

NOW LOOK HERE

THE AFRICAN ART OF APPEARANCE

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From 25 January onwards, **NOW LOOK HERE – The African Art of Appearance**, curated by Renny Ramakers, will be presented in a pop-up exhibition in Amsterdam North, Asterweg 17. The exhibition will bring together 18 artists from Africa and the diaspora, who upend perceptions of the continent through digital media, photography, performance, and fashion design. They are image makers who present a new visual language by exploring irony, beauty, and style.

In response to this, Nigerian curator Azu Nwagbogu has invited two artists from the African diaspora in the Netherlands to create new work for an additional presentation, **Black Spring: Beauty in Exile**.

Finally, **NOW LOOK HERE - The African Art of Appearance** is proud to present interactive artist talks moderated by Ama van Danzig as well as fashion performance and workshop by Sunny Dolat (Kenya). The exhibition will be on show from the 25th of January until 23rd of February 2020.

Black Spring – Beauty in Exile

The presentation **Black Spring: Beauty in Exile**, curated by Azu Nwagbogu, founder/director of the African Arts Foundation, will connect the African diaspora in Europe to the main exhibition. Nwagbogu stresses the importance of the conversations and collaborations between artists that are fostered by diasporic condition. Two artists, Buhlebezwe Siwani (South Africa/The Netherlands) and Raquel van Haver (Colombia/The Netherlands), will present commissioned work that responds to the exhibition.

“Appearance for Africans goes beyond identity politics, it is a radical statement of resistance. Resistance to conform and yield to socio-economic circumstances—to adversity, a way of making a mark, of expressing a sense of individuality and solidarity.”

Azu Nwabogu

Interactive Artists Talks

NOW LOOK HERE announces artist talks moderated by Ama van Dantzig (co-founder Dr Monk), exploring a critical discourse between the African continent and the diaspora. Several artists involved in the exhibition will join us for an afternoon of interactive artist talks on 25th of January. They will share their drives, motivations and inspiration with the audience while also exchanging ideas with artists from the African diaspora in The Netherlands.

Participating artists in the talks

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Tabi Bonney (Togo/VS), Omar Victor Diop (Senegal), Sunny Dolat (Kenya), Samuel Fosso (Cameroon), Raquel van Haver (Colombia/The Netherlands), Emo de Medeiros (Benin/France), Sethembile Msezane (South Africa) and Buhlebezwe Siwani (South Africa/The Netherlands).

Performance and Workshop by Sunny Dolat: Show Dem!

NOW LOOK HERE - The African Art of Appearance is all about using style as a counterforce. For the exhibition Sunny Dolat has curated a fashion performance, showing pieces that are bold, extravagant and unapologetic, which represent the work of tailors, traditional attire and the work of contemporary African designers.

Leading up to the exhibition, Sunny Dolat will lead a workshop at the fashion department of the Rietveld Academy, with the theme Cultural Appropriation. The results of the workshop will be shown in the exhibition space.

Campaign Images @ Lil' Amsterdam

From now on the campaign images shot by Stephen Tayo (Nigeria) and Jan Hoek (the Netherlands) are on show in the windows of Lil'Amsterdam at the Central Station.

Press Preview

On Friday the 24th of January at 11:00 hrs the press preview will take place.

Opening

On Friday the 24th of January at 17:00 hrs the exhibition will be opened, in presence of the artists. RSVP [here](#).

NOW LOOK HERE - The African Art of Appearance is on display in New North from 25 January until 23 February 2020. New North is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11.00 to 19.00 hrs.

Note to editors

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