



**BERLIN BIENNALE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ART**

9.6.-9.9.2018

Press Kit

**BERLIN
BIENNALE**

The Berlin Biennale is funded by the
Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German
Federal Cultural Foundation) and
organized by KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.

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FACTSHEET

Title

We don't need another hero

Curator

Gabi Ngcobo

Curatorial Team

Moses Serubiri

Nomaduma Rosa Masilela

Thiago de Paula Souza

Yvette Mutumba

Director

Gabriele Horn

Duration of the Exhibition

9.6.–9.9.2018

Press Conference and Press Preview

Press conference: 7.6.2018, 11 am, venue tba

Press preview: 7.–8.6.2018, 10 am–6 pm, all venues (press accreditation necessary)

Opening

8.6.2018, 7–10 pm, all venues (open to the public)

First Day Open to the Public

9.6.2018, 11 am–7 pm

Venues

The 10th Berlin Biennale takes place at various venues in Berlin. The venues will be announced in spring 2018.

Opening Hours

Wed–Mon 11 am–7 pm, Thu 11 am–9 pm

All venues are closed on Tuesdays

Press Accreditation

Accreditation for the press preview will take place in spring 2018 via an online form. This will be announced on our website as well as in our Berlin Biennale newsletter. Please note that due to high demand, only journalists are eligible for registration to the press preview. The accreditation for the press preview is only possible with a valid international press ID or an editorial credential attesting your journalistic coverage of the Berlin Biennale.



Press Images

Please find images for current coverage at the press section of our website:
www.berlinbiennale.de/press

About the 10th Berlin Biennale

Titled *We don't need another hero*, the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art is a conversation with artists and contributors who think and act beyond art as they confront the incessant anxieties perpetuated by a willful disregard for complex subjectivities.

Starting from the position of Europe, Germany, and Berlin as a city in dialogue with the world, the 10th Berlin Biennale confronts the current widespread states of collective psychosis. By referencing Tina Turner's song from 1985, *We Don't Need Another Hero*, we draw from a moment directly preceding major geopolitical shifts that brought about regime changes and new historical figures. The 10th Berlin Biennale does not provide a coherent reading of histories or the present of any kind. Like the song, it rejects the desire for a savior. Instead, it explores the political potential of the act of self-preservation, refusing to be seduced by unyielding knowledge systems and historical narratives that contribute to the creation of toxic subjectivities. We are interested in different configurations of knowledge and power that enable contradictions and complications.

Public Program

Already launched in July 2017, *I'm not who you think I'm not*, the public program of the 10th Berlin Biennale, set the tone in a first event that took place in collaboration with the independent educational initiative Each One Teach One (EOTO) e. V. in Berlin. This was followed by a panel discussion in cooperation with the FNB JoburgArtFair in September 2017. The public program disavows assumed beingness and know-hows, perspectives that are often based on existing, constructed social frameworks and their associated speculations about particular subjectivities. Throughout the buildup to the 10th Berlin Biennale until its conclusion in September 2018, the public program creates situations evading these points of view and, at the same time, proposes a refreshed grammar for facing the present.

All events of the 10th Berlin Biennale: www.berlinbiennale.de/calendar



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BMW Group is Corporate Partner of the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art.



PRESS INFORMATION

Launch of the Public Program *I'm Not Who You Think I'm Not*

Berlin, June 30, 2017

The curatorial team of the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art inaugurates the public program titled *I'm not who you think I'm not* on July 7, 2017. A little less than a year before the exhibition opening, the inaugural event program presents a variety of actions in collaboration with Each One Teach One (EOTO) e. V., an association located in Wedding, Berlin. EOTO opened its doors in 2014 with a library and projects directed at activating spaces for collective knowledge transfer. Their aim is to develop, impact, and change future narratives.

The association is named after the slogan “Each One Teach One”, which has come to stand for unconventional ways of overcoming states of unknowing through non-hierarchical learning processes. Historically, the phrase designates moments of knowledge production as forms of resistance against oppressive systems. As a philosophy, “Each One Teach One” declares a platform for reciprocal affinities and intergenerational conversations in their most complex, sometimes even uneasy characteristics.

I'm not who you think I'm not disavows assumed beingness and know-hows. Those assumptions are based on existing, constructed social frameworks and their associated speculations about particular subjectivities. Throughout the 10th Berlin Biennale until its conclusion in September 2018, the public program will create situations evading these assumptions.

The inaugural event features EOTO members Philipp Khabo Koepsell and Victor Omere and guests Donna Kukama, George Shire, and Jota Mombaça. In performative gestures, they reflect on the relationships between visionary fictions, unteaching, monstrosity, and humanity as ways of resisting and nourishing potentials of self-preservation.

