

Since 2016 Bie Michels explores the relationship of bricks and the human being. This investigation started in Madagascar.

With the video installation 'Ingahy Kama' (2018), she fictionalizes James Cameron a pioneering missionary who introduced bricks in the 19th century in Madagascar. The letters and writings by him and other missionaries, which are today conserved in London—and which are therefore practically inaccessible to Madagascans—are often used for writing the 'local' history of nineteenth-century Madagascar.

In the film, Madagascans read out fragments of the correspondence and through this act Michels 'gives back' these letters symbolically to them.

The performative installation "Piles of Bricks" is realised in collaboration with Malagasy artist Liantsoa Rakotonaivo, based on scores that generate a new interpretation with each new installation and performance (Nov. 6, 5 p.m.). They play with body vs. space, rhythm, migration, defense, continuously changing reality, ... Rakotonaivo made his own installation in Madagascar as well as a video, edited by him and Bie. The performance at the Other Futures Festival will combine the perspectives from two different places as Bie and Li will react on each other.

Scores for the performance 'Piles of Bricks'

Rhythm

measure the room, walls and open space with your body
use bricks to place marks

Volume

measure your body using bricks
adapt bricks (piles, forms,...) to your body

Gravity

use the bricks to feel the weight of it

Dust

brick dust is your material

Fluent versus Straight

interplay with contrasted forms

Eye Center

position yourself in the room
follow your sight and respond to it with brick-formations

Defense

make a brick-formation to protect yourself

Migration of birds

go with bricks and then go back

Ground and Air

make both levels palpable (interacting)

Music

play with the repetition of the movement
pay attention to the sound of bricks