

École du soir (The Evening Academy)

Sep 16 – Dec 16, 2019

For Immediate Release

RELEASE DATE
July 10, 2019

EXHIBITION
École du soir
(The Evening Academy)

DATES
Sep 16 - Dec 16, 2019

OPENING EVENT
Sun, Sept 15, 2018
5-8pm

MEDIA CONTACT
Justin Conner
justin@hellothirdeye.com
+1 212 355 9009

Jillian Scott
jscott@sculpture-center.org
+1 718 361 1750



SculptureCenter presents Christian Nyampeta's ongoing investigation into the question of "how to live together" in and after turbulent times

Long Island City, NY — Christian Nyampeta's project consists of a scriptorium (a place for writing), an exhibition, and public programs concerned with "thinking Africa," then and now. The program is resourced around the idea of an "evening school," following the Senegalese writer and film director Sembène Ousmane, who saw cinema as "cours du soir" or "evening classes." This concept was informed by the traditions of orality, sensuality, and conviviality within the realm of art learning and making in his region. Sembène saw cinema as a popular information system in the service of education, aesthetic experience, and public dissemination. His methodology concerned the use of cinema's collective production, and investing in its viewing methods that draw from different uses of time, visual and textual histories, social struggles and hopes, in mutuality between his own locality and the world at large.

Nyampeta's project at SculptureCenter will consist of a number of "hosting structures"—a polyformal system of inhabitable sculptural and functional prototypes. These structures create a study room hosting a translation and interpretation working group that will focus on making texts by Rwandan philosopher Isaïe Nzeyimana available in English for the first time. The structures further hold a repository of translations, a printer, publications, and a dossier of new, current, and past sessions held with groups in Amsterdam, Dakar, Johannesburg, Kampala, Kigali, Leipzig, Lubumbashi, London, Maseru, and Mechelen. Guests, visitors, and other members of the audience are welcome to make

SculptureCenter

44-19 Purves Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
+1 718 361 1750
sculpture-center.org

use of these resources, attend the translation sessions, or simply use the space during their visit to the museum.

The project aims to make this translated knowledge available to artists, curators, and researchers who are interested in further study of other epistemologies that come out of historical ruptures, discontinuities, disjointed continuities, and modes of thinking that do not follow the post/ante doctrine.

As 2019 marks 25 years since the Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi, this project is a contribution to a movement across its global meaning today. In some ways, the Rwandan genocide can be read as a metonym for a wider self-destruction in the world at large. Despite its own limits and contradictions, the sensibility developed in Isaïe Nzeyimana's work motions toward a heartwarming intellectual promiscuity: it performs as a thinking hand, fighting against the degradation of life and of living together, but also against the threat to life caused by the disappearance of the habitable environments on our planet. This philosophy revives what would otherwise be lost, and it carries a promise, which compels us to rethink life.

Christian Nyampeta's ongoing activities in art, design, and theory include the convening of a scriptorium, a roaming program of exhibitions, screenings, and lyrical performances concerned with longing and belonging through monuments and translation. Forthcoming exhibitions include the Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art in Ekaterinburg, Russia. Nyampeta runs *Radius*, an online and occasionally inhabitable radio station. He is completing a PhD in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths University of London and he was awarded The Art Prize Future of Europe 2019.

The exhibition is curated by **Sohrab Mohebbi**, Curator, with **Kyle Dancewicz**, Director of Exhibitions and Programs.

The translation and interpretation working group includes: Nana Adusei-Poku, Shariffa Ali, Mirene Arsanios, Omar Berrada, Sasha Bonet, Emmanuel Iduma, Natacha Nsabimana, Christian Nyampeta, Kaneza Schaal, and Moses Serubiri. The group will convene during our monthly extended hours until 9pm on the evenings of Thursday, September 19, Thursday, October 17, and Thursday, November 21.

About SculptureCenter

SculptureCenter leads the conversation on contemporary art by supporting artistic innovation and independent thought highlighting sculpture's specific potential to change the way we engage with the world. Positioning artists' work in larger cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts, SculptureCenter discerns and interprets emerging ideas. Founded by artists in 1928, SculptureCenter provides an international forum that connects artists and audiences by presenting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and generating scholarship.

For nearly 20 years, SculptureCenter has presented works by over 750 emerging and established artists through its annual exhibition program, and today, SculptureCenter is considered one of New York's most adventurous kunsthallen. Placing importance on investment,

inclusiveness, independence, transparency, and rigor, SculptureCenter has developed a strong reputation for championing under-recognized and emerging artists, many of whom have gone on to celebrated and substantial careers such as: Turner Prize winner Charlotte Prodger and nominee Anthea Hamilton, Sanford Biggers, Nairy Baghramian, Tom Burr, Liz Glynn, Rochelle Goldberg, Camille Henrot, Leslie Hewitt, Rashid Johnson, Ugo Rondinone, Katrín Sigurdardóttir, Alexandre Singh, Monika Sosnowska, Gedi Sibony, Mika Tajima, and recent Hugo Boss Prize winners Anicka Yi and Simone Leigh.

As a non-collecting museum, SculptureCenter's annual exhibition program includes 1-2 commissioning programs by mid-career artists, 10-15 projects by emerging artists, and 3-6 solo

and group exhibitions in addition to an exciting series of special projects by established and emerging artists. SculptureCenter continuously offers a dynamic series of free public programs and events that feature artist talks, performances, film screenings, and publications.

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