

# Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc | The Music of Living Landscapes

February 26 - May 22, 2022

**Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc** (\* 1977, Cayenne, French Guyana) explores colonial history and decolonization in his work. In his research-based artistic practice, moments of political upheaval such as the independence movements in many parts of the African continent in the 1960s take on a special role. For the artist, they mark the beginning of a complex relationship between the quest for independence and the construction of a new identity, reflected in texts, images, and films of the period. Abonnenc takes this politically and culturally charged material as a starting point, tracing its meaning and shifts in significance, telling stories apart from dominant narratives.

## **Artist emphasizes subjective dimension of ethnographic research**

Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc's videos, photographs, slide projections, and drawings revolve around the interplay of history, forgetting, and reinterpretation. In particular, the artist questions the supposed scientific objectivity in the encounter with colonial artifacts, for example by emphasizing the subjective dimension of ethnographic research.

## **Biography**

Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc has had solo exhibitions at Fundación Jumex, Mexico City (2018), MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt (2016), Kunsthalle Basel (2013), and Fundação de Serralves, Porto (2012), among others. He was a participant in the 56th Venice Biennale (2015) and Manifesta 8 in Murcia (2010). From the end of January to March 13, 2022, Abonnenc has another exhibition in Berlin. Titled "Gods Moving In Places," Abonnenc will explore the political potential of the Caribbean and Guyanese imagination together with other artists at the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa).

Curator: Adam Budak

The exhibition is sponsored by the Stiftung Kunstfonds, the Niedersächsische Sparkassenstiftung together with the Sparkasse Hannover, the Berlin Artists' Program of the DAAD and the Förderkreis der Kestner Gesellschaft.

Further information: [www.kestnergesellschaft.de](http://www.kestnergesellschaft.de)

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