

Dineo Seshee Raisibe Bopape: (ka) pheko ye – the dream to come 10.2.–20.5.2024

«It's a spiritual and a political rebellion to remember, to not forget what one is being asked to forget.» – Dineo Seshee Raisibe Bopape

Curator:
Dr. Michael Birchall

Curatorial Assistance:
Claudia Heim

Using natural materials and audio-visual media, Dineo Seshee Raisibe Bopape (*1981, Polokwane, South Africa) recalls untold, forgotten and repressed stories. Through the visitor's journey within the exhibition space, Bopape prompts reflection on what must be recollected, restored or reclaimed from loss, displacement or oblivion.

When taking us on these journeys, Bopape stimulates all the senses with a dream-activating room scent and a herbal tea, inviting visitors to smell, taste, hear, see, feel and dream. In dreaming, the artist explores the connections between the suppressed and fragmented parts of the self and life. The journey through the exhibition is a reference to a visit to a dream temple, and can be seen as a map through a process leading to an antidote. The title of the exhibition, *(ka) pheko ye*, can be translated from sePedi, Dineo's mother tongue to, '(with) this remedy / treatment process' – a remedy that can address both physical and immaterial matters.

In preparation for the exhibition, the artist immersed herself in forests, land and waters, in stories of African rain-makers, and in the world of dreams. Bopape has also been visiting various European museums that hold African artefacts, and those of other Indigenous peoples from around the world. With a particular interest in those of her region of birth that speak of Indigenous relationships with nature, she explores the processes of recovery of those artefacts and, in particular, of what they embody.

The following text provides an insight into the artist's working method, contextualising central themes such as dreams, light, moving image, plant life, sound as material and *Kgoro/Lapa* – an Indigenous African architectural form, and the philosophies it embodies.

Dreaming and Remembering: «Meeting physical force with soul force» (Martin Luther King)

The second part of the exhibition title speaks of possibilities within the dream realm – 'a dream to come'. In a dream state, different realities can interact compared to what one allows in the conscious waking state – a freer form of knowledge-production takes place. There are leaps in time and connections between different places. These connections also appear in myths and in nature. For example, the myths of the mountain dragons exist not only on Mount Pilatus in Switzerland, but also in the Drakensberg (Dragon Mountains) in South Africa. Nature stores ancient knowledge in the mountains, for example: The Matterhorn not only lies on the African plate in terms of plate tectonics, it was also actually formed from it. This has implications for geo-imaginings and draws a different map of the world.

Bopape delves into constellations of collective memories and locates the self within this complex constellation. In doing so, it becomes clear how we relate to the countless small events that exist simultaneously in the universe. This is how we develop as individuals and as a society. The self is like a river, constantly in motion, influenced by and influencing the surrounding landscape and without a fixed endpoint.

Dreaming and Remembering Through Form

Bopape draws in her work from Indigenous African architectural forms of the *di Kgoro*/ courtyard. These spaces are very common in warm climates where living both indoors and outdoors is commonplace. Called *lapa* in the seTswana language, they are in-between spaces that connect the inside and the outside. They are traditionally spaces for communal gathering, or possible working areas, and, here they designate different spaces for various processes including contemplation and rest, as well as being a 'whole zone': a place that does not quite fit into the 'given' material world, where time moves at a different pace and 'new worlds' can happen.

These architectural forms act as vessels that hold individuals and the community, and echo the forms of the feminine. Similarly, for Bopape, flower shapes are embodiments of the 'female/ female principle' throughout various times. These motifs are recurring elements in Bopape's work and have their roots in the stories of her biological and collective grandmothers and what they lived through as agents of various historical periods. The name of her grandmother, *Raisibe* enters the exhibition as a way to acknowledge the one who came before.

Dreaming and Remembering with Material Matter

Bopape's works explore her fascination with soil as a repository of memories and potentialities. From walls and domes to geometric carpets and floral forms, soil takes on diverse manifestations within her work, including our collective connection to the nurturing essence of Earth. In *(Ka) pheko ye... / (earth to dreamy stick soup)*, Bopape projects a film onto a stone filled with water and herbs, evoking Indigenous healing practices while creating a sensory experience of light, image and natural elements. Another installation, *diNaledi*, features a daylight projector casting the shadow of a star anise on the wall, symbolising the interplay between the microcosm and the cosmos. Through these works, Bopape invites viewers to engage in a playful exploration of possibilities, encouraging them to enter a realm of daydreaming and imagination.

