



Van Abbemuseum presents first major solo exhibition of The Otolith Group

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven will present the first large scale solo exhibition of The Otolith Group; the artist's collective with Anjalika Sagar (London, 1968) and Kodwo Eshun (London, 1966). On view from 25 May through 18 August 2019, the exhibition will survey their practice over eight years, presenting eight compelling narrative films and two installations.

The Otolith Group's work weaves together many strands of imagination speculation about past and future including science fiction, postcolonial history, music and scientific discovery. Their work pictures a society in which screens have become part of the natural world, communication is global, culture is political, human identity is crucial but fluid and history has not ended. The Van Abbemuseum has a record of presenting artist's first major survey or retrospective exhibitions. Major monographic exhibitions, all firsts for the artists, include Sheela Gowda (2013), Hito Steyerl (2015) and Rasheed Araeen (2017).

Xenogenesis

The title *Xenogenesis* is inspired by the African-American science fiction writer Octavia Butler's famous trilogy published between 1987-89. Butler transcended the conventions of the genre, exploring social issues of empathy, climate catastrophe, hybridity, conservation and tribalism. Her writing unleashed a legacy of feminist thinking and new imagination from the late 1980s that influenced Donna Harroway, Sadie Plant and the Xeno Feminists and the Black Quantum Futurists, all of whom are key influences for the Otolith Group's own work. It is then through the prism of this radical, generative Afrofuturist fiction that the exhibition can be seen and experienced.

The Otolith Group

The Otolith Group was established in London in 2002. Eshun and Sagar have been leading experimentalists in the fields of documentary and filmic essays, known both for their own work and for their support and exploration of other filmic practices by programming and organizing discursive events, much of which is done under the name the Otolith Collective. Through these projects, the Otolith Group challenges a white modernist mode of artistic production and expands the global view of art.

Mediation

During the opening weekend, an artist talk will take place on Sunday afternoon 26 May. In addition, three events are being organized with presenters Richard Kofi and Simone Zeefuik. They will be joined by scientists, performers, musicians and artists to investigate how the themes from the exhibition are of significance in Eindhoven and the Netherlands. Dates: Saturday 22 June (Creolizing the Canon), Saturday 29 June (Afrofuturism), Saturday 6 July (Self-care). During the last week of the exhibition, a residency for emerging literary artists will take place in collaboration with the Watershed Foundation. The participants will be coached by philosopher and writer Simone van Saarloos, poetry slammer Jörgen Gario and artist Julius Thissen.

Curator

Annie Fletcher

Exhibition design

Diogo Passarinho

Touring partners

After this debut in Eindhoven, the exhibition will travel to several international locations; VCU Institute for Contemporary Art in Richmond (United States), Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge (Canada), Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (Ireland), Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (United

Kingdom), Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah (United Arab Emirates).

pollination takes place. It is a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination.

Subsiders

The exhibition is supported by Ammodo and Fonds 21.



Note to editors:

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

Or contact:

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Opening hours

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

The museum is closed on 1 January (New Year's Day), 27 April (King's Day) and 25 December (Christmas Day).

Admission

Adults: € 13 / Groups of 10 or more: € 9 / Young people 13-18 years old, students, CJP holders, Eindhoven city pass (stadspas) holders: € 6/ Children under 13 years of age, Museum card, BankGiro Loterij VIP pas: free / Family pass (2 adults and max. of 3 children until 18 years): € 26. Every Tuesday between 15 – 17 hrs: free.

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 El Lissitzky, Joseph Beuys, René Daniëls, Marlene Dumas, Sheela Gowda, Hito Steyerl en Iris Kensmil. 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-