

NEW ADVENTURES IN VEXILLOLOGY #7

SUMMERSEASON 2021

KUNSTVEREIN AMRUM

Invited artists:

Swaantje Güntzel, Lauren Keeley, Sarah Kürten,
Michael Müller, Elia Nurvista, Manuel Stehli

Exhibition: 24 May - 31 October 2021

Flag rising: 24 Mai 2021

Opening hours: 24/7

This summer season we are dealing with supposedly gloomy future scenarios, also known as dystopias. After an earth-shattering event, such as war, epidemic or natural disaster, humanity has to deal with the "afterlife". Literary works such as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" (1932) or George Orwell's "1984" (1948) are well-known examples of this.

Dystopian ideas increasingly emerge in times of upheaval. This could be observed in particular in the last two decades, in which globalization, digitalization and climate change have created a sense of insecurity among people. The worldwide developments of the last two years have intensified this feeling and the question "what will our planet and our society look like in xx years?" has become more preoccupying than ever.

2019 was the year of the Fridays for Future activists. It was the global climate strike, which spread worldwide via social media, that first woke up our society. Never before has there been public debate on this scale about what our planet will look like if we don't take action now. Even the island paradise of Amrum will not be spared from climate change. Progressive global warming is calling into question the preservation of the Wadden Sea natural heritage on the German North Sea coast. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fears a global rise in sea level of half a meter by 2100 if we succeed in limiting warming to two degrees. Currently, however, the world is on track for three to four degrees of warming, which would mean a sea level rise of just under one meter. Either way - by the year 2100, the current location of the Kunstverein Amrum will no longer exist. Even a rise of 50 cm would cause most of the Kunstverein's beach to sink into the sea.

The years 2020/2021 are dominated worldwide by the COVID-19 pandemic. The world has come to a standstill and its extent - economically, socially, politically - is still unimaginable. The island of Amrum, which mainly profits from tourism, suffered considerable losses in tourism last year, which has caused economic problems for many islanders. However, the absence of the crowds has also meant that the island's flora and fauna have been able to recover, and the islanders have experienced an island that they had not seen in such beauty in the last 35 years. This shows - future visions do not always have to be negative connotations.

This year, curator Valeska Hageney has taken these two aspects as an opportunity to ask artists to create a sketch that deals with the question: What does your world look like in 2100? How and what will change?

The focus is not primarily on nature and pandemics. The connections between environment and nature on the one hand and society, politics and economy on the other hand are obvious and the starting point for this year's project.



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