

Grada Kilomba



Biography

Grada Kilomba (b. 1968, Lisbon, Portugal) is an interdisciplinary artist, whose work draws on memory, trauma, gender and post-colonialism, interrogating concepts of knowledge, power and violence. “What stories are told? How are they told? And told by whom?” are constant questions in Kilomba’s body of work, to revise post-colonial narratives.

Kilomba subversively translates text into image, movement and installation, by giving body, voice and form to her own critical writing. Performance, staged reading, video, photography, publications and installation are a platform for Kilomba’s unique practice of storytelling, which intentionally disrupts the proverbial ‘white cube’ through a new and urgent decolonial language and imagery.

Her work has been presented in major international events such as: La Biennale de Lubumbashi VI; 10. Berlin Biennale; Documenta 14, Kassel; 32. Bienal de São Paulo. Selected solo and group exhibitions include the Pinacoteca de São Paulo; Bildmuseet, Umeå; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; The Power Plant, Toronto; Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin; MAAT-Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon; Secession Museum, Vienna; Bozar Museum, Brussels; PAC-Pavillion Art Contemporanea, Milan, among others. Kilomba’s work features in public and private collections worldwide.

Strongly influenced by the work of Frantz Fanon, Kilomba studied Freudian Psychoanalysis in Lisbon – at ISPA, and there she worked with war survivors from Angola and Mozambique. Early on she started writing and publishing stories, before extending her interests into staging, image, sound and movement.

Kilomba holds a distinguished Doctorate in Philosophy from the Freie Universität Berlin. She has lectured at several international universities, such as the University of Ghana and the Vienna University of Arts, and was a Guest Professor at the Humboldt Universität Berlin, Department of Gender Studies. For several years, she was a guest artist at the Maxim Gorki Theatre, in Berlin, developing *Kosmos 2*, a political intervention with refugee artists. She is the author of the acclaimed “Plantation Memories” (Unrast, 2008) a compilation of episodes of everyday racism written in the form of short psychoanalytical stories. Her book has been translated into several languages, and was listed as the most important non-fiction literature in Brazil, 2019.

The artist lives and works in Berlin.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *Grada Kilomba: A World of Illusions*, Bildmuseet, Umeå University, Sweden

Goodman Gallery

2019 *Grada Kilomba: Poetic Disobediences*, Pinacoteca, São Paulo
2018 *Secrets to Tell*, The Power Plant, Toronto
2018 *Speaking the Unspeakable*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2017-2018 *The Most Beautiful Language*, Avenida da Índia Gallery, at the Municipal Galleries of Lisbon, Portugal
2018 *Secrets to Tell*, The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada
2017-2018 *Secrets to Tell*, MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
2017 *The Most Beautiful Language*, Gallery Avenida da Índia, EGEAC, Lisbon

Group Exhibitions

Upcoming

2021 *Espressioni*, Castello Di Rivoli Museo D'Arte Contemporanea, Torino, Italy
2021 *Rhizomes*, La Base Sus Marine, Bordeaux, France
2021 *Ubuntu, a Lucid Dream*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
2021 *Tudo o que eu quero – Artistas portuguesas 1900-2020 (Travelling)* Bozar in February 2021, Tours in September 2021, and Gulbenkian (Lisbon) in May 2022
2020 *Resist! Die Kunst des Widerstands | The Art of Resistance*, Rautenstrauch Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany
TBC *Farsa*, Sesc Pompéia, São Paulo, Brazil

