

Problematising reality – Encounters between art and philosophy 2023–2024

The notion of Solidarity has recently returned to the forefront of political and cultural debates. The seminar examines the reasoning, conditions, alliances and implications of Solidarity movements of the 1950s and 1960s, why they were deemed necessary and how they faded into oblivion by the end of the 1970s.



© Jihan El Tahri

Seminar:
Jihan El Tahri

SANKOFA, WHAT HAPPENED TO SOLIDARITY?

07. – 08.05.2024

11h – 13h, 14h – 17h

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian
Sala 3, Zona de Congressos
Av. de Berna, 45 A
1067-001 Lisbon

Registration is free but limited to the number of seats available. Please send an email with a short CV to info@problematisingreality.com by 06.05.2024. Confirmation of registration will be sent by email. The seminar will be in English.

For further information, please contact:

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Sankofa is the name of the Adinkra symbol that portrays a mythical bird flying with its head looking back. In African Akan culture the symbol translates into 'recognising the importance of looking to the past to make a better future'. The proposed discussion will highlight how archival narratives – or their lack – are an essential factor in allowing us to reassess the way forward at such a critical juncture in world history. We will dissect some archival footage, picture collections, and share anecdotes that

have nourished our collective imaginary and become the foundation of some political mythologies. The seminar will home in on the year 1979 as a crucial historic turning point. This eventful year will serve as our point of departure, allowing us to emulate *Sankofa* as a methodology to reconnect the links of the chain between past and present, hoping to unravel pathways that provide us with an alternative framework to plot the future.

Jihan El Tahri (Egypt/France) is a filmmaker, visual artist, writer and producer. Her work has been presented in museums, biennials and other spaces, including: Dak'Art (Dakar), Bamako Encounters, Berlin Biennial, Centre Pompidou (Paris), HKW-Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), The National Museum of Norway (Oslo), Clark House (Bombay), San Ildefonso (Mexico City) and Museum of Modern Art (Warsaw). Her award-winning documentaries include *Nasser* (2015, premiered in the official selection of TIFF – Toronto International Film Festival), *Behind the Rainbow* (2008), *Cuba, an African Odyssey* (2007) and *House of Saud* (2004, nominated for an Emmy). As well as being a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences (Oscars), she has sat on several selection committees, including of the Locarno Film Festival, Jeune Creation Francophone and Le Fond Franco-Tunisien. She has taken part in numerous film festival juries, including as President of the Documentary Jury at FESPACO.

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