

Press release *Porous Grounds, Sacred Codes*

20 Dec 2025 – 17 May 2026

Marres, Maastricht, the Netherlands

Porous Grounds, Sacred Codes is a large-scale exhibition project that takes you on a powerful and inspiring journey through themes of collectivity, diaspora, and cultural identity. The exhibition will occupy the entire house of Marres. *Porous Grounds, Sacred Codes* was developed in close collaboration with the renowned Senegalese art institute RAW Material Company (Dakar). From their team, two curators have been appointed: Haja Fanta and Filly Gueye.

Left: Hamedine Kane, right Babacar Traoré Doli



Collective process

Seven artists with roots in West Africa—Yacine Tilala Fall, Selly Raby Kane, Maguette Dieng, Ican Ramageli, Hamedine Kane, Eva Diallo, and Babacar Traoré Doli—jointly created a multi-sensory total installation incorporating sculpture, sound, textiles and video. The exhibition connects the Zikr chanting of mantras, daily life in the Medina, the trees of the dry Fouta region, the mystical layers of Senegalese cuisine, the diasporic collections of found images and objects, and the secrets of the final day.

Themes and Artistic Approach

The exhibition focuses on themes such as:

Migration and diaspora

How does migration shape cultural identity? What do people lose and retain when they move?

Collective work

In an art world that is often organized around individual achievement, this project seeks to explore how artists can truly create together.

Cultural context

Inspired by the thinking of Anne Dufourmantelle and Édouard Glissant, the exhibition also examines codes that remain hidden and the “right to opacity.” Nurturing the quiet grounds of culture supports the pursuit of preserving uniqueness, while also serving as a form of respect and a source of intimacy.

Impact and Purpose

Porous Grounds, Sacred Codes aims not only to present a high-quality artistic exhibition but also to contribute to a diverse cultural landscape where stories and voices that are often overlooked can be heard. By bringing together artists, communities, and partners from different contexts, Marres seeks with *Porous Grounds, Sacred Codes* to create a new kind of cultural space: sensitive, inclusive, connecting, and transformative.

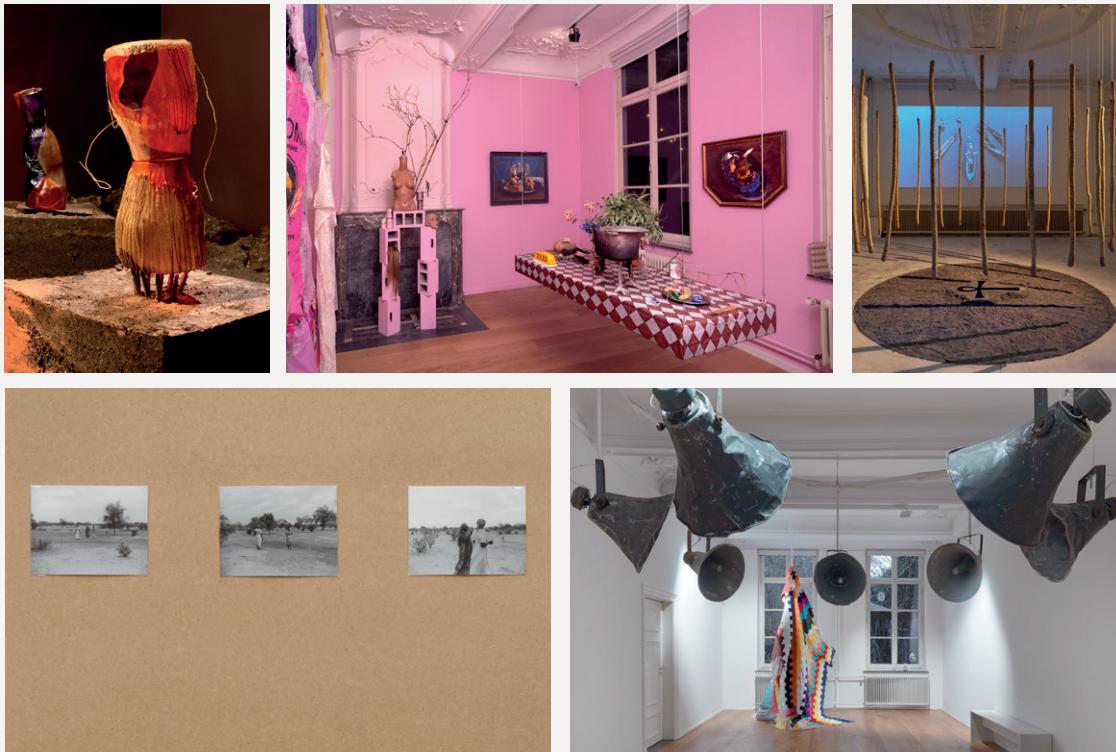
Public program

Alongside the exhibition, the project presents an extensive educational and public program addressing themes such as heritage, cultural identity, migration, and the power of sensory experience. The program includes multilingual guided tours, film screenings, workshops on West African traditions and music, storytelling evenings, podcasts, and conversations with international experts, in collaboration with arthouse cinema Lumière and DAR Cultural Agency.

Note to the editor

For more information and interview requests, please contact Julie Cordewener at communicatie@marres.org.

From left to right:
Yacine Tilala Fall, Selly Raby Kane, Ican Ramageli, Eva Diallo, Maguette Dieng



Marres

Marres, House for Contemporary Culture explores new developments in the international visual arts by developing exhibitions, commissioning new works, and signaling artistic practices, including visual arts, performance, music, and dance. Marres also offers a diverse education and public program focused on body language and sensory knowledge. With her large public garden and the popular restaurant Marres Kitchen, Marres is a public meeting place for all.

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