

»My Life Began Several Centuries Ago« An Ecosystem of Circulating Images Exhibition

An exhibition by RAPHAËL GRISEY and BOUBA TOURÉ, curated by Aminata Estelle Diouf and Agnes Stillger

For centuries, the relationship between Africa and Europe has been determined by a hegemonic system of exploitation in terms of a westernized capitalist plantation logic. These colonial continuities and legacies perpetuate asymmetries of power that produce ever new forms of forced migration and displacement. How can the multiple decolonial ecologies that remain hidden behind such power imbalances be uncovered and made collectively fruitful?

Malian photographer, filmmaker, and activist BOUBA TOURÉ and artist RAPHAËL GRISEY create a hybrid and vibrant ecosystem of images that documents a rupture in the recurring narrative and re-visualizes it through multimodal montage. In doing so, processes of documenting, filmmaking and archiving transform into practices of detour, resistance, regeneration and agroecological farming, bringing to light the relations of the battlefields of Verdun, the precarious dormitories of African migrant workers in Paris, and the Malian village of Somankidi Coura. In the autonomously organized agricultural cooperative Somankidi Coura, founded in 1977 by former migrant workers and activists in France, the ›return‹ to West African Mali is followed by the reappropriation and creation of a collective utopia based on friendship, solidarity and care for the land. Somankidi Coura is a symbol of self-empowerment, or as BOUBA TOURÉ puts it: »la naissance d'une conscience en Afrique« (»the awakening of an African consciousness«).

The multi-part exhibition continues the long-term research project *Sowing Somankidi Coura*. A *Gernative Archive* around the permacultures and archives of Somankidi Coura,

Colliding Circulations Exhibition

An exhibition on Dakar’s mobilities between global connections and local displacement by MAMADOU DIOL and LEITY KANE from KADDU YARAAK, curated by Simon Meinenberg, supported by Carolin Höfer and Julian Hoffmann

In Senegal’s capital Dakar, one of the densest and fastest growing cities in West Africa, different mobility systems and understandings collide. Here, the colonial legacy of urban segregation and infrastructural neglect affects the daily circulation of *dakarofés*, Dakar’s inhabitants. At the same time, the Train Express Regional (TER) marks the beginning of a new era of mobility. The train line connects the city to a global transportation network and is hailed by many as a pioneering modernization project. Other voices criticize the increase in the cost of mobility and the social exclusion caused by the imported transport system, which displaces local forms and functions of mobility.

The *Colliding Circulations* exhibition takes up such unequal mobilities in Dakar. Through diagrammatic recordings and scenic interventions, Senegalese artists explore the effects of colonial continuities on urban spaces and spatial circulation, and the processes of mediation and displacement they trigger. For example, MAMADOU DIOL and LEITY KANE, together with the actors from the KADDU YARAAK Forum Theater, trace the changes brought about by the construction of the TER line, which on the one hand separates the neighborhoods of Hann-Maristes and Hann-Pêcheur from one another, whilst at the same time connecting them to a global mobility system, along with the international airport. They deploy their *théâtre de l’opprimé* (»theater of the oppressed«) as an emancipatory and interactive practice for critical dialog with distressed urban communities and neighborhoods. They translate global dynamics, local lifeworlds, and spatial dissonances of the city into theatrical forms of resistance and resilience.

which was initiated by BOUBA TOURÉ and RAPHAËL GRISEY in 2015. »My Life Begun Several Centuries Ago...«, the words of TOURÉ break with the Western understanding of temporality and address an issue that deeply preoccupied TOURÉ during his lifetime: the struggle against forgetting and the erasure of marginalized histories.

Somankidi Coura exists to this day and has spawned initiatives such as the free Radio Rurale de Kayes, the Association of Women of Somankidi Coura, and the URCAK, a regional association of Kayes agricultural cooperatives.

Exhibition: 2 June–2 July 2023
Opening: Thu, 1 June 2023, 6–9 p.m.
Opening hours: Fri–Sun, 2–7 p.m. or upon request: a.stillger@uni-koeln.de
Venue: Akademie der Künste der Welt, ADKDW Studio, Herwarthstr. 3, 50672 Köln

Part of the exhibition are the *Karaasi Kanne – Crossing Voices* film screening and a talk with RAPHAËL GRISEY, OLIVIER MARBOEUF, and SOSO SOUMARÉ at the Filmhaus Köln on June 2, 2023, 6–9 p.m.

