

## Visual arts competition

### Colonialism and its consequences in Bremen

Deadline: 8 March 2021

**The Focke Museum – Bremen State Museum for Art and Cultural History has been commissioned by Bremen’s Senator for Culture to organise an art competition on the subject of colonialism and its consequences in Bremen.**

State Councillor Carmen Emigholz: “All artists are invited to participate in the art competition and to reflect on Bremen’s relationship with the subject of colonialism in a work of art. We especially welcome submissions from Black and African Diaspora artists.”

#### Subject / explanation

Prof. Dr. Anna Greve, Director of the Focke-Museum: “Colonialism was a system of relationships of domination, violence and exploitation based on the notion of a biologically and culturally inferior people. The traces of this colonial past continue to have an impact to this day – both in the former colonies and in Europe. A desire exists to raise awareness for colonialism and its consequences, to enforce universal human rights in the present day and to overcome postcolonial behaviour.”

The subject of colonialism has a long tradition in Bremen. In 1883, the Bremen merchant Adolf Lüderitz acquired extensive landholdings in South West Africa (now Namibia) through deception. The Namibian economy was attuned to the needs of the German Empire. Over time, conflicts arose between the colonial masters and the native population. This ultimately led to the genocide of the Herero and Nama.

The subject of colonialism has been critically reviewed and addressed in Bremen since the 1970s. Bremen’s Senator for Culture has been moderating a large-scale civil dialogue on the subject of colonialism and its consequences since 2016. In 2019, the subject was included in Germany’s coalition agreement and cultural policy guidelines were adopted in Bremen to address the colonial heritage.

In Bremen, we see a proactive confrontation with everyday racism, identification of its roots in colonialism, raising of awareness about the colonial past among the general public and partnerships with the societies of former colonies as inextricably linked, inseparable components for addressing the colonial past.

The ongoing process in Bremen forms the basis of a new postcolonial concept of remembrance, one that today involves continuous recollection and the active involvement of many people in manifold aspects.

**A work of visual art addressing the subject of colonialism and its consequences in Bremen is to now be created that prompts beholders to reflect, address feelings associated with this subject and/or stimulate further contemplation.**

## Formalities

Please do not submit the artwork itself. Instead, provide up to three good photographs of the artwork and a written explanation (max. one A4 page) as a PDF. Explain the artwork's connection to the competition's theme and provide the work's details (title, year of creation, etc.). The explanation can be submitted in German, English or French. Be sure to also include your contact details (name, address, telephone number, email).

Email the photographs of your artwork and the written explanation to the Focke Museum by 8 March 2021: [wettbewerb@focke-museum.de](mailto:wettbewerb@focke-museum.de)

You will receive an email confirming the successful submission of your documents.

### **Prize money will be awarded for the first three places.**

1<sup>st</sup> place:                    **€3000**

2<sup>nd</sup> prize:                    **€2000**

3<sup>rd</sup> prize:                    **€1000**

**The submission deadline is 8 March 2021.** The jury will then meet to deliberate on the artwork submitted.

The jury will include representatives from culture and civil society, who have been involved in the civil dialogue in Bremen since 2016 or are currently working on the subject in Bremen:

Patience Amankwah      Consultant for racism-critical and difference-sensitive education; freelance artist

Laura von Asseburg      Consultant for political education; activist of various African diaspora groups; poet

Prof. Dr. Anna Greve      Director of the Focke Museum – Bremen State Museum for Art and Cultural History

Dr. Arie Hartog            Director of Gerhard-Marcks-Haus in Bremen

Virginie Kamche          Founder of the Africa Network Bremen; promoter of migration, diaspora and development

Anna Igbo Priester        Long-time employee of the Bremen State Institute for Schools, later head of department at Bremen's education authority, now head of Burgstraße Vocational School in Hamburg

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in mid-March 2021. Images of the competition submissions will be presented on the Focke Museum website free of charge. Particular emphasis will be placed on the winning artwork. The actual artwork will remain the property of the artists. The jury reserves the right to organise a free exhibition of the artwork in the Focke Museum's Stadtlabor in consultation with the artists.

For more information on the civil dialogue and the subject of colonialism and its consequences in Bremen, see:

[www.kultur.bremen.de/service/kolonialismus-13508#Dokumente%20und%20Materialien](http://www.kultur.bremen.de/service/kolonialismus-13508#Dokumente%20und%20Materialien)