

THE HILLSIDE

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa

Promised Lands

10.10.19 — 24.11.19

Promised Lands is a film made by artist and researcher Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa that addresses the migratory flows of bodies throughout the history of Uganda and Kenya.

Set on the banks of Lake Victoria, *Promised Lands* is a fragmentary and essayistic meditation on; art, fact, fiction, memory, right-to-land and displacement. This film marks the culmination of Emma's substantial body of work collectively entitled *Uganda in Black and White* (2011-2014).

The artist's research-based approach considers the relationships between land, architecture and the body in late-colonialism. Emma's research takes a particular interest in, what she refers to as, the "mnemonic technologies" introduced in the colonial era. "Mnemonic technologies" refer to which, and how, histories and situations are remembered in institutions such as museums and state archives.

Promised Lands features three voices; the artist; her uncle Patrick Wanambwa, and; Theodor Hertzka, a 19th-century

Austro-Hungarian economist who attempted to establish a utopian settlement ("Freeland") in East Africa. The film makes reference to the thousands of European refugees who found sanctuary in Africa during World War II, and to the violent ongoing realities of internal and external displacement.

In reflecting on the relationships between representation, power, projection and possession, *Promised Lands* is a timely reflection on European colonial amnesia, placing the current waves of migration in the same historical context as colonialism. In the film, Emma reminds us that this chapter of a repressed history is by no means behind us, but continues to have reciprocal ramifications to this day.

Collective will be working with Emma during 2020 as part of our Constellations Programme, which is a series of research-based projects that aim to bring people together and develop ideas. This programme provides opportunities for artists to; engage with our locality; consider ways to raise new questions, and; bring people together.

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa's recent / current exhibitions include: Bergen Assembly (2019), 62nd BFI London Film Festival (2018), *Women on Aeroplanes* at The Showroom Gallery in London and Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (both 2018-19), 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (2018), *A Thousand Roaring Beasts: Display Devices for a Critical Modernity* at Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo - CAAC in Seville (2017) and *Kabbo Ka Muwala* at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Makerere University Art Gallery and Kunsthalle Bremen (all 2016). Her essay *Margaret Trowell's School of Art or How to Keep the Children's Work Really African* has recently been published in *The Palgrave Handbook of Race and the Arts in Education* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

COLLECTIVE

THE HILLSIDE

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa
Promised Lands

10.10.19 — 24.11.19

1

Promised Lands, SD Video 2015–2018, 18
minutes