Participant Biographies

Multimedia artist Donna Kukama works in performance, sound, text, and video. Her work resists established ways of doing, often presenting institutions, book chapters, monuments, or historical archives that are as real as they are fictitious. She has presented performances at the South African National Gallery in Cape Town, SA; the Museum of Modern Art in Antwerp, BE; the New Museum in New York, US; and participated in the 12th Lyon Biennale, FR; the 6th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, RU; the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, BR; and as part of the South African Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale, IT. She is the 2014 recipient of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Performance Art and was nominated for the MTN New Contemporaries Award (2010) and the Visible Award (as NON NON Collective) in 2011. She currently unteaches at the Wits School of Arts in Johannesburg, SA.



George Shire is an independent Zimbabwean intellectual, decolonial thinker, cultural theorist, DJ, and Jazz saxophone enthusiast. He is associate professor at Bergen Academy of Art and Design, NO, and formerly a visiting scholar at the Institute for Art Education, Zurich University of the Arts, CH. Over a period spanning more than thirty-five years, Shire has taught at many universities and higher educational institutions across Britain, including the Surrey Institute of Art & Design, Farnham, Surrey; Richmond upon Thames College in Twickenham; the University of London; the Open University in Milton Keynes; and the University of the Arts London with research interests in visual culture and postcolonial theory. Shire is on the editorial boards of *Soundings: A journal of politics and culture* and of *DarkMatter*, a journal of post-colonial theory and culture. He lives in London.

Jota Mombaça is a writer and performance artist born and raised in the northeast of Brazil. They are a non-binary “bicha” (Brazilian Portuguese, offensive, vulgar for homosexual; “bitch”) whose writing, performances, and academic research focus on the relationships between monstrosity and humanity, kuir (queer) studies, decolonial turns, political intersectionality, anti-colonial justice, redistribution of violence, visionary fictions, the end of the world, and tensions between ethics, aesthetics, art, and politics in the knowledge productions of the global “south-of-the-south.” Current works include a collaboration with Oficina de Imagem Política, São Paulo, BR, and an artistic residency in conjunction with the Capacete program 2017 at documenta 14, Athens, GR/Kassel, DE.

Philipp Khabo Koepsell is a Berlin-based author and spoken word performer of German and South African descent. On stage, he mixes Afropolitan poetry with Black German activist messages and theatrical bits for his performance poetry. While touring Europe and South Africa, he has focused on empowerment and negotiations of race and identity. He is the author of *Die Akte James Knopf. Afrodeutsche Wort- und Streitkunst* (2010, UNRAST Verlag) and editor of the anthologies *Afro Shop* and *Arriving in the Future: Stories of Home and Exile* (2014), as well as *The Afropean Contemporary* (2015, all Epubli GmbH, Verlagsgruppe Holtzbrinck). He worked as a curator and dramatic advisor for Ballhaus Naunynstraße and is currently the project coordinator at EOTO.

Victor Osarobo Omere is a spoken word performer from Benin City, NG. He moved to Berlin in 2014 for a taste of Western culture and to further his education in applied computer science and is currently learning German to do so. In his poems he gives voices to inanimate objects and empowers and encourages people to live a positive life. He performs at open mic events such as the *Poetry Meets Series*. Currently he works as a “Kiezläufer,” passing on information between EOTO e. V. and the African communities, churches, and shop owners connected to the association.



PRESS INFORMATION

Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art Announces Curatorial Team

Berlin, April 29, 2017

Gabi Ngcobo, curator of the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, has invited Moses Serubiri (Kampala, UG), Nomaduma Rosa Masilela (New York, US), Thiago de Paula Souza (São Paulo, BR), and Yvette Mutumba (Berlin, DE) to collaborate with her as the curatorial team. In addition, Gabi Ngcobo selected graphic designer Maziyar Pahlevan to create the visual identity for the 10th Berlin Biennale.

Each of the collaborators has ongoing, malleable, and open-ended research interests ranging from the politics of opacity to projections on life after the end of the world, to unconventional processes of organizing, and is interested in texts and events that resist power dynamics enacted in the writing of narratives. Their creative strategies continuously reflect historical and current shifts and their uneasy entanglements. Over the years each of the collaborators has been engaged, individually and together with Gabi Ngcobo, in dynamic initiatives of building counter-institutions and instigating creative interruptions.

The 10th Berlin Biennale will be imagined and shaped through these collective dreams and actions. In conversation with artists and contributors who think and act beyond art, the curatorial process will confront the incessant anxieties perpetuated through the misunderstanding of complex subjectivities. Facing the current widespread state of collective psychosis, and starting from the position of Europe, Germany, and Berlin as a city in dialogue with the world, the curatorial process will be selective, non-comprehensive and will not provide a coherent reading of histories or the present of any kind. The curatorial team's key starting points will be strategies of self-preservation as acts of dismantling dominant structures and building from a non-hierarchical position.

