



ZMO-Kolloquium 2012/2013

The Impossible Aesthetic: Situating Research in Arts and Social Sciences/Humanities

Thursday, January 31st, 2013, 6 pm

Artistic Research and Museums' Collections. Lessons from the Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt/Main

Presentation and discussion with
Dr Clémentine Deliss and Otobong Nkanga

In the last two decades, the implicit understanding that ethnographic museums are the sole producers of knowledge and legitimate conservationists of their collections has been repeatedly called into question. Most notably, it is the history behind the acquisition of these artefacts and their display that has been the subject of discussion. To counter this crisis of legitimacy, several museums in Europe and the US have begun to develop new ways of dealing with their collections and histories. In this presentation we will discuss one proposal offered by the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt/Main. In 2011 the director Dr. Clémentine Deliss invited six artists to undertake "fieldwork in the museum" and bring objects from the collection into relationship with their artistic practice. The results of this process were presented in the exhibition 'Object Atlas - Fieldwork in the Museum' (Jan-September 2012). Otobong Nkanga was one of the guest artists. With both invitees we will discuss how and if at all artists can intervene in or even solve the crisis of ethnographic museums.

Dr **Clémentine Deliss** has directed the Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt/Main since April 2010. She studied contemporary art in Vienna, and social anthropology in Vienna, London, and Paris and holds a PhD from SOAS on 1920s French museum anthropology and dissident surrealism. Dr Deliss curated several exhibitions and was the director of the *Future Academy* at the Edinburgh College of Art from 2003-2010. Further she produced the international writers' and artists' publication *Metronome*, which was presented at documenta 10 and documenta 12. <http://www.weltkulturenmuseum.de>; <http://www.metronomepress.com/>

Otobong Nkanga is a visual artist working in a broad spectrum of media such as installation, photography, drawings and sculpture. She began her art studies at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria and continued at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 2008 she obtained her Master in Performing Arts at Dasarts, Amsterdam. Otobong Nkanga is exhibiting her work widely internationally. <http://otobongnkanga.com/>

Venue:

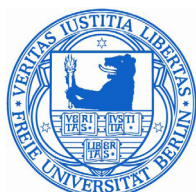
Zentrum Moderner Orient
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GEFÖRDERT VOM



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In collaboration with:
Prof Dr Kerstin Pinther and
Prof Dr Tobias Wendl,
Art Historical Department, Freie Uni-
versität Berlin, The Arts of Africa