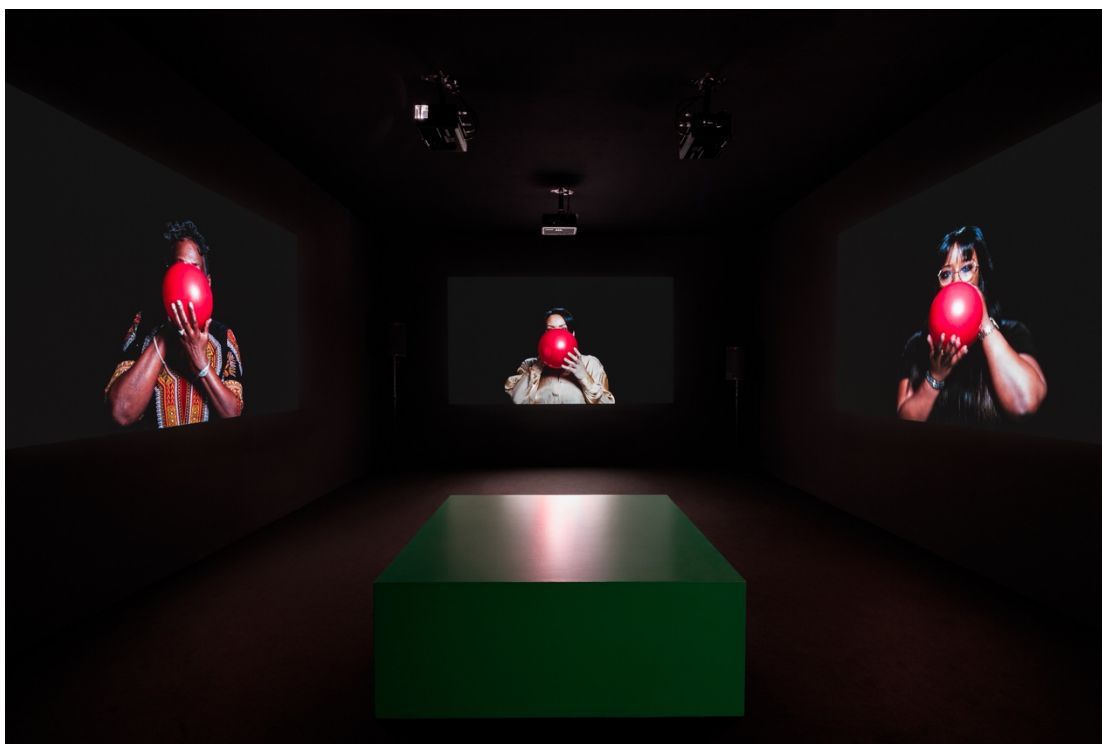


Press Information



Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński, *Respire (Liverpool)*. Installation view at Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art, 2024. Photo: kunst.dokumentation.com / Manuel Carreon Lopez

Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński: Respire (Liverpool)

A collaboration with the 12th Liverpool Biennial, UK

Phileas, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

1 February – 20 April 2024

The first exhibition of Phileas – The Austrian Office of Contemporary Art in 2024 presents an expansive video and sound installation by Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński, which was originally shown at the 12th Liverpool Biennial in 2023 and co-produced by Phileas and the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport. Under the title *Respire (Liverpool)*, the artist is exhibiting the works from Liverpool for the first time in Austria alongside a new work specifically produced for the exhibition in Vienna.

The work of Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński, who was awarded the prestigious Otto Mauer Prize in 2023, embraces a variety of media including photography and video. Rooted in Black feminist theory, the artist works with a research-based practice that examines the condition of Black life in the African diaspora.

Respire (Liverpool) refers to the precariousness of Black existence and cites breath as a means of individual and collective liberation. For the video, the artist filmed residents of Liverpool breathing into a red balloon. Through their breathing movements, the protagonists share and control the space, which thus becomes a collective breathing space. The sound moves in waves from the individual to the community and back again, creating a space of contemplation dedicated to the legacy of the past as well as the imagination of the future.

Accompanied by the sound work *Keep On Keepin' On (for Nile)*, developed in collaboration with artist Bassano Bonelli Bassano, the installation advocates giving Black breath space to unfold and defy the ongoing colonial past.

In addition to *Respire (Liverpool)*, the exhibition will present the video work *Openings (Red, Black and Green)*: The three colours are a recurring element in her work and serve as a symbol to commemorate liberation struggles on the African continent and in the African diaspora in general.

The artist is also creating a new work for the Vienna exhibition, inspired by a quote from author Christina Sharpe: "a multitude of black persons gathered: a breathing". Sharpe's book *Ordinary Notes* served as Kazeem-Kamiński's source of inspiration for the exhibition. The work will be on display from mid-February.

The exhibition *Respire (Liverpool)* is accompanied by a public programme.

About Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński

Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński (born 1980 in Vienna) is an artist, writer and researcher.

Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Ire*, Art X Lagos, Lagos (2023); *Unearthing in Conversation*, FotoRio, Rio de Janeiro (2023); *Respire (Liverpool)*, Liverpool Biennial (2023); *You are awaited but never as equals*, Coalmine – Raum für Fotografie, Winterthur (2023); *Seven Scenes*, Camera Austria, Graz (2022); *If a Tree Falls in a Forest*, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles (2022); *Emplotment*, Ludwig Museum, Budapest (2022); *KAS*, Centrale Fies, Fies (2022); *Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2021); *This World Is White No Longer: Views of a Decentred World*, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Salzburg (2021).

Kazeem-Kamiński has been honoured with several awards, including the Msgr. Otto Mauer Prize (2023); Art X Prize Africa/Diaspora (2023); Camera Austria Award (2021); Cathrin Pichler Prize (2018); and the Theodor Körner Prize for Art (2016).

The artist is represented by Wonnert Dejaco, Vienna.

Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński: *Respire (Liverpool)*

A collaboration with the 12th Liverpool Biennial, UK

Phileas, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

1 February – 20 April 2024

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 5 pm

Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm

Public Programme

A Breathing – An improvised musical performance

Tuesday, 20 February 2024, 6.30 pm, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

Referring to texts that accompanied her in the conception of *Respire (Liverpool)* (2023) and *Openings (Red, Black, and Green)* (2023), Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński together with multi-instrumentalist and composer Eldis La Rosa invites you to a performative reading that is both improvisation and breathing rehearsal.

Despite: Breathing. Constellating. Gathering

A series of film programmes curated by Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński

Thursday, 7 March 2024 & Friday, 8 March 2024, 6 pm and 8.30 pm

Austrian Film Museum, Augustinerstraße 1, 1010 Vienna

On the occasion of her exhibition at Phileas, Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński has put together four programmes in collaboration with the Austrian Film Museum. The screenings are dedicated to the breath, the precariousness of Black life and the persistent demand for what the African American academic Robin D. Kelley terms “freedom dreams”.

With films by Larry Achiampong, Miryam Charles, Sylvaine Dampierre, Monica de Miranda, Ja'Tovia Gary, Onyeka Igwe, Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński and Cauleen Smith.

Further Information

www.phileas.art/exhibition-space/belindakazeemkaminski

www.phileas.art/press

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