

Katy Streek and Jennifer Tosch (Sites of Memory Foundation, Netherlands)

Katy Streek is a freelance theatre maker and programmer. She is a graduate of the University of the Arts in Utrecht (2006) and has a Master Applied Theatre (2009) from the University of Cape Town. She's co-founder of Sites of Memory Foundation and from 2013 till 2020 worked as a programmer for Afrovibes Festival in Amsterdam. In her work, she focuses on (international) collaborations, artistic dialogue and themes of colonisation, slavery and migration. She directed the site-specific productions Future for the Past (2020), Emerging Memory (2019), Changing Portraits (2018), Sites of Memory East (2017) and Sites of Memory (2016). Her other theatre work includes This is me - Dis na mi, a site-specific production at Fort New Amsterdam in Paramaribo (2012,) De Tijdschepper in Amsterdam (2010) and No-Man's Land, an international exchange between South Africa and The Netherlands (2008).

Jennifer Tosch is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and currently resides in Amsterdam, Netherlands (NL), working on a dual Masters in Heritage and Memory Studies at the University of Amsterdam. She is founder of Black Heritage Tours in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and New York State, co-author of 3 books on Dutch colonial history Amsterdam Slavery Heritage Guide (2014); Dutch New York Histories (2017) and Netherlands Slavery Heritage Guide (2019), co-founder of Sites of Memory Foundation and a member of the Mapping Slavery Project Netherlands. Jennifer was born in Brooklyn, New York to Surinamese parents. All her ancestors are also from Suriname. Jennifer founded the Black Heritage Tour in Amsterdam in 2013 and the New York Tour in 2017. The tours make the 'hidden history visible' as you explore the city's Black presence and colonial history.

Sites of memory foundation

'The past is the key to the future'. To understand where we are today and to create an image about the future, we need insight and reconciliation with the past. Future for the Past is a new site-specific performance by the Sites of Memory Foundation about the connected colonial heritage and history of slavery between South Africa and The Netherlands. Through a theatrical walking tour the audience will be taken on a journey through time and gain insight into an imagined future.

This international exchange allows for new stories from different perspectives to be shared about our connected history using a de-colonial framework. The artists search for new forms, styles and methods to challenge audiences and deconstruct notions of history, and through whose gaze history is told. By working site specific and by using a multidisciplinary approach, the audiences experience the city through a different lens and are made to think about the social discourse surrounding the colonial past and how to relate to it.

Jennifer Tosch and Katy Streek share insight into the process of connecting historical research and performance to draw attention to the under-represented stories from the colonial history of South Africa and The Netherlands. Through multidisciplinary performance in which spoken word, dance, video art and installation come together, they look at the shared colonial heritage between both countries and the role it plays in the present. How does it affect our sense of space and identity? How do artists give a contemporary look and artistic response to the narratives and architecture of historical buildings in Amsterdam and Cape Town?

Future for the Past will take place in The Netherlands in June and July 2021 and in South Africa in November 2021.

