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MUSEUM LUDWIG

PRESS RELEASE

June 6, 2020 – August 30, 2020

HERE AND NOW at Museum Ludwig

Dynamic Spaces

Digital opening film:

Friday, June 5, 2020, 7 p.m., live on [Instagram](#) and at [museum-ludwig.de](https://www.museum-ludwig.de)

Press conference:

Friday, June 5, 2020, 11 a.m., and live on [Instagram](#), preview starting at 10 a.m.

Location: Filmforum, Museum Ludwig auditorium

Please register in advance at presse@museum-ludwig.de.

Please wear a face mask during your visit.

Speakers:

Susanne Laugwitz-Aulbach, Councilor for Cultural Affairs of the City of Cologne

Yilmaz Dziewior, Director of the Museum Ludwig

Robert Müller-Grünow, board member of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig e.V.

Julia Grosse & Yvette Mutumba, Contemporary And (via livestream)

Romina Dümler, curator of the exhibition

Artists: Contemporary And (C&), The Nest Collective, CUSS & Vukani Ndebele, Nkiruka Oparah, Frida Orupabo

For the exhibition *HERE AND NOW at Museum Ludwig: Dynamic Spaces*, the Museum Ludwig is collaborating with the platform Contemporary And (C&). Founded by Julia Grosse and Yvette Mutumba, C& sees itself as “a dynamic space for issues and information on contemporary art from Africa and its Global Diaspora.” To this end, C& uses various formats: the hubs are the online art magazines *Contemporary And* and *Contemporary And América Latina*, featuring exhibition reviews, interviews, columns, and news from the international art world. New, digital artworks are also shown, and a printed magazine is published three times a year. The exhibition presents these activities and C&'s offline projects and connects them with other artistic positions.

The long-term project *C& Center of Unfinished Business* will be the focus of *Dynamic Spaces*. It is a participatory reading room that is expanded depending on the location. The core is always encounters and dialogues with the respective partner and their library. In addition to C&'s own collection, selected publications from the Kunst- und Museumsbibliothek Köln and the Berlin-based empowerment and education project Each One Teach One e. V. (EOTO) will be integrated.

The publications that come out of these different approaches to collecting focus on cultural productions from Africa and the Global Diaspora. They question gaps in Western-centric art history and address aspects of the colonial past. The reading room installed at the Museum Ludwig invites visitors to read, share comments, and continue unfinished discussions.

In addition, video works by the artist groups The Nest Collective and CUSS with Vukani Ndebele, which were produced by C& for the online video platform, will be shown for the first time in a museum. Both groups work at the intersections of different social contexts and often deal with the urban environment in a humorous way. Their films take place in Nairobi and Durban and transform everyday scenarios into a chamber play and a horror movie, respectively. With Nkiruka Oparah and Frida Orupabo, the exhibition also features two artists whose practice is characterized by reflection on African Diaspora identity, the questioning of the representation of the self and others, the re-appropriation of images, and the influence of visual cultures from the Internet. Orupabo's pictures revolve around topics such as religion, motherhood, and the sexualization of the female Black body. She isolates and recombines everything from image fragments from archives to current pop culture. This results in works that reflect the viewer's gaze and also make the underlying projections visible. A video work and paper collages by Frida Orupabo will be shown. Reflecting on language, gender, and memory, Nkiruka Oparah's art combines personal and cultural images to create drawings, video collages, and objects. For the exhibition, Oparah is presenting a video work on the fictional primeval spirit *SUOON*. The animated cosmos of the same name is part of the artist's latest group of multimedia works, in which fluid Black identities that transcend one-sided and rigid labels are articulated.

Dynamic Spaces is the sixth edition of the ongoing project series *HERE AND NOW at Museum Ludwig*. For Yilmaz Dziewior, director of the Museum Ludwig, it exemplifies the format, which responds directly to current cultural and social discourses and is based on collaboration and the integration of various forms of artistic production.

The exhibition has received substantial support from the HERE AND NOW group of members of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig e.V. and the Storch Foundation. We would also like to thank the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the OCA (Office for Contemporary Art Norway) for their support.

Curator: Romina Dümmler

Website and Social Media

The Museum Ludwig will be posting about the exhibition on its social media channels with the hashtags #HIERUNDJETZT and #dynamischeraeume.

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Vimeo: @MuseumLudwig – www.museum-ludwig.de