**Time, Trade & Travel**

Bernard Akoi-Jackson, Dorothy Akpene Amenuke, Serge Clottey, Zachary Formwalt, Iris Kensmil, Aukje Koks, Navid Nuur, Jeremiah Quarshie, kari-kacha seidâ€™ou and Katarina Zdjelar.

25 August - 21 October 2012

**In collaboration with the Nubuke Foundation in Accra, Ghana.**

Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam presents the exhibition Time, Trade & Travel. This exhibition is the [result](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/result/index.html) of a collaboration with the Nubuke Foundation in Accra, Ghana, to which the show will travel in November. Time, Trade & Travel is a collective venture exploring the histories shared by Ghana and the Netherlands, over various centuries, diverse economic systems and geopolitical di[vision](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/vision/index.html)s in the world. The show explicitly relates to aspects of globalization and transnationalism reflected in the field of [contemporary](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/contemporary/index.html) art.

Grouping the works under the sweeping exhibition title ‘Time, Trade & Travel’ is a curatorial decision that points to the collaboration’s extended focus on the complexities of global exchange fostered by capitalism, and its effects on [life](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/life/index.html) and art. Time, Trade & Travel set the participating artists on a quest for the historical encounters between Europeans and Africans, in which trade and the concomitant cultural exchange receive particular attention. From their manifold and [individual](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/individual/index.html)[perspective](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/perspective/index.html)s the artists examined the ways in which the economic and cultural relations of the past are continuing to have an effect in the present. The exhibition functions as a platform for the presentation of these [artistic](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/artistic/index.html) inquiries into pre-colonial trade, colonial legacies and the tracing the continuing imperialistic conditions that characterize [contemporary](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/contemporary/index.html) processes of globalization. As a starting point the exhibition can in part draw on the age-old trading relations between what is present-day Ghana and the Netherlands, a relation that was officially affirmed through the cities of Amsterdam and Accra in a mutual ‘agreement on cooperation’ in 2004.

In preparation for the exhibition, most of the artists participating in Time, Trade & Travel made a visit to their sister cities. The exchange gave them the opportunity to get an impression of each other’s practices, the working circumstances and respective art infra[structure](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/structure/index.html)s, as well as their cultural, economic, social and historical [context](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/context/index.html)s. It also gave all contributors the opportunity to learn from the very process of such an exchange and the discussions that come with it, as well as from the obstacles that needed to be overcome. The exhibition is a way of presenting some thoughts and observations [result](http://www.smba.nl/en/dictionary/result/index.html)ing from the research, to audiences both in the Netherlands and Ghana. Time, Trade & Travel will be seen in the Nubuke Foundation in Accra from 25 November, 2012, until 3 February, 2013.

In Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, Time, Trade & Travel is accompanied by an extensive SMBA Newsletter (English/Dutch) which is available at the exhibition and also published online. Besides a curatorial introduction and entries on the works of the participating artists, it includes a contribution on the work and teaching of art tutor kari-kacha seid’ou of the College of Art in Kumasi, by anthropologist Dr. Rhoda Woets, who did extensive research into modern art in Ghana.

Curators:

Jelle Bouwhuis and Kerstin Winking (Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam)

Kofi Setordji and Odile Tevie (Nubuke Foundation)

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