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MOMENTUM appoints Théo-Mario Coppola as the curator and Håkon Lillegraven as the associate curator of the 2021 MOMENTUM biennale

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View of Jeløya, Moss, Norway. Photo: Eivind Lauritzen. Courtesy Galleri F 15.

MOMENTUM 11 - HOUSE OF COMMONS

2021

Moss, Norway

MOMENTUM is pleased to announce the appointment of Théo-Mario Coppola as the curator and Håkon Lillegraven as the associate curator of the eleventh edition of the MOMENTUM biennale that will take place in 2021 under the title HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS is being conceived with the view that a paradigm shift is needed to change how current and historical forms of domination resulting from capitalism, colonialism, racism, patriarchy, and gender normativity have impacted our lives.

As such, HOUSE OF COMMONS will be shaped by togetherness and horizontality. By placing commonality at its core, it will operate as a shared living space for exhibition, research, and knowledge.

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Informed by the notion of 'commons' that was developed by Elinor Ostrom from the 1980s onwards, HOUSE OF COMMONS will re-problematise commonality and the process of commoning, both with practitioners and with participants. It will draw from new forms of governance and concrete utopia, personal narratives and resilience strategies, communities' concerns, protests and measures of empowerment, and the protection of ecosystems.

Dag Aak Sveinar, Director of Galleri F 15 and MOMENTUM said: 'We are excited to work with curator Théo-Mario Coppola on his thematic guidelines and conceptual exploration of horizontality and togetherness. To make this a part of the future is both challenging and necessary. MOMENTUM 11 will be existential in telling where we are, who we are and what we are doing - and by doing it together we will enter a dialogue focused on our shared future.'

Details of the programme will be announced at a later date.

Curator

Théo-Mario Coppola is a curator and arts writer. His practice is characterised by curatorial empathy and activism. This approach has led him to develop the concept of 'affective communities', which could be defined as collective strategies that resist contemporary forms of domination, stand up for marginalised identities, and seek to transform values in art, governance and society. Théo-Mario Coppola is a former teaching and research fellow at Sciences Po Toulouse, France. He founded and curated HOTEL EUROPA, an annual series of exhibitions and programmes (Vilnius, Lithuania in 2017, Brussels, Belgium in 2018, and Tbilisi, Georgia in 2019). In 2017-2018, he was the artistic director of Primo Piano and Intermezzo in Paris, France, and lead their joint residency and exhibition programme. In 2018, he curated the third edition of the Nuit Blanche arts festival at Villa Medici in Rome, Italy. His critical texts and reviews have appeared in magazines and online publications, including Flash Art and Antidote.

Associate Curator

Håkon Lillegraven is a curator, writer and outreach professional. He graduated in curation from Central Saint Martins and carried out curatorial research and projects at art institutions and online platforms in London, UK, such as Art Night Open programme, Information programme at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and Off Site Project. Håkon Lillegraven was curatorial assistant for osloBIENNALEN First Edition in 2018-2019 and is now head of mediation at Fotogalleriet in Oslo, Norway. In 2020, he will participate in the 'Curatorial practice + Art in public space' course organised by KORØ (Public Art Norway).

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The biennale was established in 1998 and is currently organised and produced by Galleri F 15 in Moss, Norway. Since then, MOMENTUM has consistently supported compelling curatorial vision and operated as a platform for exploring the exhibition format, both in the Nordic context and with an international perspective.

MOMENTUM 11 coincides with a new stage in the biennale's history, as most venues and sites will now be on the island of Jeløya. The move will be an opportunity for MOMENTUM to engage in a closer relationship with nature and to be a catalyst for change.

Curators of the previous editions

MOMENTUM 1 - Pakkhus, 1998: Lars Bang Larsen, Daniel Birnbaum, and Atle Gerhardsen

MOMENTUM 2 - Park, 2000: Ina Blom, Jonas Ekeberg, Jacob Fabricius, and Paula Toppila

MOMENTUM 3 - Momentum 2004, 2004: Caroline Corbetta and Per Gunnar Tverbakk

MOMENTUM 4 - Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better., 2006: Annette Kierulf and Mark Sladen

MOMENTUM 5 - Favoured Nations, 2009: Lina Džuverović and Stina Högvist

MOMENTUM 6 - Imagine Being Here Now, 2011: Markús Þór Andrússon, Theodor

Ringborg, Aura Seikkula, Christian Skovbjerg Jensen, and Marianne Zamecznik

MOMENTUM 7 - Dare 2 Love Yourself and Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast, 2013:

