



PERSBERICHT

Exhibition *Refresh Amsterdam* extended until 25 July New perspectives on the city at the Amsterdam Museum

On 11 December 2020 the exhibition *Refresh Amsterdam* opened at the Amsterdam Museum. Taking place in various locations throughout the city, this first edition of the *Refresh Amsterdam* biennial exhibition, with 'Sense of Place' as its theme, features 25 contemporary makers who, through their work, show perspectives on the city that are still under-represented. Their works provide insight into how different people relate to Amsterdam, and whether they are able to feel at home in the city. The exhibition was open for only three days when, due to Covid the museum, and therefore the exhibition, had to close. The Amsterdam Museum extends *Refresh Amsterdam* and the exhibition can be visited after the museum opens until Sunday 25 July.

Curator of *Refresh Amsterdam*, Imara Limon: *'The collaborative project Refresh Amsterdam is based on the realisation that urban culture is determined by people with all sorts of backgrounds, networks, and traditions, who are constantly in motion. People who are visibly and invisibly connected to one another, and who relate to each other. This edition of Refresh Amsterdam, 'Sense of Place', is about people, their perceptions of a place, and the ways in which they try to make that place their own. This group of 25 contemporary makers, with their diverse ways of thinking and backgrounds, contribute to a wider picture of Amsterdam then and now, and to that of urban culture in a broad sense.'*

On view

Note to editors/not for publication: To read more about the artists and their work for Refresh Amsterdam, click on the names below. High-res images can also be downloaded via the link. The entire document with all artists can be downloaded: <https://we.tl/t-53c24mEtLk>.

The makers selected for *Refresh Amsterdam* are (in alphabetical order):

1. Tyna Adebawale
2. Goeun Bae
3. Brian Elstak
4. Camara Gueye
5. Antonio José Guzman
6. Nicoline van Harskamp
7. Raquel van Haver
8. Tja Ling Hu
9. Daniel Jacoby
10. Elisa van Joolen
11. KIP Republic
12. Bas Kusters
13. Yunjoo Kwak
14. Jaasir Linger
15. Tirzo Martha
16. Suat Öğüt
17. Kevin Osepa
18. Antonis Pittas
19. Judith Quax
20. Simon(e) van Saarloos
21. Tamara Shogaolu
22. The Shadows Assembly
23. Dustin Thierry
24. United Painting
25. We Sell Reality.

Limon: *'We are proud that these 25 well-known and as yet less familiar makers are exhibiting recent or, in most cases, entirely new work at the Amsterdam Museum. Each artist or collective tells a personal story*

through their own discipline: audio and film, spoken word, design, dance, photography, drawing, and textile. The works are alternately intimate, poignant, abstract, and humorous. Together as a whole, the projects reflect the remarkable diversity of Amsterdam.'

Via an open call in February 2020, makers were invited to submit a proposal for a work in the context of 'Sense of place'. More than 240 entries were received. A jury consisting of Abdelkader Benali (writer) and representatives from the partner institutions: Aukje Dekker & Arthur van Beek (founders SEXYLAND), Marian Duff (director OSCAM), Mitchell Esajas (co-founder The Black Archives), Imara Limon (curator Amsterdam Museum), Clayde Menso (director Compagnietheater), Emily Pethick (director Rijksakademie), David Smeulders & Monika Szewczyk (De Appel) and Annet Zondervan (director CBK Zuidoost), chose twenty-five of these proposals.

Five works to be purchased

With its new collection policy, the Amsterdam Museum hopes to give more space to the remarkable diversity of the city as it is now, which is still under-represented in the collection, and will purchase five works. Artistic director Margriet Schavemaker: *'In our recent collection policy, we are focusing more on acquiring new perspectives on the city, metropolitan issues, personal stories, and shifts in the urban cultural field. Contemporary art and design and immaterial heritage play a major role as such. Refresh Amsterdam likewise acknowledges that. The Amsterdam Museum will purchase five of the 25 works of art featured in Refresh Amsterdam. At some point during the exhibition period, it will be announced which works these are.'*

Refresh Amsterdam on location

Refresh Amsterdam is a biennial collaborative project on urban culture. Each edition focuses on a different metropolitan theme. For this first edition, 'Sense of place', the Amsterdam Museum is cooperating with leading institutions for art and culture throughout Amsterdam. As such, in addition to a large exhibition at the Amsterdam Museum, there will be performances and expositions by makers from *Refresh Amsterdam* in De Appel, CBK Zuidoost, Compagnietheater, OSCAM, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, SEXYLAND, and The Black Archives. De Appel will organise neighbourhood workshops, performances, and more, an exhibition will be held at CBK Zuidoost in March 2021, a performative work will be staged in the Compagnietheater, and Speak Sessions (public conversations about youth culture and lifestyle) will take place at OSCAM.

Online platform

A special website is launched for *Refresh Amsterdam* in order to offer a platform for the 25 makers, as well as the exhibition partners, enabling a deeper look into the themes addressed in their work. On www.refresh.amsterdam the entirety of the programming, including image and audio material, can be found, while space is also provided for all the research and works, plus newly published essays. Abdelkader Benali, for instance, wrote an essay about the changing meaning of urban culture and the role of makers in that. In addition, the online platform will stream a round table discussion with directors of a number of cultural institutions about the shared responsibility between Amsterdam makers. Limon: *'By setting up programming not only at the Amsterdam Museum but also at various other institutions and via an online platform, we create interaction between different places in the city, online and offline offerings, and various disciplines.'*

The 'Sense of place' edition of Refresh Amsterdam will be on view from 11 December 2020 until 28 March 2021 at the Amsterdam Museum (Kalverstraat 92), via www.refresh.amsterdam, and at various

partner institutions throughout Amsterdam. The Amsterdam Museum is supported by the Municipality of Amsterdam and the BankGiro Loterij. Refresh Amsterdam was made possible by the Mondriaan Fonds, Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie, Fonds 21, and the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Noord-Holland.

Note to editors/not for publication: For questions or requests for images and interviews, please contact Kim Koopman (press officer), k.koopman@amsterdammuseum.nl or 06 - 22 92 77 29.

Images

Additional information and images of the artists participating in Refresh Amsterdam can be found in this document: <https://we.tl/t-53c24mEtLk>