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A Short Long History



Promenade dans l'inconscient (installation view) by Anna Boghiguan

2016. Image by Dirk Pauwels. Courtesy of the artist and S.M.A.K.

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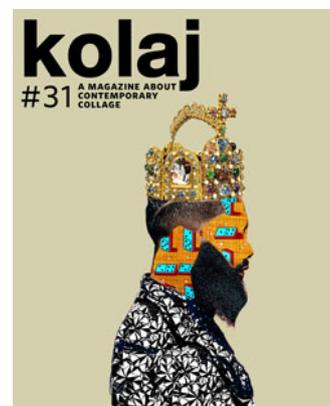
Anna Boghiguan: A Short Long History

at S.M.A.K. in Ghent, Belgium

31 October 2020-2 May 2021

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In her exhibition for S.M.A.K., Anna Boghiguan traces the history of the global cotton trade through a new installation and existing works. Cotton was already cultivated in antiquity and became one of the earliest mass consumer goods. Ghent has a special relationship with this raw material. From the 18th century onwards, the city imported cotton from the East Indies and later also from the United States. With the mechanisation of its textile production in the 19th century, it spearheaded the industrial revolution in mainland Europe. Until recently, cotton was spun, woven and printed in Ghent and traded all over the world. Cotton made the city and its textile magnates rich, but it also led to the unfair treatment of textile workers, the exploitation of land and forced labour on the cotton plantations in Congo.



A Short History: How the Industrial Revolution Changed the Pace of Europe (installation view, detail) by Anna Boghiguan 2020. Image by Dirk Pauwels. Courtesy of the artist and S.M.A.K.

Anna Boghiguan, an Armenian born in Cairo in 1946, has been making art since the beginning of the 1970s. She has developed a practice that corresponds with the tradition of the travelling artist, one that has already taken her to the farthest corners of the planet. Being on the move is a source of



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inspiration and strengthens her commitment. It makes her alert to the changeability of the world and the specific character of different conditions. As an extremely well-read and free-spirited thinker, she links meaning to the passage and connection of things. With the utmost fascination, she investigates how flows of ideas, goods, people and capital are shaped and can move, but also how this leads to inequalities. Anna Boghiguan crystallises her experiences, reading of literature and news reports into drawings, collages, books, cut-out figures and complex installations. She paints in encaustic, an ancient technique using pigment and beeswax, which gives light and transparency. Her works are distinctly visual and expressive, yet can also be read as stories. Boghiguan uses them to address global issues, which she interprets in a personal way and links back to people's experiences, especially those who are victims of oppression.



left to right: untitled (2005) and untitled (2010) by Anna

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Boghiguian

Image by Dirk Pauwels. Courtesy of the artist and S.M.A.K.

“A Short Long History” is Anna Boghiguian’s first solo exhibition in a Belgian museum. In addition to the new installation, which she created especially for this project during her stay in Ghent, the artist presents an extensive selection of drawings, collages, sculptures and existing installations, including *The Salt Traders* (2015) and *Promenade dans l’inconscient* (2016), on loan from Castello di Rivoli in Turin and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, respectively.

(text adapted from the gallery’s press materials)

INFORMATION

S.M.A.K.

Jan Hoetplein 1
9000 Ghent, Belgium
+32 9 323 60 01

Hours:
Tuesday-Friday, 9:30AM-5:30PM
Weekends, Holidays, School Vacations, 10AM-6PM

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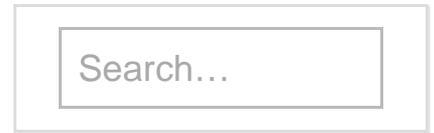
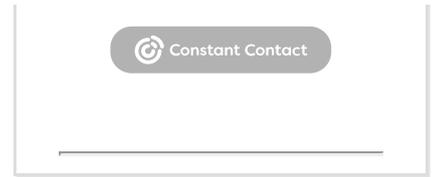
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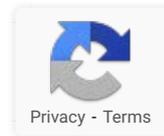
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