

PRESS RELEASE

An Age of Our Own Making
- The Life of Materials: On Another Nature and Ecology
May 14th – August 15th 2016

Opening: 3pm on May 14th in Holbæk
Guided tour with events starting at Holbæk Museum

Ehsan Ul Haq, Eko Prawoto, Georges Adéagbo, Hamed Ouattara, Ibrahim Mahama, Jean Katambayi Mukendi, Jems Robert Koko Bi, Julie Djikey, Misheck Masamvu, Sammy Baloji and Angela Melitopoulos in collaboration with Angela Anderson.
Reflection room display: Lorenzo Sandoval.

Gigantic sails of cocoa sacks hoisted in the Vang neighbourhood of Holbæk, a towering bamboo conch shell in Holbæk Harbour, a performance artist coated in oil and ash from burnt car tyres, and designer furniture made from wrecked cars from the local scrapyards. These are just a few of the spectacular, contemporary, enigmatic and soulful artworks that will take Holbæk by storm from May in the first part of the Images 16 project 'An Age of Our Own Making'.

With 11 site-specific works, the exhibition in Holbæk investigates the global circulation of materials and its impact on society and the environment. The artists' alternative use and recycling of materials like bamboo, timber and scrap metal make us aware of materials as 'bodies' like our own, with their own lives, histories and qualities. Through sculptures, performances, installations, architecture and painting, the artists zoom in on our relationship to the resources we consume and the nature that surrounds us.

Holbæk will be full of striking artworks that stimulate the senses and invite reflection and interaction. What the works have in common is that they question the many different ways sustainability can be understood, and take a closer look at the ecological inequality that characterises the world today. Most of the artists, who come from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, have spent some weeks in Holbæk or been on a longer artist residency to create works tailor-made for the town, works that enter a direct dialogue with the places in which they are exhibited.

Stories of Migration and Cocoa Sacks on Rails

Take Ibrahim Mahama, one of the artists in the last Venice Biennale, who lived in the Vang area for a month. The people living in the neighbourhood come from over 30 different countries, and these are the people whose migration stories he listened to before creating a 10m high patchwork sails made of old shipping sacks hoisted on 'masts' made of railway tracks - a work that reminds us of the circulation of raw materials and people in a globalised world.

With *Shells at the Sea* Eko Prawoto has constructed a bamboo installation for Holbæk harbour where people can meet and talk. The spatial form is inspired by the shells to be found on the beach, and is simultaneously open and closed. In the town centre Ehsan Ul

Haq's 3m high plaster cast of a lion presides. A tree grows out of the lion's head, making the animal resemble a huge flower pot. The hollow between the lion's front legs provides shelter for a small pool with a goldfish that the people of Holbæk are to help take care of. Holbæk's scrapyard also plays a role in the exhibition, when Hamed Ouattara pays tribute to the refinement of African craftsmanship by creating beautiful, designer furniture out of the town's surplus scrap metal thus giving new life to old wrecked cars.

In the middle of the town Sammy Baloji presents a big billboard showing a row of flowerpots made of copper bullet casings engraved with figurative and abstract patterns inspired by Congolese vases. The flowerpots refer to the trench crafts made by soldiers during World War I when they were in the trenches or recovering in hospital. The 'flowerpots' highlight the paradoxical contrast between the destructiveness of the bullets and their life-giving beauty when recycled.

The exhibition also takes a detour to Holbæk Museum. Here Georges Adéagbo presents a large installation of objects he has found at flea markets and when walking through Holbæk alongside paintings and sculptures from his native Benin to create a direct connection between the two places. Adéagbo is interested in the unique story behind the development of a town or country, but also highlights the similarities between nations and cultures.

Environmental Pollution and an Oil-Smeared Performance Artist

On top of all of this, the exhibition includes a staggering performance by Julie Dijkey. Smeared in oil, she pushes a toy car through the streets of Holbæk to draw attention to environmental pollution in megacities everywhere on the planet. Other highlights on the exhibition's path through the town include a compelling mural by Misheck Masamvu, an oak tree carved into a longboat occupied by headless figures by Jems Robert Koko Bi, and a soulful environmental analysis machine made of electrical cables, and cardboard with mathematical formulas inscribed on it created by Jean Katambayi. Finally, Holbæk library is hosting a video installation by Angela Melitopoulos and Angela Anderson, which asks whether a country in economic crisis can afford to save its nature. The video addresses the environmental, social and psychological aftermath of a Canadian corporation's mining operation in northeast Greece.

Brian Worm Ahlquist, Director of Culture and Leisure in Holbæk Municipality, is delighted about the city's participation in the project: "We're especially happy to have the opportunity to bring international relations into play with local institutions in Holbæk with the goal of generating knowledge and reflections on art from countries we do not often have the chance to see."

The Images 16 exhibition *An Age of Our Own Making* is comprised of three parts, which can be experienced from May 14th 2016 to January 8th 2017, first in Holbæk and Roskilde, then in Copenhagen. The exhibition is curated by Solvej Helweg Ovesen and Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung and organised by Holbæk Municipality.



Images 16 presents contemporary visual art from Africa, Asia and the Middle East focusing on global challenges and the role of the artist in society. More than 30 exhibitions and events in 16 cities in Denmark have been realised through the cooperation of 25 cultural institutions, the municipality of Holbæk, 16 international curators and the Centre for Culture & Development (CKU). Read more: www.cku.dk/en

An Age of Our Own Making is supported by the Centre for Culture and Development (CKU) and The Danish Arts Foundation.

See more at:

<http://images.holbaek.dk>

For more information please contact:

Communications officer for IMAGES Holbæk:

Julie Damgaard, T: + 45 7236 1268, E: judam@holb.dk

Press officer for IMAGES Holbæk:

Anne Riber, T: +45 4089 4224, E: anne@formatartspace.dk / images@holb.dk

Press officer for the Danish Centre for Cultural Development (CKU), who are behind Images 16:

Kathrine Storgaard Carlsen, T: + 45 3338 9733, E: kst@cku.dk