

Press release

Exhibition ***Look at you***  
**30 January - 25 April 2014**

The African Studies Centre presents a duo exhibition with work by Frouwkje Smit and Karine Versluis.

How do we look at the African continent, and how do Africans look at us? Which images are presented to us in the media, at school, and by development organizations? What are the elements that construct our collective memory?

The works in ***Look at you*** invite the visitor to think about prejudices and the ways in which we construct an image of the other.

For the archive installation '*Een kind onder de evenaar wordt later vaak een bedelaar...*' visual artist **Frouwkje Smit** has been collecting images and text about the African continent from the media since 2008. Smit finds that the way the continent is portrayed is subject to many biased ideas and clichés, and her expanding archive reflects this. By confronting the audience with this collection of repetitive and cliché imagery, she attempts to unravel the imagery of our collective memory in a critical way. Her work is developed in collaboration with Platform IFAA and was exhibited in Arnhem, Amsterdam and Belgium.

Documentary photographer **Karine Versluis** traveled to Lagos (Nigeria) in 2012 where she met a number of young women who had come from eastern Nigeria to Lagos to start a new life. Some of them dreamed of going further, to Europe, because they had heard great stories about it. Versluis photographed the posters that hung above their beds, with images of a perfect and romantic Western world. Photographs of these posters are part of the project *One Day I'm Gonna Make It* that was shown in Humanity House in The Hague in 2013.

During the opening on Tuesday **February 11th 2014**, the African Studies Centre will organize a discussion about the way our perception of the other is formed. Frouwkje Smit and Karine Versluis will enter into a dialogue with Prof. **Felix U. Kaputu**, specialized in African Studies, African politics, literature, religion, diaspora, art and pedagogy, who fled from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The exhibition will run from 30 January until 25 April 2014.

African Studies Centre  
Pieter de la Courtgebouw / Faculty of Social Sciences  
Wassenaarseweg 52 / 2333 AK Leiden  
Phone +31 (0)71 527 3372

Works for the exhibition are made possible by Mondriaan Fund, Humanity House and Platform IFAA.  
English translation by Isabella Rozendaal.