One recurring motif in her work is the pine tree, which stretches from the ground towards the sky. Pinecones have been interpreted by various cultures as symbolic of the pineal gland, an organ sometimes referred to as the «third eye» due to its historical and spiritual associations.

Smell, Taste, Hear, See, Feel and Dream

Inspired by dreams, Bopape collaborated with Frantsila herb farm to create a tea infused with blackcurrant leaf, small-flowered mullein, heather, rosemary, rye malt and hops, available to drink in the exhibition. Captivated by the unique scent of rain in Africa, the artist has developed a room fragrance for the exhibition that triggers a dreaming state in visitors. Combining dark, grounding notes of tar and tall pine with clarifying rosemary, soothing lavender and dream-inducing thyme and rue, the scent invites restful sleep and evokes memories and dreams. Experiences and memories can be shared in the Caring Space on the ground floor, where collective dreams are nurtured.

The exhibition *(ka) pheko ye - the dream to come* was created in co-operation between the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst and the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma in Helsinki.

Info / Agenda:



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PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS (EN, GER)

The guided tours of the current exhibitions in the museum take place regularly in German or English on Saturdays from 3 pm and Thursdays from 6.30 pm. The tours last approximately one hour and offer an in-depth introduction to the themes and background of the exhibitions. The individual dates are published online on the agenda.

- On Thursday, 13 June, the public tour in German will be accompanied by sign language translation.
- The audio-descriptive tour in German on Thursday, 11 July from 5 pm offers people with visual impairments the opportunity to get to know various works of art in the exhibition.
- The curatorial tour on Thursday, 20 June from 6.30 pm with the curator of the exhibition Michael Birchall offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about the concept and creation of the exhibition as well as the background to the artworks and to ask questions to the exhibition organisers. The tour will be held in English.

HERBAL WALK MIT MAJA DAL CERO

Thursday, March 14 from 6.30 pm

Starting from the exhibition, the walk with ethnobotanist Maja Dal Cero opens up a new perspective on plant worlds in the shared habitat and offers the opportunity to tell the stories of the great quick-change artists of the plant world together. The tour takes us to different areas of life under trees, to flowers, to the water and back to the starting point.

ART AND HEALING WORKSHOPS

Monday, June 10, July 8, August 19 from 4 to 7 pm

Vernissage: September 2 from 5 to 7 pm

The collaborative Art and Healing workshop series with the Living Museum Zurich takes place once a month at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst or the Living Museum Zurich. It creates a community space for people with and without mental illness. In this open, creative environment, we will be focussing on the theme of „dreaming“ this time. Exploring works of art from the exhibition and creating with a variety of materials such as paint, textiles, natural materials or clay is all about encounters, creativity and strengthening our own resources. The resulting works will be presented to the public at a vernissage in the Living Museum Zurich.

FAMILY AFTERNOON – SHAPING OUR DREAMS

Sunday, June 30 from 2 to 5 pm

The museum is once again opening its doors especially for families and children with accompanying adults. The artist sees dreaming as a way of remembering forgotten and repressed stories. That's why we also want to create dreams together. We will be inspired by Bopape's sculptures and room installations made from natural materials. After a tour of the exhibition, we will create our dreams, dream images or dream creatures from wood, pine cones or spices in the studio. We are already excited! You can boost your creative energy levels for free with syrup, coffee and crackers.

NARRATIVE CAFÉ

Saturday, August 24 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Life stories connect us. The narrative café accompanying the exhibition offers the opportunity to share stories from your own life on the topic of «Dreams and dreaming». The narrative café is led by a moderator and participants can discover commonalities, gain new perspectives or look back.

All events are free of charge, but registration is required for some. Further information will be published on www.migrosmuseum.ch and in our newsletter. We look forward to your visit!