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# Mónica de Miranda / Path to the Stars

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**As part of the 35th exground filmfest, with this year's focus on Portugal, the video work *Path to the Stars* by Mónica de Miranda illuminates the Portuguese-Angolan colonial history and not only encounters the ghosts of the past, but also imagines a future healing.**

The film **Path to the Stars** (2022) by **Mónica de Miranda** is named after the poem (1953) of the same name by Agostinho Neto, the freedom fighter and former president of Angola. The artist sheds light on the stories of invisible and unappreciated stars who fought for Angolan independence, paying homage to those of the past and to those who are struggling for visibility today. With her cinematic journey, Mónica de Miranda reflects on the dialectic relationships between past, present and future.

For the artist, waterways in particular are witnesses from the past to the present. Thus, the Kwanza River plays an important role in the video work, as one of the longest rivers in Angola which flows into the Atlantic Ocean and was the starting point for the Portuguese invasion. As the scene of numerous resistance struggles and as a force of nature, the river is depicted on the Angolan currency as an important symbol of independence. At the same time, the image of the river functions as an analogy to history - after all, it is closely linked to the colonial history of the Atlantic into which it flows. The artist places her protagonist in a utopian space located on the Kwanza River and follows the heroine from sunrise to sunset. Alone, she travels down the river to the sea, encountering not only her own memories and ghosts from the past, but also her future healing. The film itself is structured like a river that branches out, containing different layers and depths.

The artist interweaves personal stories and collective memory to reflect on the relationship between humans and nature as a possible source of healing and reparation. The film addresses the colonial structures that have never been overcome, especially the devastating effects of the exploitation of natural resources, and thus stimulates an important discussion about shaping the future in the age of the Anthropocene.

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**About the artist /**

**Mónica de Miranda** (born 1986 in Porto, Portugal) is a Portuguese artist, filmmaker and researcher of Angolan origin who lives and works in Lisbon and Luanda. She works interdisciplinarily with drawing, installation, photography, film, video and sound, at the interface of fiction and fact. With her research-based artistic practice, the artist examines the interconnections between politics, identity, gender, memory and space and the complexity of identity constructions.

She studied Visual Arts and Sculpture at Camberwell College of Arts (London) and did a PhD in Artistic Studies at Middlesex University (London). In 2019 she was nominated for the New Artist Prize at MAAT and in 2016 for the Novo Photo Banco Prize. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including at the 12th Berlin Biennale (2022), at the Oratorio de S. Ludovico - Nuova Icona, Venice (2022), at the Bienar du Sur, MAAC, in Guayaquil, Ecuador (2020), at the Lubumbashi Biennial, Congo (2019), in the Tyburn Gallery, London and at the Dakar Biennial, Senegal (2016). She is one of the founders of the artistic research center HANGAR in Lisbon.

**Thank you for your interest.** For further information, we are available by phone or e-mail.

**Press contact /**

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The exhibition **Mónica de Miranda / Path to the Stars** is a cooperative project with **exground filmfest 35 (11. – 20. November 2022)**



The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is permanently institutionally supported by the Cultural Office of the Capital City of Wiesbaden.



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## Program /

The events take place in accordance with the Covid-19 containment measures ordinance valid at that time. Current information can be found at [www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de](http://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de).

### **SAÚDE SPRITZ /**

As part of **exground filmfest 35**

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6 to 8 pm

### **SUNTALK /**

Get off the couch!

Guided tour through the current exhibitions

Sundays, 3 pm

### **ESPRESSO /**

Short and strong!

Short guided tour and espresso

Tuesdays, 12.45 am to 1.15 pm

### **SPRITZ /**

Art, drinks and more!

Thursdays, 6 to 8 pm

### **KIDS INSIDE /**

For all / with Titus or Sarah

Last Saturday of the month, 11 am to 1 pm

26. November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

17. Dezember 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **WILHELMS WANNE /**

Interactive tour / For the whole family

Second Saturday of the month, 3 to 5 pm

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dezember 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **FINISSAGE /**

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 3 to 6 pm

### **exground filmfest 35 /**

11. - 20. November 2022

Further information can be found at [www.exground.com](http://www.exground.com)

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## Press Images /

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### **Mónica de Miranda**

Path to the Stars  
2022

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Courtesy: The Artist, Sabrina Amrani Gallery



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