An Educators’ Resource for:

Nathalie Du Pasquier
*Other Rooms*

Christian Nyampeta
*Words after the World*

29 September 2017 – 14 January 2018
Nathalie Du Pasquier
Other Rooms

Milan-based artist Nathalie Du Pasquier works across art and design. She first became known in the early 1980s as a founding member of the Italian design collective Memphis, designing vibrant and lively graphic patterns for textiles, carpets, and plastic laminates, as well as furniture and objects. Since 1987 she has turned her focus to painting, creating bold, abstract and still life compositions which play with architectural planes and perspective.

Other Rooms extends beyond the canvas to inhabit the entirety of the gallery spaces as a field of composition. Modular architectonic designs and geometric shapes covering the walls transform Galleries 1 and 2 into an environment of architectural landscapes. This exhibition represents Du Pasquier’s desire to transform spaces with her own means, devoid of architectural rules and utilising the tools of the painter – line, colour and form – to transport the viewer to another place.

Nathalie Du Pasquier’s (b. 1957) work has been the subject of solo exhibitions, including The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (1992) and Pace Gallery, London (2017). The first comprehensive exhibition of Du Pasquier, curated by Luca Lo Pinto, was held at Kunsthalle Wien in 2016 and a second iteration at the ICA Philadelphia in September 2017.

Key words

- 2D & 3D forms
- design
- transformation of space
- graphic work
- abstract
- architecture
- still life
- postmodern
- perspective
- colour
- painting
- patterns
Rwandan-born Dutch artist Christian Nyampeta works across art, design and theory in an ongoing enquiry into ways of living together.

At the core of the exhibition is a new film reflecting on the boundaries of language and the possibilities of articulation outside inhospitable restraints. It follows a writer attempting to complete a novella at a time when existing words are subject to copyright. Scenes from the fictional novella, filmed on location in Nyanza, are interspersed throughout the primary narrative. Nyampeta collaborated with a boarding school established to accommodate orphans of the Rwandan genocide to produce these scenes. The students enacted a sequence of events in which the early morning routine of an ‘elite’ sports group sends ripples out from the school into the wider community. Through the film, Nyampeta asks: what remains when one’s own words and sense of meaning become invalid? In what ways can meaning be given to life when its expression is subjected to prohibition?

Christian Nyampeta (b.1981) creates fictions, models, dialogues and commentaries. Recent exhibitions include Space Force Construction, the inaugural exhibition of the V-A-C Foundation headquarters in Venice, co-organised by the Art Institute of Chicago. Nyampeta runs Radius, an online and occasionally inhabitable radio station, and he is a research student at the Visual Cultures Department at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Key words

language authority African philosophy
modes of articulation rhythm narrative film
texts

linguistics translation living together diasporic cultures

environments community
Suggested tour

Gallery 2

Background:
Nathalie Du Pasquier’s artwork fills the gallery spaces. Creating all new works for her show here at Camden Arts Centre, she wanted to be ambitious and create an exhibition without rules. She has suggested that visitors to the exhibition begin in Gallery 2.

In this gallery you will see that Du Pasquier has decorated the walls with building block style shapes. She is interested in architecturally transforming spaces, using artistic devices such as line, colour and form in order to construct landscapes, but without following the rules of spatial design. Survey the landscape and consider how the flat designs allude to different buildings, spaces and environments.

Conversation points:
• Consider architecture without rules. What kind of spaces could you create? What would buildings look like? Is there gravity?

Installation views of Nathalie Du Pasquier Other Rooms at Camden Arts Centre, 2017. Photos: Damian Griffiths
Background:
Du Pasquier treats every surface as a field of composition. An interplay between 2D and 3D forms is apparent throughout the space. She is interested in the illusion of paint and the performativity of space.

Inside this gallery there are two rooms: the first contains drawings and seven ceramic works; one for each day of the week. The second room is decorated with wallpaper and contains a series of painted works.

Conversation points:
• In this exhibition colour represents memories or scenes in the artist’s mind. What does the use of colour in the space make you think about? How do you describe colour? Do you have memories or places associated to colour?
• Consider the interplay between the 2D and 3D work in the gallery. What distinguishes them from each other? Does the gallery space itself become part of this?
Suggested tour

Gallery 3

Background:
Christian Nyampeta is interested in ideas around language, translation and authority. Watch the film in Gallery 3, which follows an author’s attempt to write a story at a time when certain words are prohibited due to copyright.

Nyampeta conceives of the film as just one element in his installation, which also encompasses murals, furniture and a document which considers the process of making this exhibition. He has described the space he’s created in Gallery 3 as a ‘hosting structure’, which provides an opportunity for individuals to come together and have communal experiences and encounters.

Conversation points:
• Consider the rhythm of your daily routine compared to those around you. How do you coexist? Where do you crossover? Where do you compromise?
• Look at the murals on the walls and the imagery on the large curtain. How do these relate to the film? What can you see? Why do you think the artist has chosen these particular images?
• How do you communicate with a restricted language? How do you convey meaning if a word in one language does not exist in another?

Installation view of Christian Nyampeta Words after the World at Camden Arts Centre, 2017.
Photo: Damian Griffiths
Activities

Communicate Without Words

In a world where our current language is not allowed to be used and has no meaning, how would you communicate? Spend five minutes trying to describe your day to a friend without using words. You could use your body to signal and sign, draw images, and use colour to convey feelings.

Transcending Space

Draw a pattern on a piece of A4 paper. Go around a building or a space applying your paper to the environment and its architectural features. Wrap it around corners, bend it around columns and lay it flat on walls. How does it change the appearance of the space? How does the space change the appearance of the pattern?

One’s Own Rhythm

Individually move around the galleries, replicating the lines with your body. Curve like the curtain in Gallery 3, stutter, jolt, glide like the patterns in Galleries 1 and 2. Now repeat this as a group, closer together. How is this different? What do you each need to do in order to move freely alongside each other?

Christian Nyampeta, Study for Words after the World, 2017. Courtesy the artist
Planning your visit

Camden Arts Centre’s schools programme has artists and processes at its heart. Offering practical, experimental and fun entry points to the exhibitions, our offer includes a range of resources and activities for educators and school groups including tours, artist-led workshops, and self-led visits.

For further information on our education programme please visit our website or contact Livvy Murdoch: livvy.murdoch@camdenartscentre.org / +44 (0)20 7472 5500

Access
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Keep in Touch
Join the Educators’ Information mailing list via our website for regular updates and resources. Photography of the exhibitions is permitted and we encourage you to share images of your activities using #CACeducation #NathalieDuPasquier #ChristianNyampeta

Blog
CAC Education Blog: camdenartscentre.tumblr.com

Cover and above: Installation views of Nathalie Du Pasquier Other Rooms at Camden Arts Centre, 2017. Photos: Damian Griffiths