

MOMENTUM

MOMENTUM OPENS A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE BIENNALE



View of Jeløya, Moss, Norway. Photo: Eivind Lauritzen. Courtesy MOMENTUM

MOMENTUM 11 – HOUSE OF COMMONS

12 June – 10 October 2021

Jeløya, Moss, Norway

With its eleventh edition, the MOMENTUM biennale is set for a new beginning.

As of 2021, several venues and sites will be added to the southern part of the island of Jeløya, as well as to Moss and the Oslo Fjord. From the coast to the city centre, a circuit will be specifically designed to connect all the new locations to Galleri F 15, MOMENTUM's host institution.

Once a peninsula, Jeløya was permanently separated from the mainland by the construction of the Moss Canal in 1855. Oral testimonies and documents dating back from the 11th century reveal a vivid agrarian and maritime past. The island is also host to a wide range of biotopes: deciduous forests, open fields, wild beaches, permanent pastures, and large bodies of water.

Curated by Théo-Mario Coppola, MOMENTUM 11 will invite visitors to explore the interconnectedness of communities' concerns, personal and collective narratives, and contemporary aesthetic practices.

Théo-Mario Coppola notes: *'As a curator, I feel it is important to reconfigure how we relate to aesthetics and what it means to engage in a practice. Contemporary and historical concrete utopian experiences inform us about a future of governance by communities. HOUSE OF COMMONS will host practices that combine in-depth research with an acute awareness of critical contemporary issues. It will also act as a production platform for practitioners, with inclusive, deliberative and collective processes.'*

HOUSE OF COMMONS is informed by the notion of commons developed by Elinor Ostrom. A forward thinker, Ostrom was interested in how local life could be managed through processes of emancipation and shared responsibility, without any regulation by centralised or private authorities. With commonality at its core, HOUSE OF COMMONS will operate as a shared living space for exhibition, research, and knowledge.

In a context that requires solidarity in principle and in action, MOMENTUM 11 is envisioned as a situated production agency. Partnerships are being developed with a number of local, regional and international art institutions, organisations, and programmes that are committed to socially-engaged and research-based practices.

Further details of the programme and the list of practitioners will be announced in early 2021.

ENDS

Press requests

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EDITORS' NOTES

MOMENTUM

The biennale was established in 1998 and is currently organised and produced by Galleri F 15 in Moss, Norway. For over two decades, 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 be located on the island of Jeløya. The move offers an opportunity for MOMENTUM to engage in a closer relationship with nature, explore the connections of different landscapes to local cultural history, and be a catalyst for change.

Overview of main themes

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
- Protection of ecosystems

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 who currently lives and works in Paris, France. 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. 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 led 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*.

MOMENTUM 11

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Curators of the previous editions

M1 – Pakkhus, 1998: Lars Bang Larsen, Daniel Birnbaum, and Atle Gerhardsen

M2 – Park, 2000: Ina Blom, Jonas Ekeberg, Jacob Fabricius, and Paula Toppila

M3 – Momentum 2004, 2004: Caroline Corbetta and Per Gunnar Tverbakk

M4 – Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better., 2006: Annette Kierulf and Mark Sladen

M5 – Favoured Nations, 2009: Lina Džuverović and Stina Högvist

M6 – Imagine Being Here Now, 2011: Markús Þór Andrússon, Theodor Ringborg, Aura Seikkula, Christian Skovbjerg Jensen, and Marianne Zamecznik

M7 – Dare 2 Love Yourself and Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast, 2013: Erlend Hammer (D2LY) and Power Ekroth (SITBB)

M8 – Tunnel Vision, 2015: Jonatan Habib Engqvist, Birta Guðjónsdóttir, Stefanie Hessler, and Toke Lykkeberg

M9 – Alienation, 2017: Ulrika Flink, Ilari Laamanen, Jacob Lillemose, Gunhild Moe, and Jón B. K. Ransu

M10 – The Emotional Exhibition, 2019: Marti Manen with assistant curator Anne Klontz