



PERSBERICHT

Amsterdam Museum presents first edition 'Refresh Amsterdam' *A collaborative project about city culture with works by contemporary makers*

From 11 December 2020 to 28 March 2021, *Refresh Amsterdam* will be on show at the Amsterdam Museum and various locations in the city. *Refresh Amsterdam* is a biannual manifestation about Amsterdam city culture with works by contemporary makers. The theme of this edition is 'Sense of place'. The exhibition at the Amsterdam Museum will feature works by over twenty-five artists (and collectives) from various disciplines, offering many perspectives on Amsterdam. That versatility honors the great social and cultural diversity of the city. This first edition of *Refresh Amsterdam* is organized together with leading artistic and cultural organizations across Amsterdam: De Appel, CBK Zuidoost, Compagnietheater, OSCAM, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, SEXYLAND and The Black Archives.

'Sense of place' is about people and their perception of a location. Cities like Amsterdam are always in flux. The culture of a neighborhood, the quality of the living environment and processes such as migration, gentrification and the impact of the colonial past, affect the way people relate to a certain place and whether they can feel at home there. Imara Limon, curator of *Refresh Amsterdam*, explains the project in further detail: "*Refresh Amsterdam*, the 'Sense of place' edition, begins with the awareness that urban culture consists of the experiences of people from many backgrounds, networks and traditions, that are in constant change. The Amsterdam Museum has a wide-ranging collection that offers insights into the city, but still does not sufficiently represent the high diversity of this place regarding both the city itself and its connection to the rest of the world. As a museum we have been engaging with this issue for some time now, and through *Refresh Amsterdam* we enrich our knowledge and our collection by adding more perspectives of the city."

On show

Through an open call in February of this year, makers were invited to submit proposals for works that fit the theme 'Sense of place'. Over 240 applications came in. A committee* selected twenty-five of these proposals for an exhibition at the Amsterdam Museum. Several makers in the selection will also take part in the *Refresh Amsterdam* programming of partner organizations in the city. This will create connections between various locations and disciplines. The Compagnietheater, for instance, will organize a series of evenings with theater, dance, debate and spoken word programming; De Appel will host several performances; CBK Zuidoost a smaller exhibition in February 2021; and OSCAM a talk show.

All works shown at the Amsterdam Museum from 11 December will be either new or recently produced. They include visual art, design, dance, photography, drawings, animations and textile works, ranging from the intimate and captivating to the abstract and humoristic. Tja Ling Hu, for example, creates a series of drawings about her family history across four generations of Chinese migration to the Netherlands. Her work shows how her family has found a place in this society. Judith Quax' video installation about a road trip from Amsterdam to Dakar with her four-year-old Dutch-Senegalese son shows Noah growing up amidst multiple cultures. He discovers that he is more than just an Amsterdammer. KIP Republic addresses mental health in the city, presenting in dance and spoken word how it can affect a human life when one doesn't deal with challenges in a conscious

manner. The online platform for *Refresh Amsterdam* will have information regarding the project *Refresh Amsterdam* as well as a livestream of public programming, including a symposium about art in the city. The public will be able to engage with this subject through podcasts and content contributed by guest authors. In such ways, *Refresh Amsterdam* offers a broad and contemporary view of the city, sharing new insights on how the city is perceived.

Refresh Amsterdam, the 'Sense of place' edition, will be on show from 11 December 2020 to 28 March 2021 at the Amsterdam Museum (Kalverstraat 92) and various partner organizations in Amsterdam.

* The selection committee consists of Abdelkader Benali (author) and representatives of the partner organizations: 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).

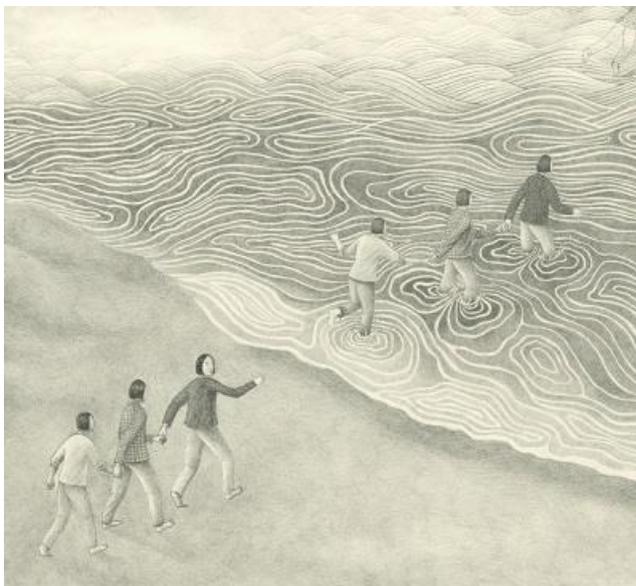
Press info / not for publication: For any questions and requests for images or interviews, please contact Kim Koopman (press spokesperson), k.koopman@amsterdammuseum.nl or +31 (0)6 - 22 92 77 29.

Exclusive press preview

Early in December, the Amsterdam Museum will organize a press preview to give journalists the opportunity to visit the exhibition before it opens for the general public, to interview the curator and several artists, and to create visual impressions. If you would like to receive an invitation for this event, please e-mail k.koopman@amsterdammuseum.nl.

Images

All images shown can be downloaded at high resolution through <https://we.tl/t-kaOUqk97>.



Drawings from project 'Before I was born' - Tja Ling Hu



Video stills Voyage à Dakar – Judith Quax



Exterior Amsterdam Museum, Richard de Buijn



Imara Limon, curator Amsterdam Museum, Amsterdam Museum