Colliding Circulations Exhibition

Together, they develop analytical and choreographic tools to describe the production of space under conditions of new interdependencies through large-scale infrastructure systems.

Exhibition: 16 June–1 July 2023
Opening: Thu, 15 June 2023, 7 p.m.
Opening hours: 16 June–1 July 2023, AIC ON Festival: 16 & 18 June 2023, 12–6 p.m.; 17 June 2023, 12–4 p.m. 19 June–1 July 2023, Thu–Fri, 4–7 p.m. & Sat, 2–6 p.m. or upon request: glasmooegkhhm.de
Venue: GLASMOOG – Space for Contemporary Art & its Discourse, Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM), Filzengraben 2, 50676 Köln

Part of the exhibition are the *Kaddux Yaraax* workshop between May 15 and 19, 2023 and a public talk with MAMADOU DIOL and LEITY KANE on May 17, 2023, 7 p.m. at the Köln International School of Design of TH Köln.

Muslim*Present in Köln Intervention & Talk

An Intervention in public space by ASMA AIAD, curated by Simone Pfeifer

Muslim perspectives in art address current social debates and create spaces in which the diverse Muslim realities of everyday life can be perceived. The works of the artist ASMA AIAD are also situated in this field of tension. On the one hand, her works deal with pressing wrongs and challenges of current post-migrant plural societies, such as racism, anti-Muslim racism, sexism, classism or digitalization. On the other hand, the artistic interventions offer views and insights into the diversity and complexity of Muslim presence in post-migrant contexts, revealing, for example, perspectives that are often marginalized and made invisible. Often Muslim perspectives are not perceived in artistic productions or they are reduced one-sidedly to spiritual religious forms of expression. With her works, the artist ASMA AIAD from Vienna shows diverse perspectives on being Muslim in a post-migrant context and speaks to current social debates.

As part of »Muslim*Present«, ASMA AIAD will realize two works in Cologne in the period from 10 June to 20 July 2023: »This is not a headscarf« and »[In]visible Mosques«. In her work »This is not a headscarf«, ASMA AIAD deals with the recurring debates about the so-called Muslim ›headscarf‹ and the interpretative sovereignty over the female body. Nine portraits of a young woman with different head coverings playfully show how different forms of discrimination are connected and negotiated in society. With »[Un]seen Mosques«, ASMA AIAD extends an already existing work to Cologne, which she will develop during her stay in Cologne. In the photographic documentation of selected mosques in Cologne, she deals with the visibility and invisibility of religious buildings in Cologne. [In]visibility is not only considered as a pair of opposites here, but points to the multi-layered levels of meaning.

Kaddu Yaraax Workshop & Talk

A workshop and a talk with MAMADOU DIOL and LEITY KANE from KADDU YARAAK, moderated by Simon Meinenberg

The KADDU YARAAK group from Dakar operates at the interface between theater, city and society. Their plays in urban space are aimed at changing social processes, intervening in political debates and producing publics. Their scenic interventions engage in conflicts over urban spaces and colonial continuities and address crises such as environmental pollution and social inequality. KADDU YARAAK inquires into the memories, life experiences and perceptions of the city’s inhabitants and develops potential actions from the different perspectives of the actors involved. A future social city will not be postponed, but will emerge in the process of performative action itself – as a »real utopia« in the present.

The workshop deals theoretically and creatively with the possibilities and limits of theatrical interventions in the experimental reclamation of the city, the public sphere and representation. How can the play forms develop a dynamic, through which they not only represent but also produce social cohesion and urban change? How do they resist political appropriations and social institutionalizations that threaten their subversive potential? What practices of self-problematization do they pursue? What role do they play in an ethical culture of memory?

Workshop: 15–19 May 2023, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Talk: Wed, 17 May 2023, 7 p.m. (German/French)
Venue: Filmhaus Köln International School of Design, Ubierring 40, 50678 Köln, Room 240
Registration is not required.

The workshop and talk are part of the *Colliding Circulations* exhibition at GLASMOOG between June 16 and July 1, 2023.

In conversation with FATIMA REMLI on June 10, 2023, the artist ASMA AIAD and the scholar LANA SIRRI address Islamic feminist perspectives on current debates in post-migrant society. They bring different activist and artistic positions to the discussion about the ›headscarf,‹ patriarchal structures and being queer and Muslim. The starting point for the discussion is ASMA AIAD’s work »This is not a headscarf« which is exhibited on a billboard at Ebertplatz, and the reading from LANA SIRRI’s book *Introduction to Islamic Feminisms* (w_orten & meer, 2020, in German).

