



Ibrahim Mahama, "TRANSFER(S)", installation view, draping of former Galeria Kaufhof building in Osnabrück, 2023. Courtesy Ibrahim Mahama and Kunsthalle Osnabrück. Photo: Lucie Marsmann

8 July to 1 October 2023

**Ibrahim Mahama, "TRANSFER(S)"**, installation in public space in Osnabrück and discourse programme in Tamale (Ghana)

Kunsthalle Osnabrück celebrates its 30th anniversary with an exhibition newly produced by Aram Bartholl, an impressive draping by Ibrahim Mahama and an event-based group exhibition of local guests, artists and initiatives. Architecturally, the events will be framed by the artist Diane Hillebrand. During the anniversary, admission to the Kunsthalle's exhibitions and events is free, with a few exceptions.

On the occasion of the city's anniversary celebrating 375 years of the Peace of Westphalia, the internationally renowned artist Ibrahim Mahama is dedicating himself to Osnabrück's history of linen in his new production initiated in cooperation with the

Öffnungszeiten/  
Opening Hours

Di/Tue – So/Sun 11:00 – 18:00

Adresse/Address

Hasemauer 1 49074 Osnabrück

Kunsthalle Osnabrück. From 8 July to 1 October, the Ghanaian artist covers the former Galeria Kaufhof building in Osnabrück's city centre monumentally with hand-woven cotton fabrics and recycled jute sacks.

The research and exhibition project explores a variety of historical and contemporary transfer circuits between Central Europe and West Africa. Thematically, it ties in with Osnabrück's historical importance as one of the most important textile production regions in Westphalia, among others for linen fabric, which became known as "true born Osnaburghs" and dates back to the fourteenth century. This linen was also used as a means of exchange for prisoners from the coastal regions of Africa and to make clothing for the forced labourers working on the plantations of the West Indies.

The former Galeria Kaufhof building with its equally diverse history and future realignment is ideal for these debates. As early as 1955, the Merkur department store had opened there on the site of the Hotel Germania (known from E. M. Remarque's novel "The Black Obelisk"), which had been destroyed during the war. Local city history, war and post-war experiences are thus placed in the context of global trade and power relations through Mahama's intervention. The building is currently being converted by the Hamburg-based project developer Home United and, as of 2024, will house not only the cross-community space "Osnabrücker Ding" but also, among others, the departments of "Art/Art Education" and "Textile Design" of the University of Osnabrück.

In addition to Mahama's installation in Osnabrück, "TRANSFER(S)" also includes an accompanying discourse programme at the Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art in Tamale (Ghana) this autumn. Wolfgang Beckermann, First City Councillor of the City of Osnabrück and Board Member for Education, Culture and Family, summarises the special relevance of the anniversary project for the City of Peace Osnabrück: "Ibrahim Mahama's draping is a special occasion for all visitors to reflect on the history of the city of Osnabrück and to rethink future trade connections. Especially in public space, where particularly many people pass the installation, it not only stimulates discussion, but actively sets a sign for global peace."

The SCCA Tamale is one of three institutions Mahama has established in his hometown. This autumn, the SCCA Tamale will serve as a discursive hub where the historical-political strands of the research premises will be unravelled in a series of talks, seminars,

exhibitions, performances and presentations. The multi-day events are designed to create further perspectives in exchange with academics, curators, historians, musicians and artists. The project is curated by Kwasi Ohene-Ayeh (Kumasi, Ghana) and Bettina Klein (Berlin).

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*This year, Ibrahim Mahama is the artistic director of the Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts. His work has been included in numerous international exhibitions such as the Sharjah Biennial 15 (2023), the 22nd Biennale of Sidney (2020), the 56th and 58th Biennale di Venezia (2015, 2019), the 6th Lubumbashi Biennale in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2019) and documenta 14 (Kassel, Athens, 2017). Various diverse major solo exhibitions have featured the work of Ibrahim Mahama, including Garden of Scars, oude kerk, Amsterdam (2022); In-Between the World and Dreams, University of Michigan Museum of Art (2020); Parliament of Ghosts, The Whitworth, University of Manchester (2019); a straight line through the carcass of history. 1918-1945. 2015-2018, daadgalerie Berlin (2018); Coal Market, Schloss Strünkede, Emschertal-Museum Herne (2018); Fracture, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2016).*



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## INFORMATION

**"Bist du bereit?"** ["Are you ready?"], group exhibition for the 30th anniversary of the Kunsthalle with 30 local initiatives and an installation by Diane Hillebrand in the foyer, courtyard and new building  
8 July 2023 to 25 February 2024

**Aram Bartholl, "Package ready for pickup"**, solo exhibition in the church  
8 July 2023 to 25 February 2024

**Ibrahim Mahama, "TRANSFER(S)"**, installation in public space in Osnabrück and discourse programme in Tamale (Ghana)  
8 July to 1 October 2024

## Publication

A detailed programme booklet provides information on all events.

## Funding

City of Osnabrück

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## Media Partner

NOZ

Further press images of the artists' works are available for download in the press section of our website (<https://kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de/en/shop/presse>).

**Press contact**

Kristina Helena Pavićević

+49 (0)171 744 86 87

[pavicevic@osnabrueck.de](mailto:pavicevic@osnabrueck.de)

**Kunsthalle Osnabrück**

Hasemauer 1, 49074 Osnabrück

Germany

+49 (0)541 323 21 90

[www.kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de](http://www.kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de)