

gatherings

Circle: State of The Arts 9 & 15 September

What changes have actually occurred for makers, organisers, and organisations of colour since #BLM? Three years after the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent (institutional) outrage around the world, SNAP takes stock. While terms like ‘decolonial’, ‘diversity and inclusivity’ are widespread and are used everywhere in the art world, it remains hard for organisations of colour to work on their own terms, independent from or outside of current persistent (white) value systems. In this Circle, SNAP, a collaborative initiative by DEGASTEN, Dipsaus, and Metro54, critically examines the current ‘State of The Arts’.

On 9 September, there is a public gathering featuring performances and talks. On 15 September the circle organises a State of The Arts symposium, 15.00-17.00 .

Circle: Twijfel

In this circle, convened together with Ben Dragstra from the Salvation Army, we shall engage in conversations surrounding the role of doubt in contemporary society, existence, and the neighbourhood. The circle features contributions from Maria van Daalen, Essemie van Dunné, Kamel Essabane, Madeline Hageman, Narges Mohammadi, Sabine Wassenberg, the Oudekerk congregation, and many others.

Circle: Binnenbuurt

Local resident Lennard Roubos looks at building connections within the Red Light District, involving the neighbourhood’s seniors, students and expats.

The meeting on 28 June specifically addresses the needs of the over 50s from the area. Young people and students residing in the neighbourhood are encouraged to participate in the discussion on 14 July. Similarly, the meeting on 25 August is aimed at expats. Finally, the meeting on 16 September brings together the various needs and ideas gathered throughout these sessions.

Circle: Ouder worden in de Buurt

This ‘listening circle’ provides a safe and inclusive space for individuals to share their experiences of growing older in Amsterdam’s city centre. This circle is brought together by Wij Ouder Wij Wijzer and Gerbina van den Hurk from the De Boomsplijker community centre.

Programme on Saturdays and Wednesdays: 3 pm - 5 pm.
Programme on Fridays: 5 pm - 7 pm. *If different will be mentioned

26 May Collective start ‘Sonic landscaping’ with Justin F. Kennedy	26 August & 1 September Circle: Calibrating Intimacies
3 & 9 June Circle: Tanaqush: The Chiselling of Collectivity	9 & 15 September Circle: State of the Arts
17 & 23 June Circle: No One Will Say My Name For Me, No One Will Do My Job For Me	23 & 24 September Joint closure while looking ahead: The Shadow of the Moon Brought together by Molemo Moiloa (The ungovernable) and Francesca Masoero (QANAT, Le18).
1 & 7 July Circle: Shadow(s) of Policy	31 May, 14 June, 28 June, 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 6 September, 20 September Circle: Twijfel
15 & 21 July Circle: Roots in the Oude Kerk	7 juni, 19 juli, 13 september Stadsharttop, samenkomsten voor actieve bewoners en ondernemers uit Nieuwmarktbuurt & Wallen. Een initiatief van Elena Simons met De Boomsplijker, Waag Futurelab en It’s OK...
22 July to 4 August Circle: Queer Currents	28 June, 14 July, 25 August, 16 September Circle: Binnenbuurt
12 August & 18 August Circle: Not in Your Box	August, September Circle: Ouder worden in de buurt

Learn more about It’s OK...



Reserve your admission ticket(s) for one of the gatherings via oudekerk.nl/public-programme.

Look for the current programme on our website: oudekerk.nl.

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oude kerk

26 May - 24 Sept 2023

Image: Viola Renate

It’s OK... commoning uncertainties – a manifestation of gatherings

In conversation with more than one hundred international and local Amsterdammers

This summer, over a hundred local residents, makers, thinkers, and activists will join in ‘experience circles’ to organise weekly public sessions at the Oude Kerk. The manifestation It’s OK... commoning uncertainties comprises a series of diverse gatherings around local urgencies. The circles propose these issues, serving as a starting point for (re)discovering common ground.

It’s OK... commoning uncertainties is a collaborative effort by Jeanne van Heeswijk, Yvonique Wellen, Isshaq Albarbary, Kateryna Filyuk, Ola Hassanain, Gijs Stork, Alejandra Ortiz, LiL & Charlotte, Joy Mariama Smith, SNAP, Ben Dragstra, Katia Krupennikova, Nathanja van Dijk, Gerbina van den Hurk, Lennard Roubos, Viola Renate, and Satja Jurc Blagovič, together with the Oude Kerk and many others.

To create a warmer and safer space for these gatherings, designers Viola Renate and Satja Jurc Blagovič have made a contemporary chapel, serving as a sanctuary for the commoning uncertainties and sharing of different realities.

Global and local crises mark the world we live in, emerging in uncertainties that impact our daily lives. The Oude Kerk is located in the heart of Amsterdam’s Red Light District, one of the Netherlands’ most debated and controversial urban areas. Residents, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and other stakeholders often hold conflicting desires, dreams, and needs. What does it mean to be(come) communal, also in the face of contradictions?

