



CONTAINER 96

ART ACROSS OCEANS

THE COPENHAGEN CULTURAL CAPITAL FOUNDATION

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CONTAINER 96 - ART ACROSS OCEANS

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EUROPÆISK KULTURBY
KØBENHAVN 1996

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Forord

Med sin lune beliggenhed ud mod vandet har København altid været en åben by. Det var på havnen sømændene, købmændene, fiskerne og torvehandlerne mødtes for at handle og høre sidste nyt fra fjerne egne, når skibene lagde til kaj med lasten fuld af varer. Sådan er det ikke længere. Når varerne kommer til byen er de usynlige, pakket ned i containere og sidste nyt udveksles ikke længere på kajen, men på den elektroniske markedsplads.

At være Europæisk Kulturbý er både et ansvar og en enestående chance for byen til at åbne dørene mod verden for nye impulser og tankesæt. Når København som Europæisk Kulturbý har taget initiativ til verdensudstillingen Container 96 - Art Across Oceans afspejler det, at København altid har været en vigtig havneby, og at byen op gennem århundrederne har været afhængig af at udveksle viden og varer med omverdenen. Sådan er det stadigvæk. Et af de gennemgående temaer i Kulturbýåret er derfor den globale dialog og med denne udstilling sættes fokus på den kulturelle viden, som enhver tænkende by er afhængig af. Container 96 - Art Across Oceans er en kunstnerisk dialog mellem 96 havnebyer, skabt af 96 fremtrædende kunstnere.

Havnen og Langelinie er et af de mest yndede udflugtsmål for både københavnere og tilreisende gæster. Med containeren som byggeklods og udstillingsrum er Pakhuskajen ved Langelinie et ideelt sted at præsentere en verdensudstilling i direkte kontakt med havnen, vandet og byen.

Jens Kramer Mikkelsen
Overborgmester, Formand for Københavns Kulturbý Fond 96

København, juni 1996

Preface

Welcomingly situated right on the waterfront, Copenhagen has always been an open city. When the ships were docked, seamen, merchants, fishermen and market traders met here in the harbour to do business and hear news from distant lands. That's all in the past. Now when goods come to town, they are unseen, packed into containers, and the latest news is no longer exchanged on the quay but over electronic networks.

Copenhagen is the 12th European city to be honoured with the title of Cultural Capital of Europe, which is both a responsibility and a unique opportunity for the city to open its doors to new impulses and mindsets from the outside world. The international exhibition Container 96 - Art Across Oceans reflects Copenhagen's character as a seaport which has evolved through the centuries by exchanging goods and knowledge with the rest of the world - and this has not changed. Global dialogue is one of the motifs of this Cultural Capital Year, and this exhibition highlights the cultural exchange which all creative cities depend on. Container 96 - Art Across Oceans is an artistic dialogue between 96 seaports, involving 96 leading artists.

The harbour and Langelinie are popular places for walks for both Copenhageners and tourists. With the container as a building block and exhibition space, the Pakhus Quay on Langelinie is an ideal site for an international exhibition in direct contact with the harbour, the ocean and the city.

Jens Kramer Mikkelsen
Mayor of Copenhagen, Chairman of the Cultural Capital Fund 96

Copenhagen, June 1996

Introduction

Container 96 - Art Across Oceans is the realisation of a dream. The notion of bringing together artworks from around the world in one single project; providing the public with the opportunity to wander through images from different continents to experience the multiplicity of contemporary art in one single exhibition. Is it, however, possible to present a credible world art exhibition, as we approach the end of the twentieth century?

The concept was to accommodate a single world exhibition of the arts in Copenhagen Harbour, featuring 96 artists from 96 seaports, using containers as exhibition space and building blocks; anonymous ships' containers which criss-cross the seven seas conveying raw materials, spices, materials, opportunities, results and, in a sense, messages.

Copenhagen 96 developed Container 96 - Art Across Oceans in collaboration with thirteen international curators. Each curator represents a particular part of the world and offers a distinctive voice in a dynamic world-wide dialogue which has to be "real" and not "as if", as Hans Christian Andersen would have put it.

Each artist has been commissioned to create an installation in a 20-foot container which has perceptible associations to the artist's home town. The 96 containers are laid out like towns on an "architectural map of the world" and form nine individual exhibitions, centred around major seas of the world: the Baltic Sea, North Europe, North America, Japan/Korea, Asia, the Mediterranean, Latin America, Africa, and Australia/New Zealand.

