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PRESS RELEASE

The Oude Kerk presents solo exhibition Antonio Obá

12 May - 13 September 2022, Amsterdam (NL)



OUDE KERK- ANTONIO OBÁ -PATH - 2022 Credits: GJ.van ROOIJ

From May 12 to September 13, the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam presents *Path*, the first solo exhibition in the Netherlands by Brazilian artist Antonio Obá (Ceilândia, 1983). *Path* deals with various routes that run between the past and the future, different identities and population groups, the individual and society. Literal paths also play a role in his work, such as the path that enslaved people were forced to take from Africa to South America and Obá's own flight to Europe because of continuing threats in Brazil. All these roads come together in his installation in the Oude Kerk.

Background

Antonio Obá's installation touches on the history of Dutch Brazil. In the debate about the colonial past, there is less attention for the WIC colony New Holland, which was established in 1630 in the northeast of Brazil, than for the VOC and the Dutch East Indies. Yet the establishment of this colony in Brazil marked the beginning of the 'Dutch' participation in the so-called Trans-Atlantic slave trade and large-scale (involuntary) migration flows. Africans and Afro-Brazilians worked as soldiers or sailors in service of both the WIC and private shippers and free and enslaved people from the 'Portuguese Atlantic' (Brazil, Angola, São Tomé etc.) stood at the basis of the black communities in Amsterdam and New Amsterdam (present-day New York) in this seventeenth century. Enrichment through colonial trade and exploitation is inextricably linked to the history of Amsterdam, as it is to the history of the Oude Kerk.

In the installation, there is also a very direct link to this occupation, for in the Oude Kerk lies buried the man whose military actions made the Dutch colony possible. Hendrick Corneliszoon Lonck (1568-1634) led the fleet that conquered part of the (former Portuguese) colony in the northeast of present-day Brazil in 1630. His conquest led to the foundation of the WIC colony of Nieuw Holland. He himself soon left for the Netherlands, after which he died in 1634. On October 10, 1634, he was buried in the Oude Kerk, in the Binnenlandvaarderskapel.

About Antonio Obá

Obá lives and works in Brasilia. His artistic practice consists of sculptures, paintings and performances. His work is included in collections of Tate Modern London, Bourse de Commerce Pinault Collection Paris, MAM Sao Paulo, among others. Path is Obá's first major solo project in the Netherlands.

Visitor information

Oude Kerk

Oudekerksplein, Amsterdam

www.oudekerk.nl



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NOTE FOR EDITORS

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