2020 *Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions*, Yebisu, Tokyo
2019 *Affective Utopia*, Kadist, Paris, France
2019 *Bienalsur*, Museu Nacional de Arte, La Paz, Bolivia
2019 *Bienalsur*, Centro Cultural de la Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
2019 *Tandem*, Alexander and Bonin, New York, USA
2019 *4. Berliner Herbstsalon DE-HEIMATIZE IT!*, Gorki Theatre, Berlin
2018 *The Black City, Glosses*, E-Flux Gallery and Participant Inc., New York, USA
2018 *Do Silencio a Memoria*, Paco das Artes, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2018 *Frieze Art Fair*, London, UK
2018 *In Context: I was waiting for this Past*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Art Basel*, Switzerland
2018 *We don't need another hero*, 10. Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
2018 *Frameworks*, International Film festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2017 *Incerteza Viva – Live Uncertainty*, selected artist to represent the 32. Bienal de São Paulo, Centro Dragão do Mar de Arte e Cultura, Fortaleza, Brazil
2017 *3. Berliner Herbstsalon*, Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, Germany
2017 *The Silences Between*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *Incerteza Viva – Live Uncertainty*, selected artist to represent the 32. Bienal de São Paulo, at the Palace of Arts, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
2017 *SouthSouth – Let Me Begin Again*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *O futuro será uma réplica – The future will be a replica*, Consul of Portugal in São Paulo, Brazil
2016 *Incerteza Viva – Live Uncertainty*, 32. Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2016 *Vulnerability*, Rauma Biennial Balticum, Rauma, Finland
2016 *Knowledge Unbounded*, Department of Arts and Aesthetics Exhibition, University of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden
2016 *Banquete Antropofágico – Anthropophagic Banquet*, Department of Contemporary Arts Exhibition, University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2017 *_Academy of Arts Berlin*, Berlin, Germany
2017 *_Transmediale*, House of the World Cultures, Berlin, Germany
2017 *_Art Fair Cape Town*, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *_Maxim Gorki Theatre*, Berlin, Germany
2016 *_AfroTranscendente*, São Paulo, Brazil

Goodman Gallery

2016 _Goethe Institut Salvador da Bahia, Bahia, Brazil
2016 _Berlin University of Arts – UdK, Berlin, Germany
2016 _Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
2016 _Mousonturm House of Arts, Frankfurt, Germany
2016 _University of Accra, Accra, Ghana
2016 _Goethe Institut São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2016 _Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, Germany
2015 _Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria
2015 _Theatre Ballhaus Naunynstrasse, Berlin, Germany
2015 _University of Linköping, Linköping, Sweden
2015 _Free University Berlin, Berlin, Germany
2015 _University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Holland
2015 _University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
2015 _Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, Germany

Awards and Merits

*2018*_Awarded by Frameworks at the international film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands
*2016*_Artist-in-Residence, Vila Sul, at the Goethe Institut Salvador da Bahia, Brazil
*2016*_Artist-in-Residence, Revolting Mass/Massa Revoltante, at the Goethe Institut São Paulo, Brazil
*2015*_Named a “Woman of Excellence” by the Sonne Magazine, Berlin, Germany
*2011*_Awarded as one of “The Most Inspirational Black Women in Europe” by the BWIE, Vienna, Austria

Academic Record and Residencies

*1998*_Degree on Clinical Psychology and Psychoanalysis, Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada, Lisbon, Portugal
*2008*_Ph.D., Doctorate on Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Publications

2008 *Plantation Memories. Episodes of Everyday Racism* (5th Edition), Münster: Unrast Verlag
2005 *Mythen, Subjekt, Masken* (3rd Edition), Münster: Unrast Verlag (co-editor)

Performances

*2017*_Documenta 14, Kassel, Germany
*2017*_SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
*2017*_Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
*2016*_Teatro Vila Velha, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil
*2016*_32. Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
*2016*_Wits Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2016*_Theatre Münchner Kammerspiel, Munich, Germany
*2016*_Goethe Institut Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
*2016*_TheaterTreffen, Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Berlin, Germany
*2016*_Secession Museum Vienna, Vienna, Austria
*2016*_University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
*2016*_University of Accra, Accra, Ghana
*2016*_Mostra Internacional de Teatro em São Paulo
*2016*_Bozar Museum for Contemporary Arts, Brussels, Belgium
*2016*_SOAS University of London, London, UK
*2015*_Theatre Münchner Kammerspiel, Munich, Germany
*2015*_Antwerpen Museum, Antwerpen, Belgium
*2015*_Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria
*2015*_Theatre Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, Germany
*2015*_International Arts Center José Guimarães, Guimarães, Portugal
*2015*_Theatre Ballhaus Naunynstrass, Berlin, Germany
*2015*_Oslo House of Literature, Oslo, Norway