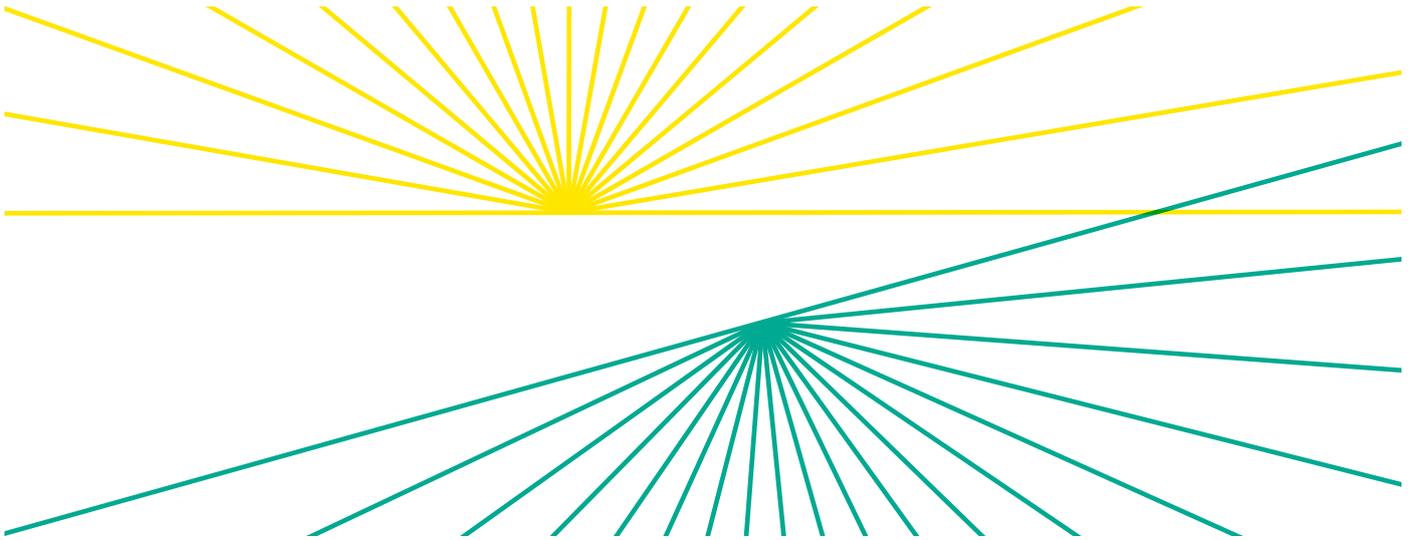


PRESS RELEASE:

OFFICE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART NORWAY ANNOUNCES NEW COMMISSIONS, EXHIBITIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



A co-commissioner of the Nordic Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) is pleased to announce new commissions, exhibitions and international collaborations in the run up to 2021 when OCA takes curatorial lead of the pavilion.

'Imaginary Leaps into a Decanonised Future'

OCA, Oslo

27–28 September 2019

'Imaginary Leaps into a Decanonised Future' is part of OCA's research into artistic canons, how they are formed, how they operate and what the world might look like without them. 'Imaginary Leaps' seeks to encourage open forms of writing and experimental approaches to the topic. The project will elevate the epistolary form, bringing together letters from across the world as a basis for the gathering, with a spatial design by scenographer Pernille Lindstad, including participants Quinn Latimer, Rolando Vasquez, Miguel López, Farid Rakun, Camille Norment, Manthia Diawara, Bouchra Khalili, amongst others.

Susan Schuppli, 'Learning from Ice'

OCA collaborates with Toronto Biennial of Art, including a partnership with Artica Svalbard

2020–2021

OCA will collaborate with the Toronto Biennial of Art to support the research and work of Susan Schuppli and her project 'Learning from Ice', as she explores ice and the ways in which it tells stories of extraction, shipping, and national sovereignties in the circumpolar region. This will include supporting research into glaciers and ice core archives in Norway and Sápmi, as well as in the high Arctic through OCA's partnership with the Artica Svalbard foundation in Longyearbyen, Svalbard archipelago.

Candice Hopkins, Senior Curator at the Toronto Biennial of Art shared: 'Toronto Biennial of Art is thrilled to be working with OCA to realize this ambitious new commission by Susan Schuppli. Her compelling project asks whose knowledges are mobilized when the right to be cold is more urgent than ever? Through research into ice core archives, Schuppli is examining how ice has taken on the role of witness to climate change, even in courts of law.'

'Art and Solidarity'

Exhibition, publication and public programme, curated by OCA at Kunstneres Hus, Oslo

An initiative developed by OCA in partnership with Kunstneres Hus

November 2020–January 2021

OCA's large-scale exhibition, publication and public programme will probe alternative circuits, transnational art histories and civic networks that operated in the name of socio-political and environmental justice across various continents from the 1960s to the present. Including artists from non-aligned nations working beyond the East/West divide that polarised global politics during the Cold War, the exhibition will include new commissions taking an active role locally and internationally. 'Art and Solidarity' will moreover consider the ways in which Norway played a part in these important movements by taking the venue as a starting point; Kunstneres Hus is one of Norway's most vital exhibition spaces and has a historic dedication to solidarities at home and beyond. In 1937, it hosted among other works Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*, being the first stop on the painting's international tour in solidarity with the victims of the Spanish civil-war.

'Art and Conflict'

A series of art commissions in collaboration with KORO – Public Art Norway

2020–2023

In 2020, OCA and KORO launch a multi-year project of public commissions and discussions inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation process (2018–2022) in Norway/Sápmi. In partnership with KORO, the project is independent of the formal process itself, and aims to catalyse discourse and audience activation around the debates and issues of the Truth and Reconciliation process, examining the past and present of Norwegian colonialism, as well as other such processes around the world. The collaboration is rooted in a shared understanding of art as an explorative force in the questions, dilemmas and conflicts the Truth and Reconciliation process brings to society. KORO is a particularly relevant collaborator for this project as an organisation founded as a result of artists protests and actions in the mid 1970s.

'Sápmi in Brazil'

Sámi curatorial peers and OCA in partnership with Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP) in collaboration with KODE Art Museums Bergen

2021

OCA and KODE Art Museums will be collaborating in the context of a full year devoted to Indigenous Histories at MASP, a program that encompasses conferences, publications, exhibitions, workshops and more in São Paulo in 2021. The project will be conceived by a curatorial group including peers from Sápmi.

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About Office for Contemporary Art Norway

The Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) is an independent foundation whose principle aim is to support art practitioners based in Norway, including Sápmi, and to foster exchange and catalyse discourse between Norway and the international arts scene. In addition to administering a series of grant schemes, residencies and visitor programmes, OCA develops its own discursive, exhibition, publication, and research programmes focused on bringing to Norway the plurality of practices and histories at the forefront of international artistic debates while also actively participating in and shaping such debates nationally and internationally. A co-commissioner of the Nordic Pavilion in Venice, OCA takes curatorial lead of the project in 2021.