

Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement Sam Durant

Date: 19 March 2021 – 19 May 2021

Venue: Cc Strombeek

“This project brings forward the concept of free movement at a time when Europe is struggling with migration from its former colonies due to war, economic deprivation and climate change. It also makes visible a twentieth century socio-political idea for international cooperation (...).” - Sam Durant

Cc Strombeek is happy to announce the new exhibition project *Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement* by the American artist Sam Durant (b. 1961, currently living in Berlin). In the 1990s, Durant won international acclaim with his outspoken politically and socially engaged work. Extensive research underlies his provocative dialogue with tumultuous or forgotten events from the past that casts a new light on the current social, political or cultural dynamics.

The interactive installation *Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement (PNMFM)* is the heart of the exhibition. The work is dedicated to the Non-Aligned Movement, which was founded in 1961 at the instigation of Egypt, Ghana, Yugoslavia, Indonesia and India. The movement was joined by countries that were not formally aligned with any of the two major power blocs at the time of the Cold War. The Afro-Asian group included mainly developing countries and at the time sharply criticized all forms of colonialism and imperialism. To date, the NAM counts over 120 countries, which together make up more than half of the world’s population. The organization functions as an international forum to discuss common interests.

Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement is the most recent installation from the series *Proposals for Monuments*, on which Durant started to work in 1999. At a time the world is in full movement, Durant allows a new view of the present, while at the same time opening up possibilities for the future. *PNMFM* emerges as a model and emphasizes the role of the imagination and freedom of movement. The work tunes in to the current need for new concepts, initiatives and alternative world views. *Another World is Possible*, a slogan that lights up the façade of Cc Strombeek while the exhibition is on, reflects this generous exploration of the status quo.

The captivating video *Trope*, consisting of personal archive material from the artist, features a range of iconoclastic actions that span nations, cultures and eras. Together with a new series of collages, the video illustrates Durant’s incessant interest in monuments and memorials, and their precarious symbolic status with regard to social change. In the context of social polarization, religious extremism and disinformation, *Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement* introduces a dose of humanity, while at the same time inviting the visitor to engage in (re)discovery and solidarity.

Curated by Charlotte Crevits

Public inauguration weekend 19-22 March

The public opening of the exhibition lasts the entire weekend:

Friday, 19 March (11 am – 10 pm), Saturday 20 March (11 am – 6 pm) and Sunday 21 March (11 am – 6 pm)

Online reservation is required

To plan your visit

The exhibition is open for free visit from Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and runs from 19 March to 19 May. Online reservation is required.

More on PNMFM

Durant's interest in monuments started with *Proposal for Monument at Altamont Raceway, Tracy, CA* (1999): a reference to the cruel end of the infamous free concert, an event that perhaps also meant the end of an era of turmoil. In 2017 there was protest against what up till then was perhaps Durant's most controversial sculpture, *Scaffold* (first version 2012). After its installation in Minnesota Sculpture Garden in Walker Arts Center, the work ended up being buried ceremoniously by members of the Dakota community. In the wake of the removal of the public sculpture, the series *Proposals for Monuments* saw the light of day: a series of works about iconoclasm, based on personal research by the artist into the power of symbols.

The installation *Proposal for Non-Aligned Monuments, Free Movement (PNMFM)* (2020) was on view at the group exhibition *Mythologies – The Beginning and End of Civilizations* in ARoS, Aarhus, Denmark.

More on Sam Durant

Sam Durant (b. 1961, Seattle, currently living in Berlin) participated in numerous international solo exhibitions and biennales, including the documenta (13), the Yokohama Triennial, the Venice, Sydney, Busan, Liverpool, Panama and Whitney Biennales, and his work is now part of public collections around the world. Durant is represented by Blum & Poe (Los Angeles, New York, Tokyo) and Paula Cooper Gallery (New York).

Website: www.samdurant.net

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a book published by MER - B&L (Ghent, Belgium) with an essay by Bojana Piškur (Moderna Galerija Ljubljana).