

roda – soft water on hard stone



roda – Innovative Transoceanic Art Collaborations

The curators Katarina Stenbeck and Carla Zaccagnini receive The Vision Exhibition Award 2023 for their exhibition idea *roda – soft water on hard stone*. With a focus on knowledge building and worldmaking *roda* charts a new course for art exhibition and production by proposing a collaborative process extended over three oceanic journeys that reverse the colonial triangular route between Africa, South America and Europe.

roda is a two-year process that will include three sea journeys, nine art commissions and an extensive event programme in three continents. The three trips - in the opposite direction of the colonial triangular trade route - will provide the setting for conversations between artists and other thinkers about what it means to know and inhabit a world, which will materialise in new works, presentations, workshops and other activities in Nigeria, Brazil, and Denmark.

With a firm belief in the potential of art to generate new insights, the two curators, Katarina Stenbeck and Carla Zaccagnini, address the interlacing of human and more-than-human crises with roots in the colonial history of Denmark and Europe, and the related issues facing the world today.

*“We believe it is necessary to challenge the Eurocentric worldview rooted in colonialism and capitalism if we are to reassess the Western way of understanding and inhabiting the world. With *roda*, we wish to acknowledge and listen to wisdom and forms of knowledge that can guide us towards other ways of living, learning, making, and believing,”* say Katarina Stenbeck and Carla Zaccagnini.

roda - circles of human and more-than-human worlds

The Portuguese word *roda* means to turn around. It can also be used to describe a circle of people, referring to different traditions and practices based on community and exchange. The exhibition idea draws on the different meanings of the word by creating new circles that revolve around what it means to inhabit and create worlds together with others.

The exhibition process is based on international collaborations with the experimental art organisations Capacete in Rio de Janeiro and Àsikò in Lagos. The close dialogue with these partners and the participation of artists and other practitioners from different backgrounds will engender multiple perspectives hereby making a *roda*, a circle, across the globe for exchanges on reciprocity, reproduction, and spirituality.

Three sea journeys, cities and cycles

The exhibition idea is based on three cycles, each of which includes a sea journey. Each cycle involves three artists, who will be commissioned to make new works in Denmark to be realised during the two-year exhibition process.

The first cycle is dedicated to reciprocity between diverse worlds. The second cycle focuses on (re)production and distribution while the third one addresses spirituality and the re-enchantment of the world.

The sea journeys go from Copenhagen to Rio de Janeiro, from Rio de Janeiro to Lagos and from Lagos to Copenhagen.

The Vision Exhibition Award is given to an innovative exhibition idea within the visual arts. Stay informed about the development of *roda – soft water on hard stone*: <https://roda-softwateronhardstone.org/>

MOTIVATION FROM THE JURY

*“What makes *roda – soft water on hard stone* such an innovative art mediation idea is the fact that it examines and develops urgent, abstract themes in an extremely tangible and original way. On sea journeys that travel in the opposite direction to the original triangular route between Europe and the former colonial continents of South America and Africa, the process will invite non-European artists and other thinkers to reveal a shared history and worldview in new ways.*

The exhibition idea, and the development and presentation of the works to audiences will create a process that combines both the physical and mental journey. It is a radical approach that the bodies and community of the participants will play a role during the voyage at sea, which will also explore the transformative potential of the maritime.

*As an experiment, the concept changes the very framework for the emergence of new ideas and new art. *roda – soft water on hard stone* also involves an innovative way of involving audiences as participants in the process, and they can encounter the final exhibition of the newly commissioned works in Copenhagen. Finally, we believe that those who are given the opportunity to work together will be immersed in a special, protracted process, during which something significant may emerge.”*

THE CURATORIAL TEAM

Working as a curator and art historian, **Katarina Stenbeck** examines art as a space for resistance to capitalocene destruction and dreaming, sketching, and building other worlds.

In her work as an artist, writer and curator, **Carla Zaccagnini** uses strategies of displacement to question those ways of thinking, telling, seeing, and depicting that have been understood as neutral, opening paths that can lead to other stories and ways of acting.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Capacete is an international, non-profit institution for artistic processes and research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The **Centre for Contemporary Art & Àsìkò Art School** in Lagos, Nigeria develops placed-based learning with African and international artists and curators, focusing on diaspora and movement.

Art Hub Copenhagen is an international art institution that deploys artistic research, production and mediation to boost artistic discourse.

Astrid Noacks Atelier is a space for transdisciplinary artistic experiments, knowledge sharing and critical discourse in Copenhagen.

The **M/S Maritime Museum** in Elsinore presents stories about Denmark as a maritime nation.

THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD

Every year, with its Vision Exhibition Award, Bikubenfonden invites museums, exhibition halls and other exhibition actors to realize a visionary exhibition concept with contemporary relevance. A jury consisting of professionals hailing from relevant sectors evaluate all the submitted proposals. Three of the ideas are then invited to be considered in a second round, where participants are asked to further develop and qualify their ideas. The final recipient of the award is granted as much as five million Danish kroner for the realization of the exhibition.

THE JURY OF THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD FOR THE YEAR 2023

Gitte Ørskou – director, Moderna Museet

Hannah Heilmann – artist, art historian, associate professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

Sigrid Bennike – scenographer and director of Torden & Lynild

Tine Vindfeld – art consultant

Jonas Snedevind Nielsen – architect and co-founder of Perspektiv

Peter Kirkhoff Eriksen – former senior development partner, Bikubenfonden

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD

2022: The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology, for the exhibition, "Hosting Lands. Between the Ruin, the Field and the Forest" - [hostinglands](#)

2021: Copenhagen Contemporary, for the exhibition, "Yes, it Moves!" The exhibition runs until 31 December 2023.

2020: Kunsthall Rønnebæksholm, for the exhibition "Soil. Sickness. Society."

2019: Kunsthall Aarhus, for the exhibition, "Go Extreme"

2018: KUNSTEN. Museum of Modern Art in Aalborg, for the exhibition "Work it Out!".

2017: Esbjerg Art Museum, for the exhibition concept, "Wunderkammer".

2016: The performance artist group, Sisters Hope, and Den Frie Udstillingsbygning, for the exhibition, "Sisters Academy - The Boarding School".

2015: The Medical Museion, for the exhibition project, "Mind the Gut".

Read more at [The Vision Exhibition Award](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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