

October 2017

THE FALL PROGRAMME AT MAAT CONTINUES WITH “SECRETS TO TELL” BY GRADA KILOMBA AND “ELECTRONIC SUPERHIGHWAY”

Showing her work in Portugal for the first time, **Grada Kilomba** presents *Secrets to Tell*, the first exhibition featured in the Project Room programme. Inspired by the video installation *The Desire Project* – an artwork especially created for the 32nd São Paulo Biennale (2016), and one of the latest acquisitions for the EDP Foundation Art Collection, which now has its première in Europe, the new installation gathers several existing artworks in a new configuration.

Grada Kilomba is a Berlin-based writer, scholar and interdisciplinary artist. Born in Lisbon, she has roots in São Tomé e Príncipe and Angola. Her work addresses issues of both gender and race and notions of trauma and memory, in the context of current debates on colonialism and post-colonialism. Her research delves into the ambiguous relationship between memory and forgetting, and the collective memory and identity of Africans and of their diasporas. Evoking African oral traditions and their power to carry on the spoken word, the artist’s work gives voice to silenced narratives, thus rewriting and retelling a history that has been suppressed or disregarded. Using and combining different mediums, Kilomba explores unconventional, experimental and interdisciplinary artistic practices; her performances, video installations, readings and lectures create an interface between text and image, between artistic and academic language.

Adapted to MAAT’s Project Room, the new installation of *The Desire Project* is accompanied by a video of a staged reading of Kilomba’s book *Plantation Memories*, published in 2008, and by *Kosmos2, Labor #10: Video Installation*, one of a series of debates the artist has been hosting at the Maxim Gorki Theatre, in Berlin, featuring “refugee” artists who explore original and subversive ways of producing new work.

New commission by Bill Fontana and other shows on view

Following the opening in September of the exhibition *Tension & Conflict – Video Art after 2008* - an international group exhibition entirely dedicated to art that uses video to think the consequences of the 2008 financial crisis, MAAT’s Oval Gallery currently hosts its third site-specific, large scale commission: *Shadow Soundings*, by the celebrated sound artist **Bill Fontana**. Following projects at the Tate Modern and SFMoMA, *Shadow Soundings* is an immersive sound and video installation that creates a spatial and musical composition with live and recorded sounds of the nearby iconic 25 de Abril Bridge. Using seven projections and exquisite sound technology provided by San Francisco-based Meyer Sound, the installation mixes live streaming and studio-treated recordings, offering a new perception and unusual views of bridge, moving vehicles, and the river Tagus. As Fontana explains, the title *Shadow Soundings* emerged from the “moving shadows that produce the iconic ‘singing’ sound of the bridge.”

Other exhibition inaugurated during MAAT’s anniversary included *Quote/Unquote – Between Appropriation and Dialogue*, a new curatorial perspective on the EDP Foundation art collection; and a new edition of the international partnership *Artists’ Film International*, the multi-institutional cooperation started by the Whitechapel Gallery, which this year explores the theme of “Collaboration”.

Electronic Superhighway and other shows on November 8:

On November 8, MAAT will open the last round of exhibitions of 2017 – which will take place simultaneously with the occasion of the event Lisbon Web Summit, and it includes three major shows:

We will welcome US-based Portuguese artist **José Carlos Teixeira**, with new works gathered under the title of ***On Exile***. The exhibition presents, through a series of works produced between 2016 and 2017, a reflexive look at, on the one hand, mental illness and depression, and, on the other, the refugee status in the present context. The concept of exile is both thought of from geopolitical perspective, and interpreted metaphorically.

Directly from the Whitechapel Gallery, in London, comes ***Electronic Superhighway***, an exciting exhibition focused on how computers and the Internet have impacted the art scene since the sixties. It showcases both new and rarely seen multimedia works, alongside film, painting, sculpture, photography and drawing by over 70 artists including Cory Arcangel, Judith Barry, James Bridle, Constant Dullaart, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Vera Molnar, Nam June Paik, Thomas Ruff, Hito Steyerl, Amalia Ulman, and more.

Finally, **Ana Jotta**, awarded with the EDP Foundation Grand Prize in 2013, presents ***Bonus***, an exhibition installed in a space that is deliberately un-museum-like — on one of the busiest shopping streets in Belém, Rua do Embaixador — where the artist shows a selection of her recent and undiscovered works, seeking to engage with the location's special architectural traits.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About MAAT

The Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT) focuses on contemporary culture through a combination of visual arts and media, architecture and city, technology and science, society and thought. Committed to creating an environment in which diverse audiences can access contemporary art through educational programs and special events, the EDP Foundation's new museum is a space for discovery, critical thinking and international dialogue. MAAT comprises the elegant new kunsthalle designed by AL_A, the architecture practice headed by British architect Amanda Levete, and the recently renovated Central power station. The new museum complex is located on the EDP Foundation Campus, which is at the heart of an exciting urban revitalisation along one of Lisbon's most historic waterfronts.

About EDP Foundation

Established in 2004, the EDP Foundation, chaired by António Mexia, CEO of EDP Group, is one of the most prominent private foundations in Portugal. Focused on culture, innovation, science and energy, the Foundation is one of Portugal's largest social investors, and one of the main sponsors of the arts in Portugal, occupying a 38,000 m² campus along the Tagus River, in Lisbon. It has commissioned and supported more than 120 exhibitions in the last decade, and produces dozens of cultural events every year.

About Central Power Station

Constructed in the early 20th century, the Central power station holds enormous heritage value from architectural, historic and social perspectives. It supplied power to the city and the entire region until it was closed in 1975. Classified as an Asset of Public Interest, in 1990 transformed into the Museu da Eletricidade, an industrially-based science museum and a cultural centre that endorsed contemporary art. It was recently redesigned and transformed to accommodate exhibition spaces for MAAT, while its permanent collection and remaining machinery continue to be exhibited as a unique example of industrial heritage.

About MAAT's Director Pedro Gadanho

An architect and writer who previously held the role of curator in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Pedro Gadanho was appointed by MAAT in October 2015, and is responsible for its cultural programme. Gadanho graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto (FAUP), he also holds an MA in Art and Architecture from the Kent Institute of Art and Design in the UK and a PhD in Architecture and Mass Media from FAUP, where he was also a lecturer. Gadanho has a long curatorial career, including the co-curation of the Portuguese Pavilion at the 2004 Venice Architecture Biennial.

About AL_A

AL_A is the award-winning architecture and design studio founded by the RIBA Stirling Prize-winning architect Amanda Levete with Directors Ho-Yin Ng, Alice Dietsch and Maximiliano Arrocet. Recently completed projects include the Victoria & Albert Museum Exhibition Road Quarter (2017) in London, the V&A's largest building project in over 100 years. Ongoing commissions around the world include the transformation of the flagship Galleries Lafayette department store on Boulevard Haussmann in Paris; a new centre for the cancer care charity Maggie's in Southampton and two new buildings for Wadham College at the University of Oxford.

About EDP Foundations' Gardens

The new landscape park designed by Vladimir Djurovic (vDLA) constitutes an extension of the Belém river front promenade and of the network of parks and green areas that surround the South East end of the Jerónimos Monastery. The park is completely opened to the water front, engaging its grounds to the river through a promenade that connects it to the Central Tejo and MAAT new kunsthalle. The river and the magnificent vistas are incorporated, in the manner of "borrowed landscape" into the park itself. It works as an element that not only integrates two very distinct buildings, but also as the outdoor extension for both buildings. A new public space for the enjoyment of nature, art, culture and social interaction.