Erlend Hammer (D2LY) and Power Ekroth (SITBB)

MOMENTUM 8 - Tunnel Vision, 2015: Jonatan Habib Engqvist, Birta Guđjónsdóttir,

Stefanie Hessler, and Toke Lykkeberg

MOMENTUM 9 - Alienation, 2017: Ulrika Flink, Ilari Laamanen, Jacob Lillemose, Gunhild

Moe, and Jón B. K. Ransu

MOMENTUM 10 - The Emotional Exhibition, 2019: Marti Manen with assistant curator

Anne Klontz

ENDS

Press requests

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Listings information

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http://gallerif15.no/exhibitions_momentum/momentum-11/?lang=en

Dates to be announced at a later date.

Social media accounts to be announced at a later date.

Notes to editors

Main themes overview

HOUSE OF COMMONS will revolve around four themes:

- New forms of governance and concrete utopias
- Personal narratives and resilience strategies
- Communities' concerns, protests and measures of empowerment
- The protection of ecosystems

Project and curatorial team selection process

Through a multi-stage selection process, Galleri F 15 chose Théo-Mario Coppola's HOUSE OF COMMONS project and appointed Théo-Mario Coppola and Håkon Lillegraven, who applied separately, to make the curatorial team.

About the curator

Théo-Mario Coppola (born in 1990 – self defines as non-binary – he/him/his) is a French-Italian curator and arts writer. He currently lives and works in Paris, France.

At the intersection of empathy and activism, his curatorial practice engages with research-based, experimental, narrative and political forms. Théo-Mario Coppola has developed the concept of 'affective communities', both in the sense of collective experiences and situations, and within art projects and writings. The concept is informed by Georg Simmel's philosophical legacy, in the perspective of a continuum of social and aesthetic concerns. 'Affective communities' could thus be defined as strategies that resist contemporary forms of domination, stand up for marginalised identities, and seek to transform values in art, governance and society.

After graduating from a double master's degree at Sciences Po Toulouse, France in 2013, Théo-Mario Coppola undertook a PhD from 2013 to 2016 and was a teaching and

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research fellow in international relations, cultural studies and the history of political thought at the same institution from 2016 to 2018.

Théo-Mario Coppola founded and curated HOTEL EUROPA, an annual series of exhibitions and programmes (Vilnius, Lithuania in 2017, Brussels, Belgium in 2018, and Tbilisi, Georgia in 2019). From 2017 to late 2018, he was the director of Collezione Taurisano, an international private contemporary art collection focused on political art and based in Naples, Italy, and was the artistic director of Primo Piano and Intermezzo, two private initiatives supporting international artists through a joint residency and exhibition programme in Paris. In 2018, he curated the third edition of the Nuit Blanche arts festival at Villa Medici in Rome, Italy.

Théo-Mario Coppola writes regularly on artists and exhibitions and has produced a number of literary texts. He is a contributor to Flash Art, Antidote and SP-ARTE 365 Editorial.

He is vice-president of c|e|a, the French association of curators and a member of AICA, the international association of art critics.

About the associate curator

Håkon Lillegraven (born in 1992 - he/him/his) is a Norwegian curator, writer and outreach professional. He is currently based in Oslo, Norway.

He received a BA in culture, criticism and curation from Central Saint Martins in London, UK, in 2017 and was awarded a Venice Fellowship by the British Council the same year.

After graduating, Håkon Lillegraven carried out curatorial research and projects at art institutions and online platforms, such as Art Night Open programme, In formation programme at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and Off Site Project. He worked in engagement and production at the Barbican Centre and Artichoke Trust, and was assistant public programme administrator at the Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Graduate School. From late 2018 to early 2020, Håkon Lillegraven was curatorial assistant for osloBIENNALEN First Edition, working closely with curators Eva González-Sancho Boderó and Per Gunnar Eeg-Tverbakk. He is now head of mediation at Fotogalleriet, under the artistic direction of Antonio Cataldo. In 2020, he will participate in the 'Curatorial practice + Art in public space' course organised by KORO (Public Art Norway).

His texts have been published by Numbered Editions in London and by Subjekt, Billedkunst, and Karmaklubb* in Oslo.