

The Co(a)st is Memory

Ibrahim Mahama: On the Border of Freedom and Responsibility

Ibrahim Mahama was born in Tamale, Ghana in 1987. A central feature of his artistic practice is the utilisation and transformation of materials to explore themes of commodity, migration, colonialism, globalisation and economic exchange.

"I have a vision of art that can effect change rather than being about producing beautiful commodities for sale on the market." A modern Walter Benjamin, Mahama regularly accumulates and recycles material that's lost its purpose, fascinated by the memories and histories of crisis and failure thats attached to them. "We're haunted all the time by ghosts of the past". His large-scale nostalgic installations employing found objects mainly collected from his west African homeland and gathered from urban environments, such as remnants of wood, or jute sacks, which are stitched together and draped over monumental architectural structures, speak of global transactions, capitalist structures and people across national borders.

ZEITGEIST 19 invites you to consider the current fraught and uncertain socio-cultural climate through the lens of 'conscious' art. An art that identifies the crisis and addresses it, that analyses and rethinks its social impact, whilst conveying weighty social and political concepts relevant to our times. "My hope," says Ibrahim Mahama, "is to start conversations at a time when there are very few meaningful ones." Mahama is a contributor, continuously addressing a plethora of relevant socioecological aspects, he creates a body of work outside the limits of the physical realm that has a strong visual and immersive power, boosting global conversations and mitigating social structures; a 'hopeful' practice that thinks of the future by turning to the past.

The Good Cause

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The collected funds from our event will benefit Haduwa Arts & Culture Institute in Apam - an open institution, for independent artistic, cultural, and pedagogic experimentation.



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