AN ART EXHIBITION ON ITS WAY

No world-wide art organisation is capable of taking on such a huge task. Each society has its own cultural traditions and this is reflected in the way art is organised. In September 1994, we approached a variety of prominent international art institutions, galleries, biennials, museums of modern art, classical museums, festival organisations, universities and national museums and presented them to the project concept.

The project has been going on for almost two years now, with continual dialogue and concept development followed up by two

intensive working seminars with the curators in Copenhagen. The curators have selected the artists and have assumed artistic responsibility for their regions. Copenhagen 96 has co-ordinated and has had the overall international collaboration and the responsibility for the exhibition concept, its basic structure, and planning.

Three months before the opening of the exhibition, the first materials and parts set sail for Copenhagen from seaports as distant as Japan, South Africa and Asia. All prepared artworks were in Copenhagen when the artists arrived, ready to start the final preparations and installations in the containers. For one week 96 artists worked on the pier in the middle of Copenhagen. Rarely have so many artists had the opportunity to work side by side on such a major joint project. New bonds have been established, friendships have arisen which transcend the oceans and new ideas and thoughts have taken form.

THE CONTAINER AS A SPACE FOR ART

The container as an exhibition venue furnishes the artist with a wealth of opportunities but also confronts him or her with even more limitations. With contemporary art, traditional designations such as painting and sculpture are often insufficient. The view of the world has been obliterated and can no longer be condensed into one single idiom. In that sense, we are all on a voyage of discovery on the edge of the universe.

The same might be said of contemporary art: views of the world are rapidly disintegrating and only few with solid foundations survive. It would, therefore, be rash to expect traditional values to epitomise the majority of the works. Artists create their own values and systemise them.

The visitor may be taken by surprise by works which do not exude the expected compositional clarity, accepted colour scales, clear forms and transparent messages. It is here the challenge and the unique opportunity to explore and experience something new lies: to step into the works and enter into a dialogue with the images of our era. Not as one-dimensional 24-inch images on TV screens, but as concrete sensual expressions and impressions.



Chen Yan Yin, Shanghai

This exhibition has created new constellations and close international collaboration between different artistic practices and traditions at different art institutions.

Container 96 - Art Across Oceans is a global visual commentary gathered at one 10,000 m² venue in Copenhagen Harbour. We hope a large audience will turn out and enjoy this exhibition which raises important questions - and, like all good art, provides food for thought.

Thank you to all the curators for generous support and a superb collaboration.

*Trevor Davies, Secretary General, COPENHAGEN 96,
Kathrine Winkelhorn, Project Co-ordinator, COPENHAGEN 96 and
Charlotte Barfod, CONTAINER 96-coordinator.*

Copenhagen, June, 1996.



Joaquín Rodríguez Del Paso

San José, Costa Rica

"Approved membership...almost"

Light boxes, car batteries, copper, photographs, potatoes.

MOHD FAUZIN MUSTAFFA

Male. Born in Teluk Intan, Perak, Malaysia 1966. Studied at MARA Institute of Technology. Selected exhibitions: The Manifestation of Islamic Spirit in Contemporary Malaysian Art, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur 1993, 8th Triennale India, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, 1994, 10th Asian International Art Exhibition, The National Art Museum, Singapore 1995. Lives in Kuala Lumpur.

KIOKO MWITIKI

Male. Born in Kajiado, Maasailand, Kenya 1962. Studied at Dep. of Fine Arts, Kenyatta University, Nairobi. Selected exhibitions: „Confluences“, Missoula Museum of Arts, Montana 1994 (with Theresa Musoke), Gallery of Contemporary East African Art, National Museum, Nairobi 1996 (with Theresa Musoke). Lives in Nairobi.

MINATO NAKAMURA

Female. Born in Tokyo, Japan 1947. Studied at Musashino University of Art. Selected exhibitions: Art and Technology, Toshiba Building, Tokyo 1989, Contemporary Sculpture exhibition, Art Box Tokyo 1990, Japanese Contemporary Jewellery, The Museum of Decorative Art, Ghent 1995 and The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo 1995. Lives in Tokyo.

KHALID NAZROO

Male. Born in Port-Louis, Mauritius 1953. Studied at Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris. Selected exhibitions: M.O.B.A.A., 1995, Identification 7 artists from 7 countries, Résidence on Réunion Island, 1995, Antananarivo, Madagascar 1996. Lives in Beau-bassin.

KRA N'GUESSAN

Male. Born in Daoukro, Côte d'Ivoire 1954. Studied at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Abidjan, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris. Selected exhibitions: Exposition d'oeuvres d'artistes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest au Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo 1993, Week Art, Le Mans 1994, Dialogue en Noir et Blanc, Cloître des Billettes, Paris 1995. Lives in Chevy-Cossigny.