The 10th Berlin Biennale proposes a plan for how to face a collective madness.

Biographies of the Curatorial Team

Moses Serubiri is an independent writer and curator based in Kampala, UG. He is interested in meta-narratives and scholarly practices beyond the field of art. Serubiri's book chapter on the Uganda Museum is forthcoming in the edited volume *How Institutions Think* from MIT Press. He was recently on the selection committee for the 2017 Cape Town Art Fair, ZA. In 2014 he co-curated the Kampala Contemporary Art Festival (KLA ART), with a team advised by Gabi Ngcobo. In 2013 Serubiri organized *A History of Kadongo Kamu*, a radio documentary on the history of recorded music in Uganda. He also edited the online journal START – A Journal of Arts and Culture in East Africa. In 2011 Serubiri was a critic at The New Vision, one of Uganda's leading daily newspapers. In 2015 he received a fellowship at the University of Bayreuth, DE, as "Stadtschreiber" (City Writer) and is an alumni of the Àsikò International Art School at the Centre



for Contemporary Art in Lagos, NG. His writings are featured in *The Trans-African*, *Frieze*, *Manifesta Journal*, and *Chimurenga Chronic*.

Nomaduma Rosa Masilela is a writer, historian, and artist based in New York, US. She is currently completing a doctorate in Art History at Columbia University in New York. Her dissertation examines public and performance art of 1980s Dakar, SN. Masilela's art interests converge around underrepresented aspects of history, collective work and strategy, and the ambivalence inherent within the public and the private. She has received grants and awards from the Ford Foundation, SSRC Mellon Foundation, and Columbia University, among others. Masilela has previously taught an introductory art history course at Columbia University, worked at The Kitchen and the Brooklyn Museum in New York, and assisted the Secretary General of the Dakar Biennale Dak'art in 2006 and 2009. Most recently, she held a year-long research post at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. She published texts in various books and magazines, amongst others in the publication *DON'T/PANIC*, which accompanied the exhibition of the same name curated by Gabi Ngcobo in 2011.

Thiago de Paula Souza lives and works in São Paulo, BR, where he worked as an educator at Museu AfroBrasil between 2014 and 2016. In 2016 he co-curated the exhibition *Living On – In Other Words on Living?* at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, AU. At the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo de Paula Souza joined the Accra Study Days team, organized by Gabi Ngcobo as part of the public program, and was also part of the Bienal's *Oficina de Imaginação Política* ("political imagination workshop"). He collaborated with *lanchonete.org*, an artist-led cultural platform focused on daily life and progressive actions in contemporary cities with São Paulo as a reference point, and co-created *We Cannot Build What We Cannot First Imagine (WCB WCFI)*, a visionary platform that gathers works and perspectives from racialized artists and thinkers. De Paula Souza currently researches on the depiction of art from South America and the African Diaspora in the German-speaking context. This research will soon extend to non-Western circumstances where he will investigate how the art communities engage in the deconstruction of hegemonic readings of histories.

Yvette Mutumba is co-founder and editor-in-chief of the art magazine *Contemporary And (C&)*. From 2012 to 2016 she was working as curator at Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt am Main, DE, where she co-curated the major exhibitions *FOREIGN EXCHANGE (or the stories you wouldn't tell a stranger)* (2014–15), *El Hadji Sy: Paintings, Performance, Politics* (2015), and *A Labour of Love* (2015–16, with Gabi Ngcobo). In 2016 she co-curated *Focus: African Perspectives* at The Armory Show, New York, US. Mutumba studied Art History at Freie Universität Berlin, DE, and holds a PhD from Birkbeck, University of London, GB. As author and editor she has published numerous texts and books on contemporary art from African perspectives as well as Global Art History. Her most recent publication *I am built inside you*, edited by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and C&, was published in April 2017 by Sternberg Press.

Biography of Mazyar Pahlevan, Graphic Designer of the 10th Berlin Biennale

Mazyar Pahlevan is an independent graphic designer and writer currently based in New York, US. In his practice he focusses on projects in art and music, such as his continuous collaboration



with Other People, a sound, image, and data archive based in the US. Recent work include the book *Network*, published in 2017 by Other People and Printed Matter Inc. Prior to moving to the US, he was based in Berlin, DE, where he, together with Gabi Ngcobo, designed *Digging Our Own Graves*, a newspaper published by Center for Historical Reenactments within the 8th Berlin Biennale in 2014. He received his BA from the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, NL, in 2012, his MFA from Yale University, New Haven, US, in 2016, and is currently doing an MFA in psychoanalysis at New York Graduate School of Psychoanalysis.



PRESS INFORMATION

Kulturstiftung des Bundes increases the funding of the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art to 3 Million Euro per edition

Berlin, November 29, 2016

The Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art is delighted to announce that the Board of Trustees of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) has decided to extend its funding of the Berlin Biennale to include the 11th and 12th editions, through 2022.