Intervention: 10 June–20 July 2023
Venue: Social Media & Postervalls in the City of Cologne
Talk & Reading: ASMA AIAD and LANA SIRRI (in German), moderated by FATIMA REMLI: Sat, 10 June 2023, 7–8:30 p.m., Ebertplatz (Passage), 50668 Köln

Karaasi Kanne – Crossing Voices Film Screening & Talk

A film screening (OV with english subtitles) and a talk with RAPHAËL GRISEY, OLIVIER MARBOEUF, and SOSO SOUMARÉ (German/French), moderated by Aminata Estelle Diouf and Agnes Stillger

Using rare cinematic, photographic and sound archives, *Crossing Voices* (2022) recounts the exemplary adventure of Somankidi Coura, an agricultural cooperative created in Mali in 1977 by western African migrant workers living in workers’ residences in France. The story of this improbable, utopic return to the homeland follows a winding path that travels through the ecological challenges and conflicts on the African continent from the 1970s to the present day. To tell this story, BOUBA TOURÉ, one of its principal actors, returns to the heart of his personal archives. They document peasant struggles in France and Mali and follow the personal stories of migrant workers over many decades. Furthermore, the film is a story of transmission, kinship and cinematographic geographies. It is the story of BOUBA TOURÉ with filmmaker RAPHAËL GRISEY, who became BOUBA’s spiritual son, but it also chronicles BOUBA’s relationship with militant filmmakers such as Sidney Sokhona or Med Hondo. Throughout the film, voices come to accompany BOUBA and bring forth the narrative of a forgotten memory leading towards the future. Over the course of the film, different voices enter the soundscape to accompany BOUBA TOURÉ’s voice; they bring the tale of a forgotten memory toward a possible future sung by an electronic griot storyteller.

Date: Fri, 2 June 2023, 6–9 p.m. (Film 123 min.)
Venue: Filmhaus Köln, Maybachstr. 111, 50670 Köln
Date: Thu, 15 June 2023, 4–6 p.m.
Venue: Kölnischer Kunstverein – Die Brücke, Hahnenstr. 6, 50667 Köln
Invited by Nina Möntmann

The film screening is part of the *»My Life Began Several Centuries Ago«* exhibition at the Academy of the Arts of the World (Akademie der Künste der Welt, ADKDW) between June 2 and July 2, 2023.

Langer Tag Exhibition & Public Talks

An exhibition and public talks around the unstable nature of transnational solidarity by NAEEM MOHAIEMEN, curated by Nina Möntmann

EXHIBITION
Afsan’s Long Day (2014): Looking at the minuscule membership of Rote Armee Fraktion, Heinrich Böll called it a »war of six against sixty million.« But what of historian Afsan Chowdhury, sitting alone in his Dhaka home? While others bemoaned never understanding dialectic materialism, Afsan had read a lot of Marx, grown a beard and out-argued his professors. But the men who came one day cared little for all that–history has often testified that the state likes clean shaven men.

Der Weisse Engel (2009): In the 1970s there were still survivors. Still alive, still remembering. Three decades earlier, Lotte was the character who sold her diamonds to escape Casablanca. The word »Moor« comes from the script. It was not yet *verboten* in polite conversation. In life, she fled Germany in 1934, ahead of Reichspogromnacht. In old age, Lotte divorced her husband when he wanted to die in Germany. Better to be alone than to return.

Exhibition: 14–18 June 2023 (Food & Drinks: 16 June 2023, 8 p.m.)
Opening hours: Wed–Sun, 12–7 p.m.
Venue: Temporary Gallery – Centre for Contemporary Art, Mauritiuswall 35, 50676 Köln

PUBLIC TALKS with NAEEM MOHAIEMEN and ESZTER SZAKÁCS, curated by Nina Möntmann

The anthology *Solidarity Must Be Defended* (ed. by ESZTER SZAKÁCS and NAEEM MOHAIEMEN, tranzit.hu 2023) brings together projects on gestures and alignments within the visual arts around transnational solidarity during the Cold War. The book looks at both grand initiatives and tragic misfires from an entangled, decolonizing world, in dialogue with MOHAIEMEN’s film *Two Meetings and a Funeral* (2017). Building on their

Two Meetings and a Funeral Film Screening & Introduction

A theater screening around the unstable nature of transnational solidarity by NAEEM MOHAIEMEN

FILM SCREENING & INTRODUCTION BY NAEEM MOHAIEMEN
Two Meetings and a Funeral (2017): »The Third World was not a place, but a project.« (Vijay Prashad, *The Darker Nations*, 2007). This was to be a utopian alliance where the Global South would reconfigure planetary leadership, ending Euro-American dominance. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) attempted to navigate a »third way,« but parallel participation in the Petrodollar-driven »Islamic bloc« by some member countries shredded fragile coalitions behind the scenes. *Two Meetings and a Funeral* explores a »pivot« moment between the 1973 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting in Algeria and the 1974 Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Pakistan.

