

Press release

Minia Biabiany

J'ai tué le papillon dans mon oreille

I killed the butterfly in my ear

Kunstverein Freiburg

19 Jun–8 Aug 2021

Minia Biabiany (b. 1988, Guadeloupe) arranges materials, sounds, videos and images to form spacial narratives. These deal with the conflictual and violent histories that have been inscribed into the archipelago of Guadeloupe and into the bodies of its inhabitants. They tell of the ongoing ecological and political ramifications of the plantation economy and slavery during French colonial rule, as well as the continuing contamination of the ecosystem through the use of the pesticide Kepone from the 1970s on. Under persistent conditions of colonial depletion, exploitation and destruction, how can a connection to the land be established?

In the tension between the visible and the invisible, the open and the concealed, Biabiany sketches a landscape of her homeland in the Kunstverein, compiled polyphonically from a variety of arrangements and structures. Biabiany's practice is characterised by a particular attention to the materiality of more-than-human entities, to their ways of being and working. Lines of heaped soil lead into the exhibition space. The patterns they form recall a traditional weaving technique, used to make fish traps from bamboo in the Caribbean, among other place. Due to their genuine qualities of entanglement, linkage and connection, practices of weaving and braiding, as found in the wicker baskets and standing panels in the exhibition space, stand metaphorically for storytelling (Latin: *texere*, to weave, to intertwine). Biabiany interweaves forgotten tales in her work and traces a network of geographical, social and ecological forces, dependencies and relationships that comprise her living environment in Guadeloupe. Just as soil stands for the basis of life and habitat, in Guadeloupe it also stands for poisoning and destruction, because the pesticide Kepone consists of the carcinogenic molecule Chlordecone.

With and in her extensive installation, Biabiany further develops Glissant's *Poetics of Relation* (French: *Poétique de la Relation*) in so far as she attempts to remove the dichotomies of 'nature' and 'culture', 'subject' and 'object' and gives voice to more-than-human entities. At the same time, Biabiany's exhibition shows that the exploitation and destruction of living beings and ecosystems cannot be viewed in isolation from ongoing colonial structures. The ecological cannot be separated from the social. Instead of thinking in the singular, i.e. thinking in units, Biabiany focuses on moments of permeation and exchange.

In her examination of the materiality of more-than-human beings, to their ways of being and working, Biabiany lays clear how the exploitation of ecological resources is inextricably linked with the continued presence of colonial power structures.

Biabiany's exhibition *I killed the butterfly in my ear* at Kunstverein Freiburg is her first institutional solo exhibition in Germany and has been developed from an earlier show at Le MAGASIN des horizons in Grenoble, 2020.

Curatorial team: Heinrich Dietz, curator / Theresa Rößler, curatorial assistant

Minia Biabiany (b. 1988, GP) lives and works in Saint-Claude, GP.

Selected solo exhibitions:

Musa Nuit, La Verrière, Brussels, BE, 2020; *J'ai tué le papillon dans mon oreille*, Magasin des horizons, Grenoble, FR, 2020; *Spelling*, SIGNAL art center, Malmö, SE, 2016; *The unity is submarine*, Galerie G, La Garde, FR, 2015; *(sex)intaxis*, Cráter invertido, Mexico City, MX, 2015; *Envolvemos en la lluvia*, Contemporary Art Center TEOR/ética, San Jose, CR, 2014.

Selected group exhibitions:

Manifesta 13, Marseille, FR, 2020; *One month after being known in that island*, Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger, Basel, CH, 2020; *Paroles de lieux*, Les Tanneries, Amilly, FR, 2020; *Echo-Natures: Cannibal Desire*, Tout-Monde Festival, LHCC, Miami, US, 2019; *Le jour des esprits est notre nuit*, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, FR, 2019; *Diaspora Art From the Creole City*, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Washington DC, US, 2019; *We don't need another Hero*, 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE, 2018; *The share of opulence; doubled; fractional*; Galerie Sophie Tappeiner, Vienna, AT, 2018; *In the Belly of the Whale*, Witte de With, Rotterdam, NL, 2016.

Programme

Fri, 18 Jun 2021, 6–10 pm
Opening Night

Sat, 19 Jun 2021, 3 pm
Artist Talk with Minia Biabiany

Tue, 6 Jul 2021, 7 pm
Lecture by and Conversation with Malcolm Ferdinand
(online)

Tue, 13 Jul 2021, 7 pm
Freiburg and the German colonial history
Lecture by and Conversation with Dr. Heiko Wegmann
from freiburg-postkolonial.de

Tue, 20 Jul 2021, 7 pm
Members invite
Martinique, a Landscape of the World
An Evening about Édouard Glissant with Beate Thill

Thu, 22 Jul 2021, 7 pm
Curator's Tour with Heinrich Dietz

Thu, 5 Aug 2021, 7 pm
Guided Tour with Theresa Rößler

Please register for events at anmeldung@kunstvereinfreiburg.de.

We are happy to provide additional information and print-quality images upon request.

Theresa Rößler
Curatorial Assistant
Kunstverein Freiburg
Dreisamstrasse 21
79098 Freiburg

+49 761 349 44
roessler@kunstvereinfreiburg.de
www.kunstvereinfreiburg.de

Opening Hours:
Tue–Sun, 12 am–6 pm
Thu, 12 am–8 pm
Mon closed

Entrance: 2 €/1,50 €
Thursdays free
Members free

The current Corona Ordinance of Baden-Württemberg applies to the visit of the exhibition and the participation in events on-site.

The artist would like to thank Laboratoire d'Archivage de l'Oralité in Fort-de-France, Martinique.

In cooperation with Le MAGASIN des horizons:



The Kunstverein Freiburg is sponsored by:

