

9 MARCH 2021

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Re-imagining museums as safe spaces

## Program

**08:45**

**Virtual doors open**

**09:00**

FR/NL/EN

**Open Museum – An introduction by Gladys Vercammen-Grandjean**

What is Open Museum?  
What are the plans for 2021?  
openmuseum.brussels  
Open Museum Think Tank

**09:15**

FR/NL

**Open Museum – An introduction by co-curators Anne Wetsi Mpoma and Jessica Gysel**

What to expect  
The concept of safe space  
The critical questions to ask

**09:35**

### **Healing The Museum – A meditative performance by Grace Ndiritu**

Grace Ndiritu invites us to get into the right mindset to tackle the issues that will be raised today.

In 2012, Ndiritu went to live in a series of rural, alternative communities, expanding an ongoing body of research into non-rational methodologies, New Age nomadic lifestyles, and shamanism. This research developed into a body of work entitled Healing the Museum which sought to re-activate the «sacredness» of art spaces and restore a meaningful relationship between museums and their audiences.

**09:55**

EN

### **Healing The Museum – Interview with Grace Ndiritu**

**10:20**

Break – 10 minutes – Break

**10:30**

FR

### **Re-imagining Collections: How to feminize and decolonize museum collections? – Talk between Anne Wetsi Mpoma and Pascale Obolo**

A discussion on how to feminise a collection and produce counter narratives based on the professional experiences of decolonial thinkers and activists Pascale Obolo (Afrikadaa Review, Museum On/Off – Musée ont l'eux) and Anne Wetsi Mpoma (Wetsi Art Gallery, Essai "Decolonize arts and culture in a postcolonial context" in Being imposed upon). The two speakers will also present the exhibition project Through her (true her), which attempts to respond to these issues on the relationship between racialised audiences and artists and museums.

**11:15**

FR/EN

### **Q&R avec Pascale Obolo, Anne Wetsi Mpoma et Grace Ndiritu**

**11:35**

Break – 10 minutes – Break

**11:45**

FR/EN

### **Re-imagining Practices: Queering the museum by Claire Mead**

What is a queer practice within a museum and its archives, in terms of representation and working with LGBTQI+ communities? How do we reinvent the ways we share these stories and identities, to bring forward feminist, lesbian and trans voices that are often forgotten by cultural institutions? Claire Mead presents these experiences and the obstacles that remain to be overcome as a queer curator and activist.

**12:15**

NL/EN/FR

### **Re-imagining Archives: Belgian Black Archives by Aminata Ndow & Olga Briard (Black History Month Belgium)**

In 2021, Black History Month Belgium will be all about archiving and documenting the past and present of Black people in Belgium. The goal is to work towards the creation of a Black community-driven and controlled archive that will collect documentary, audiovisual, digital, material and artistic works related to the Black diaspora in Belgium. Their mission is to actively provide materials that express and represent the Black experience in Belgium, both past and present, from the Black perspective. The ultimate goal is to gain a more complete understanding of the Black experience in Belgium through primary sources and to provide information that supports the construction of personal and community identities as well as the social life and shared memories of Black communities in Belgium.

The month of March serves as a laboratory for what a Belgian Black Archives could look like. By both thinking about new ways of archiving and diving into the existing archives. Archives that have often emerged within a white, Eurocentric framework and would particularly benefit from being viewed through a Black lens.

**12:45**

Break – 1 hour– Break

**13:45**

EN/NL

### **Re-imagining Structures: Inclusion in Museum DNA by Aspha Bijnaar (Musea Bekennen Kleur, Netherlands)**

In March 2020, the Musea Bekennen Kleur (Museums show their true colours) partnership was launched during the opening of the exhibition “Black in Rembrandt’s Time” in the Zuiderkerk in Amsterdam. Musea Bekennen Kleur is the first platform in the museum world where museums can enter into an in-depth dialogue with each other about the question of how they can jointly realise diversity and inclusion. The aim is to sustainably unite museums in their efforts to truly embed diversity and inclusion in the DNA of the various organisations. They do this by focusing on the four Ps: Programme, Public, Personnel and Partners, with room for the exchange of knowledge and (self)-reflection. At Musea Bekennen Kleur, the participating museums aim to strengthen their efforts together.

**14:10**

EN/NL

### **Re-imagining Heritage: Emotion Networking – Hester Dibbits (Reinwardt Academie Heritage Lab, Netherlands)**

Emotion Networking is a method of discussion or negotiation aimed at understanding others and alternative views – rather than coming to a jointly shared conclusion or compromise. Emotion Networking originated in the practice of heritage work: if heritage tells us who we are and who we want to be, then everyone should have a voice in what that actually means.

Emotion networking around heritage items leads to heritage wisdom. The meaning we attach to objects (tangible or intangible) is fluid and can take many forms over time. Heritage wisdom recognizes that heritage is not a given, but a choice. That choice is the temporary result of negotiation, of a conversation in which ideally everyone can participate. Emotion networking and heritage wisdom are competences that come in handy in debates on identity and identification. They work against fragmentation and for connection.

15:20

Closing remarks by Gladys, Wetsi & Jessica

15:30

End – platform stays open till 16:00