MALANGATANA VALENTE NGWENYA

Male. Born in Maputo, Mozambique 1936. Self-taught artist. Selected exhibitions: South African National Gallery 1994, Mural, University of the Western Cape 1994, Johannesburg Biennial 1995. Lives in Maputo.

SAM NTSHANGASE

Male. Born in Durban, South Africa 1940. Selected exhibitions: Buyizulu, Natal Performing Arts Council 1995 and Durban Art Gallery 1995. Collections: Durban Art Gallery. Lives in Glenwood.

MARJATTA OJA

Female. Born in Forssa, Finland 1962. Studied at The Fine Arts Academy of Finland and Accademia de Belle Arte, Milano. Selected exhibitions: Interface, the Nordic Arts Centre 1990, Art by Freight, São Paulo 1994, Art Attack, Oslo 1995. Lives in Helsinki.

ANTÓNIO OLE

Male. Born in Luanda, Angola 1952. Studied at Advanced Film Centre of the American Film Institute, Los Angeles. Selected exhibitions: Johannesburg Biennial 1995, Espace Oikos, Lisbon 1995, On the Road, Africa 95, London. Lives in Luanda.

LAURENT PARIENTE

Male. Born 1962. Selected exhibitions: L'Amour de l'Art, Biennale d'Art Contemporain, Lyon 1991, Comme rien d'autre que des rencontres..., MUHKA, Antwerp 1993, Henry Moore Sculpture Trust, Leeds 1996. Lives in Paris.

JOAQUIN RODRIGUES DEL PASO

Male. Born in Teziutlan, Puebla, Mexico 1961. Studied at Universidad de Costa Rica and Pratt Institute New York. Selected exhibitions: Central America and Caribbean Biennial 1992, Havana Biennial, 1994. Lives in San José, Costa Rica.

TRÓNDUR PÁTURSSON

Male. Born in Kirkjubø, Faeroe Islands 1944. Studied at The State Academy of Art in Oslo. Selected exhibitions: Glass Paintings, Nordic House, Tórshavn, Brandts Klædefabrik, Odense 1989, Den Fleksible, Copenhagen 1990. Lives in Kirkjubø.

ELLEN PAU

Female. Born in Hong Kong 1961. Studied at Hong Kong Polytechnic. Selected exhibitions: AC.CUL.TU.RA.TION: Art in a time of change, Hong Kong City Hall 1995, Voices from the edge: 10 Chinese Women Artists, Hanart TZ Gallery 1994, City - Vibrance: a group show of Hong Kong Artists in Western Medium, Hong Kong Museum of Art. Lives in Hong Kong.

GORAN PETERCOL

Male. Born in Pula, Croatia 1949. Studied at the Academy of Fine Art in Zagreb. Selected exhibitions: São Paulo Biennial 1994, Kommentar zu Europa 1994, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Wien 1994, Venice Biennial, Venice 1995, Istanbul Biennale 1995. Lives in Zagreb.

NELSON RAMOS

Male. Born in Dolores, Uruguay 1932. Studied at Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes, Montevideo. Founder of the Centor de Expresión artística in Montevideo. Selected exhibitions: São Paulo International Biennial 1985, EcoArt, International Painting Show, Rio de Janeiro 1992. Lives in Estero Bellaco.

ANTÓNIO REGO

Male. Born 1960. Selected exhibitions: Goldsmith's M. A. Degree Show, Goldsmith's College, London 1994, Cenas Domésticas, Modulo Gallery, Lisbon 1995, Jornads do Porto, 1996. Lives in Porto.

ROSÂNGELA RENNO

Female. Born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil 1962. Studied at the School of Architecture of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and Escola Guignard, Belo Horizonte and School of Communications and Arts at Universidade de São Paulo. Selected exhibitions: São Paulo Biennial Brazil 1994, Cooked and Raw, Centro de arte Reina Sofia Madrid 1994, Obsession. From Wunderkammer to Cyberspace, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede 1995. Lives in Rio de Janeiro.

RAFFAEL RHEINSBERG

Male. Born in Kiel, Germany 1943. Studied Fachhochschule für Gestaltung, Kiel. Selected exhibitions: Der Kreislauf der Dinge, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Kunsthallen Brandts Klædefabrik, Odense 1995, Die Dinge, Die Orte, Die Zeit, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Wien, Documenta der Kleinplastiken, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin a.o. 1996. Lives in Berlin.



CONTAINER 96, 2. MAJ – 31. AUGUST, PAKHUSKAJ, LANGELINIE