



Factsheet:

Decolonial Memorial

An international art competition for a Memorial on decolonization in Berlin Neukölln

The "Berlin Global Village" launched an exciting new project in March 2023: The "Decolonial Memorial" is a global, open, anonymous and international art competition with the aim to build a Decolonial Memorial – an artwork, reflecting on decolonization.

The artwork will be placed permanently and clearly visible on the forecourt of the Berlin Global Village in Berlin Neukölln and will be revealed to the public in fall 2024. The art competition and the creation of the artwork will be accompanied by an extensive educational program addressing the effects and continuities of Germany's colonial past. The Decolonial Memorial aims to engage with a broad audience – both Berliners and Guests of Berlin – to enter the decolonial discourse.

What has happened so far:

The organizers took extra steps to invite artists from formerly colonized countries to partake in the competition – a first in Germany. As a result, a total of 671 applicants from around the world registered for the competition and a total of 244 designs were submitted to the jury. The high-profile, seven members strong jury selected 20 finalists in September 2023. The 20 artists were asked to develop their idea into a detailed draft suitable for realization until January 2024. Only one of the designs will be realized and unveiled to the public in front of the Berlin Global Village on September 13, 2024.

The 20 finalists' designs will be exhibited at the Foyer des Kulturstalls im Gutshof Britz (in cooperation with the Museum Neukölln) from April 26, 2024 to May 10th 2024. A digital exhibition will be opening on the website www.decolonial-memorial.com on April 29th 2024.

On January 27, 2024, the international jury of experts lead by the chairman Prof. Dr. Chika Okeke-Agulu (Princeton University) and vice chairwoman Maria Linares has chosen the winning design.

The winning design

The winners, The Lockward Collective, consisting of Jeannette Ehlers and patricia kaersenhout in collaboration with advisor Rolando Vázquez, will realize the Decolonial Memorial with Max Bentler as technical advisor.

The winning concept, entitled "Earth Nest", is a conical bronze sculpture, which will be located between the two main buildings of the Berlin Global Village. It is,

More information as well as logos and pictures: www.decolonial-memorial.com



according to the artists "a work of decolonial healing, a communal temple that believes in bringing communities together, gathering memories and recollection what has been dismembered by colonial erasures. Its underground section will host ancestral soils of the former colonies, while its weaved aerial cone will be illuminated in violet tones to invoke the power of healing the colonial wound." (See design visualization) Ehlers and kaersenhout have both engaged with decolonial topics in their work extensively.

The jury

A high-profile international jury, led by the chairman Prof. Dr. Chika Okeke-Agulo and María Linares as vice chairwoman, made the decision. The jury consists of the following members:

Specialist jurors:

- Prof. Dr. Chika Okeke-Agulo, Princeton University, visual Artist
- María Linares, visual artist
- Kristina Leko, Berlin University of the Arts, visual artist
- Gary Stewart, Queen Mary University London, visual Artist

Subject judges

- Sylbee Kim, bbk berlin, visual artist
- Dr. Mithu Melanie Sanyal, author
- Michael Küppers-Adebisi, advisor Decolonial Memorial

Permanent stand-in:

- Sonja Hohenbild, BARAZANI.berlin, visual artist

Funding and sponsorship

The German Federation via the Federal government commissioner for culture and media (BKM) is providing 750.000 Euro for the art contest, public relations as well as an extensive educational and supporting program. A further 750.000 Euros are provided by the Federal State of Berlin via the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion (SenKultGZ) for the realization of the artwork itself.

Both Claudia Roth, Federal government commissioner for culture and media and Joe Chialo, the Senator of the Department for Culture and Social Cohesion, are lending their patronage as well.

The project sponsor Berlin Global Village gGmbH is in cooperation with the Office for Art in Public Spaces of the Kulturwerk GmbH of the bbk berlin e.V. as well as civil society supporters consisting of eight associations.

The Berlin Global Village is Berlins "Eine-Welt-Zentrum" (One World Centre). 50 diasporic-migrant organizations and initiatives as well as NGOs in the field of developmental policy are located here in Neukölln.

More information as well as logos and pictures: www.decolonial-memorial.com