

New ZKM Publication: *Digital Imaginaries: Afrikanische Positionen jenseits des Binären / Digital Imaginaries: African Positions Beyond the Binary*

Digital Imaginaries: Afrikanische Positionen jenseits des Binären / Digital Imaginaries: African Positions Beyond the Binary was published on 23 March 2021 in German and English by Kerber Verlag, Bielefeld/Berlin. The book presents the results of the three-year cooperative project *Digital Imaginaries* (2018–2021). The project partners were Kër Thioassane and Afropixel Festival in Dakar, Senegal, Wits Art Museum and Fak’ugesi Festival of African Digital Innovation in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the ZKM Karlsruhe. *Digital Imaginaries* investigated digital developments on the African continent by focusing on exhibitions, festivals and performances, seminars, lectures, and artist residencies. The project leader was Richard Rottenburg, curators of the exhibitions in in Dakar, Johannesburg, and Karlsruhe were Julien McHardy, Marion Louisgrand Sylla, Oulimata Gueye, Fiona Rankin-Smith, Tegan Bristow, and Philip Ziegler.

Based on African positions, the texts demonstrate how more diverse and inclusive digital futures can be designed beyond binary opposites.

The close interrelations and frictions between digital imaginaries, technological developments, and complex local conditions are the leitmotifs of the *Digital Imaginaries* project. *Digital Imaginaries*, which was funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation TURN Fund, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Pro Helvetia, and the German Research Foundation, works from actual situations in Africa and challenges people to think of manifestations of the digital in a more heterogeneous and global way. The project shows what role African positions play in shaping the digital.

The contributions engage with the most diverse phenomena such as the continuing effects of toxic history and the conflict-laden extraction of minerals which are so essential for the digital economy. They look at video games, architecture, and the adoption of smart city concepts and practices of innovation. They address the communitization of resources, the

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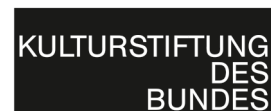
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digitization of elections, of calls for digital resistance and decolonizing healing, the relationships between people and technology, as well as between utopias and dystopias.

“With the project *Digital Imaginaries*, the ZKM | Center for Media and Art in Karlsruhe, Kër Thioossane and Afropixel Festival in Dakar, and the Wits Art Museum and Fak’ugesi Festival in Johannesburg, have explored and made visible the complex interrelationships between technological developments and perceptions of the continent of Africa.” (Hortensia Völckers, Artistic Director and Member of the Executive Board of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, Preface to the *Digital Imaginaries* publication.)

Digital Imaginaries is part of the ZKM’s longstanding engagement with non-Western art worlds, for example, *The Global Contemporary: Art Worlds after 1989* (2011–2012); *Global Art and the Museum (GAM)* (2006–2016); *Cross-border* (2013); *Move on Asia* (2013); and *Thermocline of Art: New Asian Waves* (2007).

Both Dakar and Karlsruhe have been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts and are thus members of the global network of Creative Cities that recognize culture and creativity as an essential part of their identity.

Project Activities

Kër Thioossane, Dakar

February 26–May 30, 2018 | [Afropixel#6-Festival](#) *Non-Aligned Utopias* with workshops, residencies, performances, and the exhibition *Digital Imaginaries – Non Aligned Utopias*

Wits Art Museum (WAM), Johannesburg

July 24–September 23, 2018 | Exhibition *Digital Imaginaries – Premonition*

Fak’ugesi Festival Johannesburg

August 31– September 09, 2018 | [Fak’ugesi](#) African Digital Innovation Festival *Tap Your Afro Source Code*

ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe

November 17, 2018– March 17, 2019 | Exhibition [Digital Imaginaries – Africas in Production](#)

Exhibition brochure

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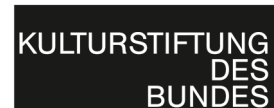
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Publication Details:

Digital Imaginaries: Afrikanische Positionen jenseits des Binären

Digital Imaginaries: African Positions Beyond the Binary

Richard Rottenburg, Oulimata Gueye, Julien McHardy, and Philipp Ziegler (eds.) on behalf of Ker Thiossane, Dakar, Senegal; Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa; ZKM | Karlsruhe, Germany

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Participating Artists

Joni Brenner, Nothando Bhebhe and Scott Hazelhurst / Tegan Bristow / Tegan Bristow, Alex Coelho, Russel Hlongwane and João Roxo / Kombo Chapfika / Joshua Chiundiza / CUSS Group / Milumbe Haimbe / Olalekan Jeyifous and Wale Lawal / Wanuri Kahiu / Isaac Kariuki / Francois Knoetze / Maurice Mbikayi / DK Osseo-Asare and Yasmine Abbas, Agboghloshie Makerspace Platform (AMP) / Marcus Neustetter / Tabita Rezaire / The Nest Collective / Minnette Vári.

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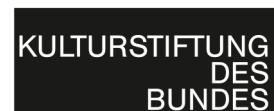
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