

## 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg

Theme: *Currency*

Opening on 19 May 2022

Press release

Hamburg, 1 June 2021

The 8th edition of the Triennial of Photography Hamburg will open on 19 May 2022. Based on the theme of *Currency*, artistic director **Koyo Kouoh** and her team of international curators, that includes **Rasha Salti**, **Gabriella Beckhurst Feijoo**, **Oluremi C. Onabanjo** and **Cale Garrido**, will explore how our “retinal era” leads us to perceive the world through image capture. *Currency* not only refers to money and its significance as an economic indicator, it is borrowed in this context to instigate a critical examination of photography.

According to Koyo Kouoh, “With the theme of *Currency* we will explore the multiple ways in which we produce, circulate and interpret photographs and images, as well as how they define our perceptions of the world and how we project ourselves into the world. The theme and all the questions it carries are threading our conversations with the constellation of institutions involved in Hamburg. The structure of the Triennial provides a larger involvement of the entire city, promising an exceptionally rich, polyphonic and creative celebration of photography.”

The Triennial theme will be explored in a multifaceted programme of exhibitions, events and a festival. In August 2021, the new editorial platform of the **Triennial Online** will feature artistic commissions and reflective texts. Also in the run-up, an international **symposium** on the themes of the Triennial will take place in Hamburg from 30 September to 2 October 2021.

The 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg will extend through the city traversing a **parcours of eleven exhibitions**. The following Hamburg museums and exhibition houses are participating in the Triennial: the Bucerius Kunst Forum, the Deichtorhallen Hamburg with the House of Photography, the Hall for Contemporary Art and the Falckenberg Collection, the Hamburger Kunsthalle, the Jenisch Haus, the Kunsthaus Hamburg, the Kunstverein in Hamburg, the Museum am Rothenbaum - Kulturen und Künste der Welt, the Museum der Arbeit, the Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte and the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg.

### The theme of the 8th Triennial: *Currency*

In its primary meaning, currency is an economic term for a system of monetary units. Applied to discourses of visual culture, it is associated with “cultural capital.” In their interpretation of the theme, the curators refer to Susan Sontag, who posited that a “capitalist society requires a culture based on images.” It needs to furnish a huge amount of it to stimulate consumption. The camera defines a reality that is both “a spectacle (for masses)” and “an object of surveillance (for rulers).”

The curators of the Triennial extend the concept of currency to visual culture more broadly and will present photography alongside films, videos and installations. *Currency* is intended to explore canon-making, classification and circulation. Photography will be examined for its influence on trade and exchange, its importance for regulation and standardisation, but also, for its ability to generate and support resistance.

## Programme

The Triennial programme will start in summer 2021 with the launch of the **Triennial Online**, followed by an international **symposium** from 30 September to 2 October 2021. The opening of the exhibitions and the events along the **parcours** take place from 19 to 22 May 2022, followed by a multi-day **festival** in June 2022 with a special focus on the photography scene in Hamburg. In addition, various publications will be presented in 2022.

### **Triennial Online *Allegories of the Visible***

The curated web platform is intended as a place for theoretical exchange and artistic reflection. It complements the theme of the Triennial through critical essays, creative writing and visual commissions. The website will launch in August 2021 and will publish contributions from international photographers and critics, theorists, scholars and artists through 2021–2022.

### **Symposium *Lucid Knowledge***

The international symposium will take place from **30 September to 2 October 2021** in Hamburg and will also be accessible online via a livestream. An interdisciplinary programme of lectures, presentations and roundtable discussions will bring together international artists, critics and curators, filmmakers, poets and academics. The guests will include Akinbode Akinbiyi, Ariella Azoulay, Nancy Adajania, Antawan I. Bird, Natalia Brizuela, Tina Campt, Robin Coste Lewis, Frieda Ekotto, Ariel Goldberg, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Saidiya Hartman, Kapwani Kiwanga, Miguel Lopez, Elias Sanbar, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung and Françoise Vergès.