Traveling through the residues of transnational architecture (Niemeyer, Moretti, Le Corbusier) in New York, Algiers, and Dhaka, the film considers the erosion of the idea of the Third World as a potential space for decolonisation, and an always imperfect understanding of Socialism. Conversations between Vijay Prashad, Samia Zennadi, Atef Berredjem, Amirul Islam, and Zonayed Saki look at the contradictions of decolonization movements that never remembered to liberate their own leadership. The film is a midpoint for MOHAIEMEN’s loosely affiliated projects around the Non-Aligned Movement.

Date: Thu, 15 June 2023, 4–6 p.m.
Venue: Kölnischer Kunstverein – Die Brücke, Hahnenstr. 6, 50667 Köln
Invited by Nina Möntmann

The film screening and introduction are part of the *Langer Tag* exhibition by NAEEM MOHAIEMEN at the Temporary Gallery between June 14 and 18, 2023.

experience of jointly editing the anthology, SZAKÁCS and MOHAIEMEN present two intertwined talks on their areas of research that braid into the ideas of the anthology. SZAKÁCS explores the vicissitudes of »Eastern Europe« and »Arab World« solidarity juncture points in Hungary, and MOHAIEMEN gleans the after-traces of French intellectual solidarity with Iran on the cusp of Islamic Revolution.

Date: Fri, 16 June 2023, 5–8 p.m.
5 p.m. ESZTER SZAKÁCS, »An Arab World in Hungary«
6 p.m. NAEEM MOHAIEMEN, »Foucault in Tehran«
7 p.m. Discussion, Food & Drinks
Venue: Temporary Gallery – Centre for Contemporary Art, Mauritiuswall 35, 50676 Köln

Part of the exhibition is the *Two Meetings and a Funeral* film screening with an introduction by NAEEM MOHAIEMEN at the Kölnischer Kunstverein – Die Brücke on June 15, 2023, 4–6 p.m.

Colloquium

As part of the »connecting – excluding« research training group colloquium, the one-day event on May 26, 2023, is dedicated to the curatorial project *The Entire Story Starts Where – Connections and Exclusions of Translocal Positions*. Exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, lecture-performances and roundtable discussions on the relationship between connections and exclusions in global networks will take place at various venues in Cologne between May 15 and July 2, 2023. The project will be developed and implemented by members of the research training group and invited artists in collaboration with various institutions in Cologne.

In the colloquium session on May 26, 2023, the organizers will present the curatorial project program. They will alternate with contributions from invited guests. The focus of the event lies in the discussion of the artistic works under various aspects of connection and exclusion, as well as in the activity of curating itself, which is conceived as a collective practice of knowledge production. The perspective of artistic practice and curatorial action opens up new perspectives on the themes of the research training group, reflecting on its own structures, conditions, rules and procedures of art production and curating.

Date: Fri, 26 May 2023, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Venue: University of Cologne, a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Aachener Str. 217, 50931 Köln, 3rd Floor, Room 3.A06 (»Skyfall«)

Registration is not required.

Where It Starts

The Entire Story Starts Where

Conceived by members of the DFG Research Training Group *connecting–excluding: Cultural Dynamics Beyond Globalized Networks*: Aminata Estelle Diouf, Carolin Höfer, Sandra Kurfürst, Simon Meinenberg, Nina Möntmann, Simone Pfeifer, and Agnes Stillger.

Connections and Exclusions of Translocal Positions

The Entire Story Starts Where

Connections and Exclusions of Translocal Positions

From May 15 until July 2, 2023, exhibitions, film screenings, workshops, lecture performances, and roundtable discussions on the relationship between connections to and exclusions from global networks will be held at various locations in Cologne.

