

## **eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)**

artistic performance by Bianca Baldi

on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 18.00

at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Metelkova 2, Ljubljana

Administration building

### **Artistic Performance**

Following an invitation to establish the dialogue with the Slovene ethnographic museum's African collections visual artist Bianca Baldi has been in residence in Ljubljana. She explored the collections in April and May 2016 and has become interested in two collections by Anton Codelli and Leo Poljanec, obtained in Togo (1914). On the one hand a series of technical photographs show the construction of the first wireless transmitter to connect German colony Togo in West Africa with Germany, and on the other a collection of curious Islamic talismans suggests a mythological architecture to trap an evil spirit.

During her time at the SEM, Bianca Baldi has started to draw links between these two disparate artefacts as a means for taking into consideration the question of communication as another invisible tool for imperialism. In the second phase of her residency in September 2016 she has been working on the final event within the project, which is the artistic performance, entitled *eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)*. She writes about the performance:

*Eyes in the back of your head (an incantation) uses the image surface as a pathway to initiate a quest through a mythological architecture creating a tension between pictorial space, the map and territory.*

### **Bianca Baldi**

Bianca Baldi is a visual artist based between South Africa and the EU. Her video installations bring to the fore overlooked narrative strands and the hidden structures of power. In her work, through the focus on specific cultural or sociological artefacts, historical plots reveal complex webs of political, economic and cultural influences.

Baldi grew up in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa and completed her Bachelor of Art at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town. She pursued her postgraduate studies at the Städelschule, in Frankfurt am Main, and at IUAV University of Venice. Recent and upcoming exhibitions include: The AV Festival 2016, Newcastle (UK); The Image Generator II, Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp (BE); Open House, Kunstverein Braunschweig (DE); 19th Contemporary Art Festival SESC Videobrasil, São Paulo (BR); Sightings, KZNSA, Durban (ZA); The 8th Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (DE), Zero Latitude at the Goethe Institut, Johannesburg (ZA).

More: <http://www.biancabaldi.net/>

### **SWICH project**

SWICH - Sharing a World of Inclusion, Creativity and Heritage project places the Museums of Ethnography and World Cultures at the centre of ongoing discussions about citizenship and belonging in contemporary Europe. Ten European partner museums work together in the EU-cooperation project which runs from November 2014 to September 2018 and is co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme. In a series of events and activities the museums work on strategies for 21<sup>st</sup> century museum practice and especially reconsider the role and the vision of ethnographic museums for the future. There is a need to develop adequate museum practice in response to the increased migration and also trans-border movements within the European Union which change the demography in EU states. Museums will try to increase the role of ethnographic museums as places of cultural encounters, open discourse, creative innovation and knowledge production based on international collaborations.

The program of the project is organized within six themes. SEM is included in Creative Dialogue and Digital Contact Zones. Within the first theme the SEM hosted an artist in residence, Bianca Baldi, who prepared her artistic performance *eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)* as her art work within the residency.

More: <http://www.swich-project.eu/>

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## **eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)**

umetniški performans Bianca Baldi

torek, 4. oktober 2016, ob 18:00

Slovenski etnografski muzej, Metelkova 2, Ljubljana

upravna stavba SEM

### **Umetniški performans**

Vizualna umetnica Bianca Baldi je v času dvomesečne umetniške rezidence v Slovenskem etnografskem muzeju pripravila svojo interpretacijo izbranih muzejskih zbirk. V aprilu in maju 2016 je raziskovala afriške zbirke muzeja, pri čemer sta jo najbolj pritegnili zbirki Antona Codellija in Lea Poljanca iz Toga (1914). Prva je zbirka tehničnih fotografij, ki prikazujejo gradnjo prve radiotelegrafske postaje za brezžično komunikacijo med nemško kolonijo Togo v zahodni Afriki in Nemčijo. Druga je zbirka nenavadnih islamskih talismanov, ki s svojo mitološko arhitekturo ujamejo zle duhove.

V času njene rezidence v muzeju je Bianca pričela povezovati ti povsem različni zbirke muzealij z namenom premisleka o področju komunikacije kot še enega od nevidnih orodij imperializma. V drugem delu njene rezidence v septembru 2016 je ustvarila svoje zaključno delo – umetniški performans z naslovom *in the back of your head (an incantation)*. O performansu je zapisala:

*Eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)* uporablja površino podobe kot pot z namenom vzpostavljanja iskanja skozi mitološko arhitekturo, kar ustvarja napetosti med prostorom, zemljevidom in ozemljem na sliki.

### **Bianca Baldi**

Bianca Baldi je vizualna umetnica, ki živi in deluje med Republiko Južno Afriko in različnimi evropskimi državami. S svojimi video instalacijami prikazuje pogosto prezrte delce pripovedi ali skrite strukture moči. V svojih delih se osredotoča na razkrivanje kompleksnih mrež političnih, ekonomskih in kulturnih vplivov, pri čemer izhaja iz specifičnih kulturnih ali socioloških artefaktov.

Baldi je odraščala v regiji KwaZulu Natal v Republiki Južni Afriki. Diplomsko iz umetnosti je pridobila na Michaelis School of Fine Art v Cape Townu ter nadaljevala s študijem na Städelschule v Frankfurtu ter na University of Venice. Njene nedavne in prihodnje razstave vključujejo: The AV Festival 2016, Newcastle (UK); The Image Generator II, Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp (BE); Open House, Kunstverein Braunschweig (DE); 19th Contemporary Art Festival SESC Videobrasil, São Paulo (BR); Sightings, KZNSA, Durban (ZA); The 8th Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (DE), Zero Latitude, the Goethe Institut, Johannesburg (ZA).

Spletna stran umetnice: <http://www.biancabaldi.net/>

### **SWICH project**

Projekt SWICH - Sharing a World of Inclusion, Creativity and Heritage postavlja etnografske muzeje in muzeje svetovnih kultur v ospredje razprav o državljanstvu in pripadnosti sodobni Evropi. Deset partnerskih muzejev iz različnih evropskih držav je povezanih v mednarodni projekt, ki poteka med novembrom 2014 in septembrom 2018, financiran pa je v okviru programa Ustvarjalna Evropa. V sodelujočih muzejih bomo pripravili več zanimivih aktivnosti in dogodkov, ob katerih bomo razmišljali o vlogi in poslanstvu etnografskih muzejev v sedanjem času, predvsem pa o viziji teh muzejev za prihodnost. Kot odziv na povečane migracije v države Evropske skupnosti kot tudi na migracije znotraj teh držav, ki spreminjajo njihovo demografijo, je treba razviti ustrezne muzejske prakse. Muzeji bodo poskušali povečati vlogo etnografskih muzejev in njihovo razumevanje kot prostorov srečevanj med kulturami, ki ponujajo možnosti za odprti dialog med različnimi skupinami obiskovalcev, spodbujajo ustvarjalne inovacije in omogočajo ustvarjanje znanja.

Program projekta zajema šest tem. Slovenski etnografski muzej sodeluje pri soustvarjanju dveh: ustvarjalnega dialoga in digitalnih vsebin. V okviru prve teme je muzej gostil umetnico Bianco Baldi, ki je kot rezultat svoje rezidence pripravila umetniški performans *eyes in the back of your head (an incantation)*.

Več o projektu: <http://www.swich-project.eu/>

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