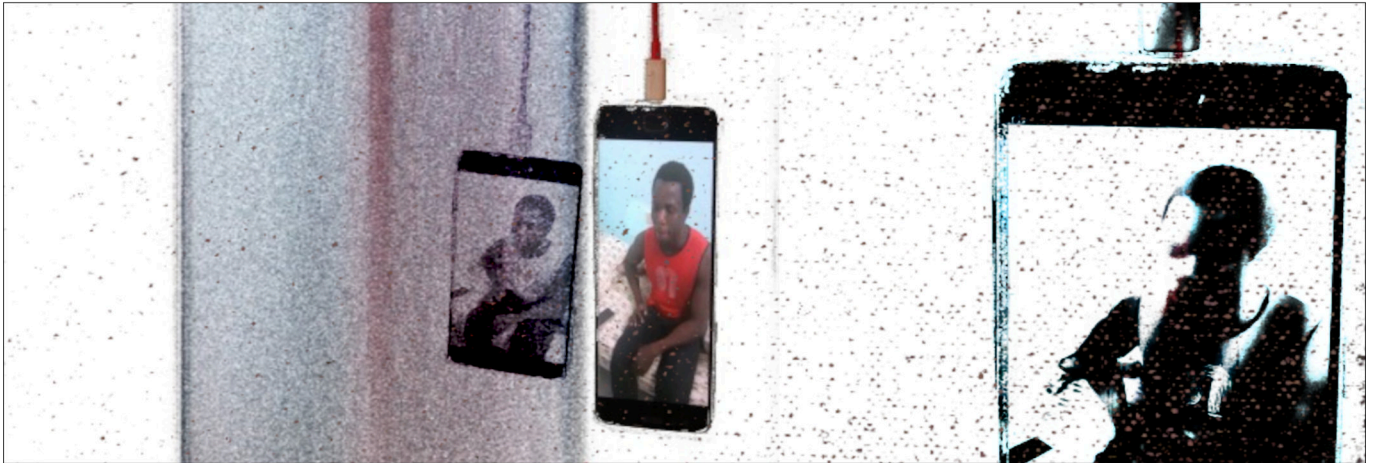


Hyenaz x Yusuph Suso: *Ex Situ*



Hyenaz x Yusuph Suso: *Ex Situ*, 2021 (still)

Ex Situ is an interactive audiovisual sculpture which maps the fragile technological threads from which human beings conduct transdimensional lives in past, current and future homelands.

The sculpture consists of a network of scratched and damaged mobile phones counterbalanced against one another as they levitate in space. Each phone loops an audiovisual element at random intervals to generate a musical narrative that is perpetually shifting, from one moment to the next.

The work is partly inspired by Maxine Burkett's notion of a "Nation Ex-Situ" – an imagined nation of stateless people whose former nations have literally sunk beneath the ocean due to climate change. Her concept highlights how climate change increasingly makes migration a necessity, as does war, political unrest, economic instability and other forms of structural violence.

Wherever human beings are in transit, clusters of phones around power banks and electrical outlets can be observed. Phones help migrants stay connected to where we come from, where we are and where we are going. They help us navigate and they even become a site of home—a virtual meeting point for our family and friends. In these contexts, having electricity and data is a lifeline to home - past, present and future

The phones in *Ex Situ* carry videos and sounds from the Gambian singer Yusuph Suso whom Hyenaz met on a dusty road to an immigration detention centre on the outskirts of Trapani, Sicily in 2015.

As part of their ongoing Foreign Bodies project, Hyenaz were there to map the phenomenon of human bodies in motion and the ways that governments and other actors regulate, instrumentalise and profit from this phenomenon. Yusuph, a former refugee, was there to act as an interpreter for other migrants navigating the intricacies of the Italian migration system.

Hyenaz described their work and, in this serendipitous encounter, Yusuph revealed that he is a singer from a long line of court musicians stretching back to the ancient kingdom of Mali. As building blocks for the what would later become *Ex Situ*, the three artists met in Palermo to record a series of vocals and interviews in English and Mandinka. Shortly thereafter, on a visit home to Gambia, Yusuph sent a set of videos which he recorded on his phone.

Back in Berlin, Hyenaz samples and transmogrified these elements into audiovisual stems of a larger artwork. Each stem is uploaded into one of the phones dangling from the sculpture, which was designed and installed by creative builder Lau Bau. To evoke the haphazard image of phones clumped together beside an electric outlet at a bus station or a transit camp, the artists carefully created the sculpture so that nothing is concealed: phones dangle in the air from wires hung precariously on metal scraps. Anyone with access to a smartphone or computer can contribute their own stories of home, movement and migration and these will be sonically integrated into one of these phones (hyenaz-exsitu.com).

By drawing us into a collective hive of dreams and memories, *Ex Situ* reminds us of the importance of connection even as lifeworlds sink, dissolve, or are displaced.

Visit

WHEN	Dec 1-4, 2021 12:00-20:00
WHERE	EXIT, Wienerstrasse 32 Berlin

2G rules apply (vaccinated / recovered). Wear a mask.

Team

TEXT + VOCALS	Yusuph Suso
CONCEPT + COMPOSITION	Hyenaz
SCULPTURE DESIGN	Lau Bau
VIDEOGRAPHY	Yusuph Suso
VIDEO EDIT	Hyenaz
CREATIVE CODE	Rodrigo Frenk

About Hyenaz

Hyenaz are Berlin-based sound and movement artists Kathryn Fischer aka Mad Kate and Adrienne Teicher. They produce immersive performances, dance tracks, soundscapes, and site-specific a/v works through the sonic shape-shifting of field recordings.

Hyenaz have performed and produced sound design at Maxim Gorki Theater, Münchner Kammerspiele and Volksbühne.

hyenaz.com

About Yusuph Suso

Yusuph Suso is a Gambian singer living and working in Sicily. He comes from a line of court musicians stretching back to the ancient kingdom of Mali and currently works as an interpreter for migrants navigating the Italian migration system.

Be part of the artwork

hyenaz-exsitu.com



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