It’s OK... in the Oude Kerk

With It’s OK..., the Oude Kerk delves into the art venue’s relationship with its surroundings: the Red Light District and the ever-changing city. Throughout its more than seven centuries of existence, the Oude Kerk has served various functions. As Amsterdam developed from a village on the IJ into a metropolis, the church expanded alongside it and came to be known as ‘Amsterdam’s living room’.

Historic building with contemporary art

The Oude Kerk, Amsterdam’s oldest building, serves as a venue for contemporary art. Each year, the Oude Kerk invites artists to create unique works that can only be experienced here. The programme seamlessly connects the past, present, and future by bridging the gap between age-old heritage and contemporary art.

Circle: Tanaqush: The Chiselling of Collectivity June 3 & 9

This circle gathered by artist and researcher Isshaq Albarbary brings together a mujaawara (neighbouring) environment to shed light on the material conditions of the groups’ experiences and struggles. Together with Salim Bayri, Alina Jabbari, Ehsan Fardjadniya, Ola Hassanain, Hilda Moucharrafiéh, Selma el Boundati, and Winston Nanlohy, investigates the collective making of time to foster new concepts around identity, language and belonging.

On 3 and 9 June, we welcome visitors to join us for a public conversation/gathering that challenges the distinction between knowledge and marginalisation, newcomers and residents, centre and periphery, and theory and practice.

Circle: No one will say my words for me, no one will do my job for me 17 & 23 June

Curator and art critic Kateryna Filyuk organises this circle, which explores the experiences of Ukrainians during times of war. These public circle gatherings centre on Ukrainian LGBTQ+ makers and these from Eastern Ukraine, who had to flee, for what seems now, forever. Despite being of completely different realities, both oftentimes still have to fight their own battles while being at the actual battlefield.

more about the circles

On 17 June, we will have a gathering featuring the performances’ Territory and People’ by Maria Plotnikova and ‘One by one, Needles pokingpocking through, the heart of mine’ by Boji Moroz.

On 23 June, Kateryna Aliinyk and Dmytro Chepurnyi deliver their performative lecture ‘Collective Fantasies and Eastern Resources’.

Circle: Shadow(s) of Policy 1 & 7 July

This circle, assembled by artist and researcher Ola Hassanain, starts from the emotional labour required to exist in a place that deems you ‘unwanted’. What shadow(s) do policies cast and what emerges from them? How do you assert yourself and carve out space in the face of oppressive government policies?

On 1 July, there will be a screening of the film ‘Rituals of Space-making’, made by Hassanain in collaboration with Samy, Farouk, Teny, Hammo, and Majdi from We Sell Reality with a conversation after. On 7 July, a public conversation ‘Promissory Notes’ featuring Annette Krauss, Clare Butcher, and Jota Mombaça will take place.

Circle: Roots in the Oude Kerk 15 & 21 July

This circle, brought together by Gijs Stork and Karolina Wargin, sheds light on unknown relationships within and around the Oude Kerk based on the church’s many graves. In conversations with people whose ancestors rest in the Oude Kerk or who presently reside at addresses linked to these ancestors, a space is created for unexpected narratives and transhistorical connections. The circle features Flowers on the Grave by Frank Bruggeman and, on 18 July, the participatory performance ‘time out’ by Margret Wibmer.

On 15 July, we host a public meeting and discussion with Patricia Kaersenhout, Jennifer Tosch, Nina Pierson, W139, and Michel Damman. On 21 July, a public meeting and discussion take place with Bonne Suits, Matteo, Hassani Brar, Sem, Koen, and others.

Circle: Queer Currents 22 July to 4 August

Queer Currents is headquartered at the Oude Kerk for this year’s Pride Amsterdam. Curated by writer Alejandra Ortiz, this circle examines doubt and belonging, in relation to queer identities, realities and communities through various gatherings and events. This circle utilises art and culture as tools to seek new ways of understanding ourselves and the world around us.

Daily meetings from 22 July to 4 August. See the Queer Currents programme.

Circle: Not in Your Box 12 & 18 August

This circle, consisting of current and former sex workers and/or lifetime activists, examines how institutions, including the police, politicians, aid workers, and religious organisations, can harm the community under the guise of aid or good intentions. LiL & Charlotte formed the circle alongside Alejandra, Susanne, Angel, and Melanie.

On 12 and 18 August, they present skits to demonstrate actual scenarios they, or other members of the community, have experienced first-hand where people from institutions have attempted to help but instead caused harm.

Circle: Calibrating Intimacies 26 August & 1 September

This circle, brought together by artist and educator Joy Mariama Smith, explores intimacy and how it is intrinsic to the sacred, with the Oude Kerk as the primary site for these explorations. Consent practice is at the root of this investigation. Together with Ciro Goudsmit, Dylan Spencer-Davidson, Justin F. Kennedy, Keith Hennessy, Philipp Meyer-Hege, and other guests they engage in movement and vocal research around the collective space of safety/sacred/sanctuary.

The circle presents their research on 26 August and 1 September through a series of duets that allow intimacy to emerge.