



Berlin, 15 November 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin**

Invalidenstraße 50/51, 10557 Berlin

Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00–18:00, Thurs 10:00–20:00, Sat + Sun 11:00–18:00

**How to talk with birds, trees, fish, shells, snakes, bulls and lions**

16 November 2018 – 12 May 2019

An exhibition by the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin with generous support from the Savings Banks Finance Group, main sponsor of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

**An exhibition by Antje Majewski with Agnieszka Brzeżańska & Ewa Ciepielewska, Carolina Caycedo, Paweł Freisler, Olivier Guesselé-Garai, Tamás Kaszás, Paulo Nazareth, Guarani-Kaiowa & Luciana de Oliveira, Issa Samb, Xu Tan, Hervé Yamguen**

The last large, wild river in Europe. The Hungarian woodlands, a courtyard in Dakar, the Brazilian Cerrado. A vacant lot in Berlin-Wedding, a river in Colombia, a village in Cameroon. An apple orchard in Sweden and sacred trees in provincial China. These are the venues of the exhibition “How to talk with birds, trees, fish, shells, snakes, bulls and lions”. Collaborative and trans-disciplinary artist Antje Majewski has opened an ongoing dialogue with colleagues from Brazil, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Hungary, Poland, and Senegal, and invited them to contribute works exploring the reciprocal relationships between human and beyond-human beings in a poetic way. The exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin stems from this conversation between the participating artists and their interactions with others.

The project and its title emerged from a conversation between Senegalese painter, sculptor, performance artist, playwright and poet Issa Samb and Antje Majewski under the trees in his courtyard in Dakar. Sadly, both Issa Samb and the trees are gone today, but the discussion set a process, a laboratory in motion. It was the start of meetings, travels, and conversations between Majewski and the invited artists, and each of these conversations generated new ideas and proposals for the project. Paulo Nazareth, Luciana Oliveira and Antje Majewski spent time together during the first “Indigenous World Games” held in the middle of Brazil’s Cerrado, a territory of former indigenous land destroyed by monoculture farming. Agnieszka Brzeżańska and Ewa Ciepielewska took Majewski and Guesselé-Garai on their boat project “Flow” on the Vistula, Europe’s last wild river; in Cameroon, Majewski and Guesselé-Garai learned about Hervé Yamguen’s reconnection with the traditions of his village. In South China, they joined Xu Tan in speaking about land use with people involved in farming or complex relationships with trees. Tamás Kaszás built birdhouses and a yurt in Majewski’s garden that will return to their practical uses after the show. And most artists came together when Majewski hosted a workshop in Himmelpfort (Germany) in 2017, where they were introduced to the project and shared initial ideas.

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"How to talk with birds, trees, fish, shells, snakes, bulls and lions" takes artists' interactions with endangered places, societies and environments as points of departure. The presented works often focus on specific places that have been destroyed, altered, or are seriously imperiled by encroaching capitalism, colonialism, and other detrimental human influences. Videos, large-scale installations, sculptures, manifestos, poems, photographs, drawings, and paintings address delicate socio-ecological systems, of which human beings are always a part.

Curators: Ina Dinter (Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin), Aleksandra Jach (Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź)

Concept: Aleksandra Jach, Antje Majewski, Melanie Roumiguière

A series of events will take place on the occasion of the exhibition, including a guided tour with curator Ina Dinter on Friday, 23.11.2018 from 4.30-5.30 pm (German) and the artist talk "Call for Empathy" with artist Antje Majewski and curator Aleksandra Jach on Sunday, 9.12.2018, from 3-4.30 pm (English). The events are free of charge with admission ticket. For information on other events, please visit the website [www.smb.museum/hbf](http://www.smb.museum/hbf)

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