



PRESS RELEASE

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Works by visionaries El-Salahi, Hammons, Brouwn in Amsterdam

Starting 22 November, the Prince Claus Fund, together with the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts (AFK) present **'Three Crossings: El-Salahi, Hammons, Brouwn'**. This three-part exhibition features works by Ibrahim El-Salahi (Sudan, UK), David Hammons (USA), and Stanley Brouwn (Surinam, Netherlands) at three Amsterdam locations. The works by these three visionary artists are innovative, minimalist, and sharply critical, yet infused with wit and humour. The opening of Brouwn's exhibition at EENWERK on 22 November, El-Salahi's work at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery on 23 November, and Hammons' work at De Waalse Kerk on 25 November are each part of Amsterdam Art Weekend.

The opening on Thursday 23 November at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery will be presented by 'Three Crossings' curator Salah M. Hassan.

All three artists share a destiny and an identity as diasporic subjects. They have crossed boundaries historically and existentially, and through their innovative artistic practice, they also enriched global contemporary art.

"What ultimately attracted me to the work of these artists is the ethical position these three artists represent in the face of a hyper art market and highly corporatised art scene. Throughout their careers, they remain faithful to their visions, as prolific and innovative in spite of the racialised capitalist structure of the art market."
– Salah M. Hassan, curator of 'Three Crossings'

'Three Crossings'

Conceived as multi-sited, this exhibition brings together works of three contemporary artists, the work of each installed in a different space in Amsterdam. The exhibition foregrounds each artist's experimentation with the genre of the "artist's book" yet also includes, in the cases of El Salahi and Brouwn, other relevant pieces that broaden our appreciation of their work.

The selected works are for the most part small in scale and minimalist in form, yet they speak volumes of the three artists' criticality, sharpness and innovation, rarely matched among their contemporaries and peers.

Ibrahim El-Salahi
By His Will, We Teach Birds
How to Fly: Ibrahim
El-Salahi in Black and White

Featuring black and white works from El-Salahi, including ink and paper drawings from his 'By His Will' series, and the more recent, dramatic 'The Arab Spring Notebook'.

Prince Claus Fund Gallery
Herengracht 603
Amsterdam
princeclausfund.org

Opening: 18.00-20.00 hrs
Thursday 23 November
with Curator Salah M Hassan

Opening hours during
Amsterdam Art Weekend:
Fri 24 November 10-20:00 hrs
Sat 25 & Sun 26 November
12.00 – 18.00 hrs

Exhibition dates:
23 November 2017 through
2 March 2018

David Hammons
The Holy Bible: Old
Testament

Featuring *The Holy Bible: The Old Testament*, a performative work conceived as a limited edition of bound, golden-edged copy of Italian art historian Arturo Schwarz's book *The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*.

De Waalse Kerk
Walenpleintje 157-159
Amsterdam
dewaalsekerk.nl

Opening: 09.30-11.30 hrs
Saturday 25 November
Breakfast included

Opening hours during
Amsterdam Art Weekend:
Wed 22 & Fri 24 November
11.00 – 16.00 hrs

Exhibition dates:
22 November 2017 through
6 January 2018

Stanley Brouwn
This Way Brouwn

Featuring *This Way Brouwn*, from an interactive conceptual series in which passersby created maps to give the artist directions, in addition to selected works that represent his overall oeuvre and interventions.

EENWERK
Koninginneweg 176
Amsterdam
eenwerk.nl

Opening: 18.00-20.00
Wednesday 22 November

Opening hours during
Amsterdam Art Weekend:
Thu 23 – Sun 26 November
12.00 – 18.00 hrs

Exhibition dates:
22 November 2017 through
18 February 2018

About the artists:

Ibrahim El-Salahi (Sudan, 1930), a seminal figure in African and Arabic modernism and 2001 Prince Claus Laureate, combines African and Arabic traditions in new forms. A founding member of the influential Khartoum School movement in the 1960's, El Salahi continued his studies in the UK and the USA and later served as Director of Culture for the Sudanese government. Following a period of incarceration when he was falsely accused of participating in a coup attempt, he went into exile in the UK. His works were featured in Tate Modern's first retrospective on African Modernism in 2013. He has said that the black and white works in this exhibition are among his favourites.

David Hammons (USA, 1943) is one of the most important conceptual artists working today. In a career spanning over 50 years he has utilised a variety of media, often creating visual puns and including found objects to explore and comment on the realities of African-American life. Although he is considered one of the most influential American artists of the past half century, he avoids publicity, gives few interviews and sells his work from his studio rather than through gallery representation.

Stanley Brouwn (Surinam 1935 – Amsterdam 2017) Starting in 1962 and until his passing in May 2017, Stanley Brouwn had consistently insisted that his biography and art work not to be printed or reproduced in any publication related to exhibitions of his work. The brochures for Brouwn's retrospective at Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven and MACBA in Barcelona (2005-2006) specified that his work is mainly "about measurements and real distances, any image of his work could only be seen

as a distortion.” Abiding by Brouwn’s wish, and honouring his legacy, we decided not to include Brouwn’s biography, and to include instead blank pages in the booklet accompanying his exhibition at EENWERK.

About the curator of ‘Three Crossings’: Salah M Hassan is an art historian, curator and an art critic based at Cornell University in the US, where he is Goldwin Smith Professor and Director of the Institute of Comparative Modernities, Professor at the Africana Studies and Research Center, and Professor of African and African Diaspora Art History and Visual Culture in the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies. He was a member of the Prince Claus Awards Committee (2012 – 2015) and editor of *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*.

About the Prince Claus Fund and the AFK:

The Prince Claus Fund’s mission is to actively seek cultural collaborations founded on equality and trust with partners of excellence in spaces where resources and opportunities for cultural expression and creative production are limited and cultural heritage is threatened. The Prince Claus Fund is based in Amsterdam and operates in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

The Prince Claus Fund and the AFK have initiated a new collaboration in 2017 to present international art and extraordinary creators in Amsterdam. Through this partnership, the Prince Claus Fund and the AFK have the following goal: to create and stimulate mutual inspiration and co-creation in the city, and inspire new social-cultural ideas.

www.princeclausfund.org
www.afk.nl

Additional Support

The ‘Three Crossings’ exhibition is made possible with support from the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts (AFK). Additional support from the Vigo Gallery, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, Modern Forms, EENWERK, Van Abbemuseum and De Waalse Kerk.

The Prince Claus Fund is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Postcode Lottery and private companies and individuals.

Note for the editors

Press Preview: 16.00 – 17.00 Thursday 23 November, Prince Claus Fund Gallery

Prior to the opening for the general public, there will be a preview for press of the exhibition ‘By His Will, We Teach Birds How to Fly: Ibrahim El-Salahi in Black and White’. Please RSVP by sending an email to Martine Willekens: m.willekens@princeclausfund.nl before Thursday 16 November.

For additional information, interview requests, or visual materials, please contact:

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