

## **En Plein Air 2019**

Performance-series in public space presents:

### **state of the wind**

**Lerato Shadi and Justin Randolph Thompson**

20.7.2019 at 6pm

Munich, Olympic Park

Meeting point: in front of SEA LIFE, Aquarium

Kunstraum München guest project, in cooperation with Villa Romana, Florence

Curated by Emily Barsi and Angelika Stepken

[www.enpleinair.de](http://www.enpleinair.de)

In summer 2019 the performance series En Plein Air will focus on two artists who deal with the consequences of white colonial politics, economics and historiography from an African or African-American perspective; Lerato Shadi und Justin Randolph Thompson.

The two artists also participated in the project Seeds for Future Memories, which Villa Romana initiated in collaboration with the Albers Foundation between Senegal and Tuscany in 2018 and will conclude in a three-part exhibition in Berlin this summer.

The performances will be staged in a natural urban park. Giving the audience the opportunity to intervene in what is happening and to actively participate in shaping it is a fundamental element of their performance practice.

For the first time the Afro-American artists Justin Randolph Thompson, who lives in Florence, and the South African artist Lerato Shadi, who lives in Berlin, have agreed on a joint performance. They met and bonded in Florence in 2018 when Lerato Shadi lived and worked there as a Villa Romana prizewinner.

Their collaborative performance in Munich - *state of the wind* - is a work generated by the viewer that unites presence as protest and fragility as nationalist property. Based on the history of the Olympic Games and the friction between demonstration and resistance, the work uses the hierarchical framework of the podium to reflect on social and spiritual heights. Sound becomes a marker in the performance or non-performance of the artists. It

enables a meditation on the work of performance and the social hypocontextuality of the black body.

The work of both artists is characterized by the experience of blackness in the past and present.

Justin Randolph Thompson, sculptor, media artist and musician, examines the significance of cultural relics and their transformation through expulsion and diaspora. With his often collaborative and interdisciplinary practice, he creates platforms and communities as temporary monuments, exploring socio-cultural stratification and hierarchical organization with hybrid, non-linear connections between past and present. Justin Randolph Thompson is co-founder of the Black History Month Florence.

Lerato Shadi's works are about violence, a centuries-old history of violence, contempt and disfranchisement of which there are not even witnesses and records because those who experienced it were not the ones who wrote it. In her videos, performances and installations, Lerato Shadi addresses Black Feminism, the erased lives of black women whose voices have been silenced.