



Positions #4

Gluklya, Naeem Mohaiemen, Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti

01.12.2018 – 28.04.2019

Positions #4 is the fourth edition of the exhibition series *Positions*, which explores different tones of contemporary artistic voices. During the opening of the exhibition on Saturday 1 December at 16.00 there will be speeches by Diana Franssen and Charles Esche, curators of *Positions #4*.

Positions #4 introduces the work of four international artists: Gluklya, Naeem Mohaiemen and the duo Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti. These artists all share an activist practice that draws on the history of colonialism, occupation and political conflict to make work about living in the world today.

The exhibition includes film, drawing, architecture, models, archives, texts and clothing to build up elaborate images of particular parts of the world and conditions in places both near and far away. Often the artistic practices sit at the crossroads of cultural anthropology, forensic science, documentary filmmaking, self-organization and collaboration. All four artists teach us - each in a different way - about the capacity of different societies and marginal communities to cope with difficult life situations and survive, if not thrive, despite the powers exercised over them.

Gluklya

Gluklya's (Natalia Pershina-Jakimanskaya) practice contests power structures in public urban space. Her work process is playful and her studio often turns into a meeting place where people work together on conceptualizing clothes and making other useable artistic items. In 2017, Gluklya's studio was positioned in the former Bijlmerbajes prison, a unique location where she initiated the *Utopian Unemployment Union (UUU)*, a platform for long-term collaborations with refugees, asylum seekers, students, art practitioners, scholars and other people. Under the umbrella of the 'UUU' and in collaboration with TAAK and her collaborators, Gluklya developed the *Carnival of the Oppressed Feelings*- a protest performance in Amsterdam. This performance is now turned into an exhibition and on 3 March, a new addition to the Eindhoven Carnival will be made by

Gluklya, with the support of Huiskamer Eindhoven and wonderful participants from different parts of the world.

Naeem Mohaiemen

Artist and historian Naeem Mohaiemen (2018 Turner Prize nominee) shows three works including *Two Meetings and a Funeral* (2017) commissioned by documenta 14. *Last Man in Dhaka Central (The Young Man Was, Part III)* (2015) is a film about Peter Custers, a Dutch academic who becomes a witness to a turbulent socialist period in Bangladesh in the 1970s, and *United Red Army (The Young Man Was, Part I)* (2011) on the hijacking of a plane by Japanese radicals. All the films are inquiries into 'global history' and build on the unrealised possibilities of the past to question the present. They are fascinating and sometimes confronting images for a public used to the comforts of political certainty and resonate with the

current European discussion about colonial history, postcolonial disappointment, and political futures.

Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti

Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti combine their critical theoretical research with an architectural and artistic practice in service of justice and equality. They bridge architecture and art, examine the social, economic and political consequence of exile and displacement, and delve into public and private impermanent spaces. *Positions #4* focusses on their work in Palestine over the past years particularly on the refugee camps and the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. In 2012, Hilal and Petti founded *Campus in Camps* as an experimental educational programme hosted in Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem using collective discussions and courses to transform the notions of 'space' and 'agency' into practical, community-driven interventions. Recently they have been tracing the connections between people in the camp and the towns and villages from which they were displaced since 1948. The exhibition also features *Tree School*, a project developed with communities in Palestine and the North East of Brazil and developed with Grupo Contrafilé: places where people gather for communal learning and production of knowledge grounded in lived experience and connected to communities.

Curators

Charles Esche and Diana Franssen

Subsidisers

Positions #4 is supported by Ammodo, Mondriaan Fund, Stichting Promotors Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven and Fondazione la Quadriennale di Roma.

Positions

In 2014 the Van Abbemuseum started the exhibition series Positions that sets a series of projects in dialogue with one another in the ten galleries of the museum's old building. The artists in *Positions #1* (2014) were Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Céline Condorelli, Bouchra Khalili, Charles van Otterdijk and Koki Tanaka. In *Positions #2* (2015) works by Anna Boghiguan, Chia-Wei Hsu, Nástio Mosquito and Sarah Pierce were shown. *Positions #3* showed works by Natasja Kensmil, Myriam Jafri, Rosella Biscotti and Duncan Campbell.

For the editors:

For further information and photographs see: www.vanabbemuseum.nl/en/press

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Van Abbemuseum

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the leading museums for contemporary art in Europe. The museum has an intensive international collection of more than 2,700 works of art, including key works by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. Questions in the field of art and society are raised by the museum in an experimental way. An open attitude, hospitality and the exchange of information are important for the Van Abbemuseum and we encourage both ourselves and the visitors to think about different subjects, for example about the role of the collection as a cultural "memory" or about the museum as a public space. As a result of international cooperation and exchange, the Van Abbemuseum is also a place where cultural cross-pollination takes place. It is a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination.

Van Abbemuseum,
Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven.
www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 – 17.00. 1st Thursday of the month 11.00 - 21.00.

Admission

Adults: € 12.00 / Groups of 10 or more: € 9.00 / Young people 13-18 years old, students, CJP holders, Eindhoven city pass (stadspas) holders: € 6.00/ Children under 13 years of age, Museum card: free / Family pass (2 adults and max. of 3 children until 18 years): € 18.00. Tuesday 15.00 – 17.00: free.

