Ĩ NDAFFA # - BRUNHILDA, the forging midwife

MEMBRANES and INTERVIEWS Katharina Lökenhoff

According to the topic I NDAFFA #, I love the idea to fuel the "needed birthing of a new world" with my MEMBRANES and my Crossing-Research-INTERVIEWS.

As an artist from Germany, I find my sources of creation in Africa. In my working periods in Abidjan, Cairo and Cape Town I realised a new dialogue with the material and a fundamental connection between body, colour and the power of life. I was encouraged by the strong African women to trust my vital forces that had been buried by European education. In my INTERVIEWS in Dakar I am looking for an exchange regarding the African origin of the "Mother-Archetype". I am curious about the recent role models of a new humanity, overcoming destructive patriarchal patterns.

This research is a part of my "CROSSING" project, which is dedicated to finding sustainable life strategies by crossing borders. Exploring how people in other places react to the experience of uncertainty caused by a pandemic, which brings the consequences of colonisation and globalisation to light, is about finding new ways of connecting through art. In the dialogues with other artists, the central theme is the experience of boundaries as a fundamental condition of human structure. In most of the interviews the connection between threshold experience and fear became clear. This led to the question why fear exists and what it serves. On the trips to Iceland, Finland, Egypt, Lebanon and South Africa, cultural exchange has been successful as a means of overcoming borders.

My MEMBRANE "Brunhilda", as a forging midwife, even so as the "Poppy Woman" is a patroness of this transformation process OUT OF THE FIRE. They challenge us to get rid of fear and reconnect us with our sources.

The central material of my work is silk dipped in beeswax. Its haptic and visual appearance mirrors the theme of thresholds in the phenomenon of the skin as a membrane. The energy of colour is related to one's own body using archaic original forms:

Thus, the MEMBRANES are kind of magical instruments to empower people for a common and shared future based on clarified conditions.