In globalized networks, the ability to join groups and systems, along with their logics, is considered an essential prerequisite for participation. The curatorial project *The Entire Story Starts Where*, however, is interested in deviant practices that temporarily and strategically connect to media, economic, political, scientific, social, and cultural networks while also stepping away from them, subverting them, and so producing self-determined exclusions. The project inquires into the alternative, deviant spaces and networks that emerge in this way, focusing on the frictions, conflicts, and ruptures that accompany the violations of common practices of networking. What are the consequences for the actors concerned? And what potentials for shaping future lifeworlds can emerge as a result of new translocal connections?

The projects explore how the colonial continuities of a Western-influenced capitalist plantation logic are subverted by an agricultural cooperative in Mali (RAPHAËL GRISEY & BOUBA TOURÉ), how the marginalized spaces of Muslim presence are animated in post-migrant societies (ASMA AIAD), how the fragile utopias of southern global alliances flare up in a historical moment, only to break down soon after due to their internal and external resistances (NAEEM MOHAIEMEN), and how new mobilities thwart colonially constructed urban spaces, as in Dakar, Senegal (KADDU YARAAK).

STORY THE STARTS WORLD

A curatorial project by the DFG Research Training Group »connecting – excluding. Cultural Dynamics Beyond Globalized Networks,« a collaborative venture between the University of Cologne, the Academy of Media Arts Cologne and TH Köln, University of Technology, Arts, Sciences, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

In cooperation with:

Akademie der Künste der Welt (ADKDW)
Filmhaus Köln
GLASMOOG
Unser Ebertplatz
Kölnischer Kunstverein
Temporary Gallery

Formats:

Exhibitions
Film Screenings
Workshops
Public Talks
Readings
Lecture Performances

Program:

KADU YARAA
Workshop & Talk with Mamadou Diol & Leity Kane

Workshop: 15-19 May 2023, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (English)
Talk: 17 May 2023, 7 p.m. (German & French)
TH Köln, Köln International School of Design, Ubierring 40, 50678 Köln, Room 240

COLLOQUIUM
26 May 2023, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Universität zu Köln, a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Aachener Str. 217, 50931 Köln, 3. OG, Room 3.A06 (»Skyfall«)

»MY LIFE BEGAN SEVERAL CENTURIES AGO«
An Ecosystem of Circulating Images
Exhibition by Raphaël Grisey & Bouba Touré

1 June 2023, 6-9 p.m.
2 June-2 July 2023, Fri.-Sun, 2-7 p.m.
Akademie der Künste der Welt, ADKDW Studio, Herwarthstr. 3, 50672 Köln

XARAASI XANNE – CROSSING VOICES
Film Screening (OV with English subtitles) & Talk with Raphaël Grisey, Olivier Marboeuf & Soso Soumaré (German & French)

2 June 2023, 6-9 p.m.
Filmhaus Köln, Maybachstr. 111, 50670 Köln

MUSLIM*PRESENT IN KÖLN
Intervention in public space by Asma Aiad

10 June-20 July 2023
Social Media & Poster Walls in the City of Cologne

MUSLIM*PRESENT IN KÖLN
Talk & Reading with Asma Aiad & Lana Sirri, moderated by Fatima Remli (German)

10 June 2023, 7-8:30 p.m.
Ebertplatz (Passage), 50668 Köln

LANGER TAG
Exhibition by Naeem Mohaïemen & Public Talks by Naeem Mohaïemen & Eszter Szakács

Exhibition: 14-18 June 2023, 12-7 p.m.
Public Talks (English): 16 June 2023, 5-8 p.m. (Food & Drinks: 8 p.m.)
Temporary Gallery, Mauritiuswall 35, 50676 Köln

TWO MEETINGS AND A FUNERAL
Film Screening & Introduction by Naeem Mohaïemen (English)

15 June 2023, 4-6 p.m.
Kölnischer Kunstverein, Hahnenstr. 6, 50667 Köln

COLLIDING CIRCULATIONS
Dakar Mobilities Between Global Connections and Local Displacements
Exhibition by Kaddu Yaraax

15 June 2023, 7 p.m.
16 June-1 July 2023
AIC ON Festival: 16 & 18 June 2023, 12-6 p.m.; 17 June 2023, 12-4 p.m.
19 June-1 July 2023, Thu-Fri, 4-7 p.m. & Sat, 2-6 p.m.
GLASMOOG, Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln, Filzengraben 2, 50676 Köln



Organized & funded by:
DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft



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GLASMOOG
Room Für Kunst
8 Diskurs



Further information:
www.anschliessenauswahlen.de/pages/kuratorisches