

## Press Information O21, Nr. 2 / March 2020

Contemporary art, Dresden, Nairobi, Kampala, Rijeka

### Culture in the time of Covid 19

## Barely arrived, already flown back

**OSTRALE – Centre for Contemporary Arts has to interrupt international artist exchange in Kenya for the time being. Pandemic also endangers upcoming guest performances in Uganda and in the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka (Croatia).**

Dresden, Nairobi, Kampala, Rijeka. The Dresden OSTRALE Biennale had to partially cancel one of its projects abroad this year due to the coronavirus. The second part of the project "Womanism", planned jointly with the Fonds Turn of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, was interrupted shortly before its start in Nairobi, Kenya. The first two artists, Frenzy Höhne (Leipzig) and Ramona Seyfarth (Neubrandenburg), who had only arrived the day before, had to leave again immediately. On the morning of 16 March, the Kenyan Ministry of Health had cancelled all public events until 31 March. The first part of the art exchange between German and African women artists had already taken place within the framework of the Dresden OSTRALE Biennale 2019. The second part in Nairobi would have included joint workshops, among other programs. The exhibition "GET YOUR FOOT OFF MY NECK" at the Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, curated by the OSTRALE Biennale curator Syowia Kyambi, is also affected. Although the artworks will be hung, they will be only presented to the public virtually on the internet for the time being.

The networking event of contemporary female artists, prepared in cooperation with the Goethe-Zentrum in Kampala (Uganda), will probably also have to be postponed. „*We are of course shocked and hope that we can make up for the second part of this valuable international cultural exchange this year together with our partners*“, says Andrea Hilger, director of the OSTRALE Biennale.

„*We are also particularly affected by the fact that the exhibition »Watergate«, curated by us for the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka, can probably not take place in the Croatian port city as planned*“, added Andrea Hilger.

The next OSTRALE Biennale is planned to be held between 01.07. - 03.10.2021 in Dresden. The "Open Call" has just been published on the website <http://www.ostrale.de/>. Artists from all over the world are invited to apply for the selection by the curators.

#### WomanISM:

Curators of the project WomanISM: Syowia Kyambi (KE), Antka Hofmann (DE)

Participating artists: Sonia E Barrett (GB / DE / JM), Frenzy Höhne (DE), Ramona Seyfarth (DE), Carolin Koss (FI / DE), Immy Mali (UG), Hannah Nitsch (DE), Usha Seejarim (ZA)

WomanISM is funded by the TURN Fund of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the ifa Institute for International Relations (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen).

Free to use pictures can be downloaded from here:

[www.ostrale.de/de/Presse/Pressefotos.html](http://www.ostrale.de/de/Presse/Pressefotos.html)

# OSTRALE

Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst

The OSTRALE Biennale is one of the largest temporary exhibitions for contemporary art in Germany, with more than 300 works of art by approximately 180 artists from over 34 nations in its latest edition. It is not a sales exhibition per se, which gives it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics regardless of market events. The main ideals of OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign / unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality are always reflected in the exhibitions. The OSTRALE team has already greatly contributed to the contemporary arts programmes of several European Capitals of Culture, for example in Pécs in 2010, Wrocław in 2016 and Valletta/Malta in 2018. For the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka/Croatia, OSTRALE has also co-designed parts of its programme.

F.d.R.d.A. Tobias Blaurock

**blaurock markenkommunikation**, Tobias Blaurock, Hechtstraße 30, 01097 Dresden, Tel. +49 351 210 98 71, Mobile +49 172 793 01 27, Fax +49 351 2078 15 33, [blaurock@team-blaurock.de](mailto:blaurock@team-blaurock.de)  
[www.blaurock-markenkommunikation.de](http://www.blaurock-markenkommunikation.de)

**Ostrale – Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst**, Andrea Hilger, 1. Representative, Rethelstraße 45, 01139 Dresden, Tel. +49 351 653 37 63, [post@ostrale.de](mailto:post@ostrale.de), [www.ostrale.de](http://www.ostrale.de)



Die OSTRALE wird gefördert durch die Landeshauptstadt Dresden, die Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen (Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes); der Ausstellungsfokus „Womanism“ wird gefördert im Fonds TURN der Kulturstiftung des Bundes, die „all sense app“ wird gefördert durch AKTION Mensch / Weitere Förderer: EU, Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, der Freistaat Sachsen, Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden / Hauptsponsoren: USD Immobilien GmbH, Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, BplusL Infra Log GmbH, Heinrichthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Spedition Detmers Transport GmbH, Schneider + Partner GmbH