The German Federal Cultural Foundation has approved an increase of 500.000 Euro in funding, set to begin already with the upcoming 10th Berlin Biennale, for a total of 3 Million Euro per edition. Since 2004, the Berlin Biennale has been funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation as one of its “cultural institutions of excellence,” recognizing its nation-wide importance and international reputation.

“The support of the German Federal Cultural Foundation grants us not only a high degree of autonomy, planning security, and thus potential for development; it also provides the Berlin Biennale with the confidence of knowing that we have a strong partner at our side,” says Gabriele Horn, director of the Berlin Biennale.

The upcoming edition of the Berlin Biennale marks its 20-year anniversary. The 10th Berlin Biennale will be curated by curator and artist Gabi Ngcobo, and will take place during summer 2018 at various venues in Berlin.



PRESS INFORMATION

Gabi Ngcobo Appointed as Curator of the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

Berlin, November 24, 2016

The Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, which has been funded since its fourth edition by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) as an “outstanding cultural event,” is delighted to announce Gabi Ngcobo as the curator of the upcoming 10th Berlin Biennale.

Since the early 2000s Gabi Ngcobo has been engaged in collaborative artistic, curatorial, and educational projects in South Africa and on an international scope. She is a founding member of the Johannesburg based collaborative platforms NGO – Nothing Gets Organised and Center for Historical Reenactments (CHR, 2010–14). NGO focusses on processes of self-organization that take place outside of predetermined structures, definitions, contexts, or forms. The CHR responded to the demands of the moment through an exploration of how historical legacies impact and resonate within contemporary art.

Recently Ngcobo co-curated the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, currently taking place at the Cicillo Matarazzo Pavilion in São Paulo, BR, and *A Labour of Love*, 2015, at Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main, DE. She has worked at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, ZA, and at the Cape Africa Platform where she co-curated the Cape07 Biennale, 2007, Cape Town, ZA. In the past she has collaborated with various institutions including Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, ES; Durban Art Gallery, ZA; Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, ZA; Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism (JWTC), Johannesburg, ZA; LUMA/Westbau, Pool, Zurich, CH; New Museum, Museum as Hub, New York, US; and Raw Material Company, Dakar, SN, amongst others. She has been teaching at the Wits School of Arts, University of Witwatersrand, ZA since 2011. Her writings have been published in various catalogues, books, and journals. She currently lives and works in Johannesburg, ZA, and São Paulo, BR, and will move to Berlin for the preparations of the 10th Berlin Biennale.

Gabi Ngcobo already shares connections with the Berlin Biennale: In 2008 she participated in the second edition of the Young Curators Workshop *Eyes Wide Open* on occasion of the 5th Berlin Biennale, and in 2014 the Center for Historical Reenactments presented its project *Digging Our Own Graves 101* as part of the 8th Berlin Biennale.

With the selection of Gabi Ngcobo, the Berlin Biennale continues its mission of serving as an experimental platform for exploring and expanding the format of the exhibition and a curatorial agenda as well as for examining current global discourses and developments in relation to Berlin as a local point of reference.

Past Berlin Biennale curators:

1st Berlin Biennale (1998): Klaus Biesenbach with Nancy Spector and Hans Ulrich Obrist



2nd Berlin Biennale (2001):	Saskia Bos
3rd Berlin Biennale (2004):	Ute Meta Bauer
4th Berlin Biennale (2006):	Maurizio Cattelan, Massimiliano Gioni, and Ali Subotnick
5th Berlin Biennale (2008):	Adam Szymczyk and Elena Filipovic
6th Berlin Biennale (2010):	Kathrin Rhomberg
7th Berlin Biennale (2012):	Artur Żmijewski together with associate curators Voina and Joanna Warsza
8th Berlin Biennale (2014):	Juan A. Gaitán
9th Berlin Biennale (2016):	DIS (Lauren Boyle, Solomon Chase, Marco Roso, David Toro)

The selection committee for the curatorship of the 10th Berlin Biennale consisted of Krist Gruijthuijsen, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE; Vasif Kortun, SALT, Istanbul/Ankara, TR; Victoria Noorthoorn, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, AR; Willem de Rooij, Frankfurt/Berlin, DE; Polly Staple, Chisenhale Gallery, London, GB; and Philip Tinari, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, CN.

In order to respond appropriately to its continuous growth and professionalization, the Berlin Biennale has been restructured in parallel with its 20-year anniversary. Up until this point Gabriele Horn was both the director of the Berlin Biennale and KW Institute for Contemporary Art. As of July this year the two institutions are now operating as separate business units under the umbrella of the KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. This enables Gabriele Horn—now director solely of the Berlin Biennale—and her team to further strengthen the institution and make it sustainable and ready for the future while focusing on preparations for the upcoming edition and its accompanying events.