Three themes will guide the symposium's programme: **Fields of Perception** will interrogate the photographic impetus, the social uses of photography and the ethics of spectatorship; **Narrative Currents** will ask about photography's relationship to the push and pull between the metaphorical and literal meanings and its narrative possibilities; **Image as Currency** will deconstruct the notion of currency as added value as well as reflect on the visual production, circulation and consumption of images.

### **Festival *Photography: The Register and the Recital***

The festival entitled *Photography: The Register and the Recital* will be held in June 2022. Its content will bring together the motifs and components of the Triennial and make them accessible in a diverse programme of lectures, discussions, presentations and film screenings. The festival will be held at various venues along the **parcours**.

### **Fotoszene Hamburg**

The 8th Triennial will involve the local photography scene and provide a stage for Hamburg-based photographers, artists and collectives. Selected projects dealing with the concept of *Currency* are eligible for funding. For more information on the planned Open Call, starting in the fall of 2021, please visit: [www.phototriennale.de/en](http://www.phototriennale.de/en).

### **The curatorial team of the 8th Triennial**

**Koyo Kouoh** is the **artistic director** of the 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg. Born in Cameroon, Kouoh has been the executive director and chief curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) since March 2019. She was the founding artistic director of the RAW Material Company in Dakar and a member of the curatorial team of Documenta 12 and 13. She is responsible for numerous publications and organises international exhibitions as an independent curator. In 2020 she was awarded the Prix Meret Oppenheim for her work.

To realise the Triennial, Koyo Kouoh has appointed an **international team** consisting of:

### **Rasha Salti**

is a researcher, writer and curator of art and film. She lives and works in Beirut and Berlin. Salti has curated film programmes worldwide, from MoMA in New York to Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. In 2011, she was one of the co-curators of the Sharjah Biennial. She is the author and editor of numerous publications, including the book *I Would Have Smiled: A Tribute to Myrtle Winter-Chaumeny* with Issam Nassar, dedicated to the legacy of the British photographer and founder of the UNRWA photo archive.

### **Gabriella Beckhurst Feijoo**

is an art historian, researcher and curator of photography, moving images and performance. Among the projects Beckhurst Feijoo has worked on are exhibitions at the 57th Carnegie International in Pittsburgh and the associated public programme of the Swiss Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale. Beckhurst Feijoo's PhD thesis in art history focuses on queer and feminist performance, photographic and artists' moving image practices. Beckhurst Feijoo's writing has appeared in *Another Gaze*, *Map Magazine*, *Sculpture Journal* and *König* magazine.

### **Oluremi C. Onabanjo**

is a curator and scholar of photography and the arts of Africa. Formerly the director of exhibitions at the Walther Collection in New York, she has organised exhibitions in Africa, Europe and North America. She lectures internationally on photography and curatorial practice, and her writing has appeared in *Aperture*, *Autograph ABP*, *The New Yorker*, *The Photobook Review* and *Tate Etc.* Onabanjo was an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers fellow in 2020. She is a PhD candidate in art history at Columbia University.

### **Cale Garrido**

is an independent journalist, photo editor and curator based in Hamburg. She works internationally on documentary and artistic photography projects, exhibitions and publications. She was an assistant curator at the 7th Triennial of Photography Hamburg in 2018 and has curated exhibitions at the Kaunas Photography Gallery and the Brandenburg State Museum of Modern Art in Cottbus.

### **More information about the 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2022 at**

[www.phototriennale.de/en](http://www.phototriennale.de/en)

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*The Triennial of Photography Hamburg has taken place every three years since 1999 in collaboration with Hamburg's major museums, exhibition houses, cultural institutions, galleries and other organisers. In this time, the Triennial has become an important photography event in Germany and internationally. With a large number of exhibitions organised under a common theme, it highlights current topics in photography. The Triennial is accompanied by an international, interdisciplinary symposium in the run-up to the event and a festival lasting several days in the summer of 2022. Since 2014, the Triennial has been organised by Deichtorhallen Hamburg GmbH.*