonialism and assisted in the establishment of inter-regional social, political, economic and cultural ties. These connections created possibilities for underground networks, coalitions and strategies to materialise. This will involve a critical analysis of Pan-Africanism's intellectual legacy, its shortcomings and its intersections with race, class, and gender.

6:30PM – 8PM - Performance: Haroon Gunn-Salie

8PM – 8:10PM - Intermission

8:10PM – 8:30PM - Reading: Sakhisizwe Gcina

15 September 2020

Topic: *Printed Matter, Text, Language, Transmission of Knowledge*

4PM – 5:30PM – Panel 1: Bukola Oyebo, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Remy Ngamije, Awa Konaté, moderated by Sakhisizwe Gcina

5:30PM – 6:30PM - Performance/Screening

6:30PM – 8PM - Panel 2: Frieda Ekotto, Françoise Vergès, moderated by Tandazani Dhlakama

Knowledge systems from Africa have been preserved and passed on through generations. They exist and manifest today through cultural forms and critical artistic practices. Language and literature, both spoken and in print, has played a pivotal role in the transmission of information for solidarity against suppressive cultural domination. This will be an examination of the different kinds of knowledge production and dissemination systems rooted in Africa. Furthermore, today, the accessibility of the internet is providing a space for the amplification of marginalised cultures and peoples to connect with one another. The internet has contributed immensely to democratising the channels through which knowledge from the continent and narratives of blackness are celebrated.

8PM – 8:10PM - Intermission

8:10PM – 8:30PM - Reading: Tandazani Dhlakama

16 September 2020

Topic: *On Collectivity and Collaboration as Radical Practice*

4PM – 5:30PM - Roundtable: ruangrupa, Bonaventure Ndirungu, Marie Helene Pereira, Diana Campbell Betancourt, moderated by Tammy Langtry

An examination of emancipatory collectivism and collaboration in artistic and cultural production. There will be engagement with cross-cultural and transnational collaboration which defy the North-South dichotomy and disrupt global centres of power. The recognition of ongoing activism in Africa, Asia and South America from a Non-Western paradigm and model will be discussed. The existence of contemporary student protest movements such as anti-KKN (Indonesia), #YoSoy132 (Mexico) and #RhodesMustFall (South Africa) challenged institutional exclusionary practices. Other independent youth-led movements such as the Arab Spring (Libya, Egypt, Tunisia) and Y'en a Marre (Senegal) overthrew repressive socio-political systems. Much of this organisation, mobilisation and solidarity occurs in digital online spaces as resistance to hierarchical structures. These types of movements have had an impact on the artistic community with the formation of artist collectives and independent contemporary art spaces which strive for democratic, inclusive and egalitarian access and representation. This includes collaboration between community art centres, academies and museums. Collaborative practices have the potential to transform and decentralise our understanding of power central to community building.

5:30PM – 6PM - Intermission

6PM – 7:30PM - Film Screening and Q&A: Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, *Mother, I Am Suffocating. This Is My Last Film About You*

7:30PM – 8PM - Intermission

8PM – 8:20PM - Reading: Tammy Langtry

17 September 2020

Topic: Urban Imaginaries, Mobilities and Why So Many Borders

4PM – 5:30PM - Panel: Edgar Pieterse, Mpho Matsipa, Tau Tavengwa, Emeka Okereke, moderated by Storm Janse van Rensburg

Our contemporary world is heavily marked by borders, walls and other barriers that limit freedom of movement. These physical and symbolic constructs can also restrain human imagination. Their implementation interrupts cross-border cultural processes and networks through which knowledge is transmitted. This will be an exploration of different interventions that seek to open spaces of resistance and critical imagination. It is an examination of the places where immutable and essentialist representation of borders and limitations on our spatial imaginaries are challenged. The digital realm as a space which transcends physical borders for transnational solidarity will also be considered. We will look at the discourse around the redefinition of urban architecture, urban spatial design and cross-border migration. Opportunities and challenges of mobility in shaping our worldviews and as sites of resistance will be examined. Also included will be ideas related to the informal economy and the future of smart cities.

5:30PM – 6PM - Intermission

6PM – 7:30PM – Deep Listening Session: Chimurenga

7:30PM - 8PM - Intermission

8PM – 8:10PM - Reading: Storm Janse van Rensburg

18 September 2020

Topic: *Radical Practices/Radical Solidarity*

4PM – 5:30PM - Roundtable: Rasha Salti, Zahia Rahmani, moderated by Koyo Kouoh

Both the historical legacies of resistance movements and ongoing struggle for black liberation have taken on different forms throughout the centuries and to date. Regardless of the form, such movements can point to the Black Radical Tradition. This often involves

a collection of intellectual activists whose contributions have aided disrupting social, political, economic and cultural norms originating in anti-colonial and anti-slavery efforts. However, this has also been supported by allies from non-aligned regions of the world. As we see activists taking to the streets with renewed vigour to fight racism, inequality and capitalism, today's protest movements point to a much broader revolutionary genealogy. There will be an interrogation of hegemonic cultural traditions, beliefs and values. This will include ideas around self-determination and the formation of their radical ideologies.

5:30PM – 6PM – Intermission

6PM – 7:30PM – Film screening

7:30PM – 8PM – Intermission

8PM – 8:20PM - Reading: Phokeng Setai

ABOUT ZEITZ MOCAA

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA) is a public, not-for-profit institution that exhibits, collects, preserves and researches contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora; conceives and hosts international exhibitions; develops supporting educational, discursive and enrichment programmes; encourages intercultural understanding; and strives for access for all.

The museum's galleries feature rotating, temporary exhibitions with a dedicated space for the permanent collection. The institution also includes the Centre for Art Education, the Centre for the Moving Image, and a project space for emerging artists.

Zeitz MOCAA was established through a partnership between the V&A Waterfront led by CEO David Green – acting on behalf of Growthpoint Properties Limited and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), represented by the Public Investment Corporation Limited (PIC) – and collector Jochen Zeitz. The building was reimagined through a design by the acclaimed London-based Heatherwick Studio. It opened to the public in September 2017.

IMAGES AND PRESS REQUESTS

For press enquiries, contact Lauren Hess, Communications Manager on lauren.hess@zeitzmocaa.museum or call +27 (0) 79 695 6201