

Press release: Lima October 2019

Stephanie Rhode

Ambassador of the Netherlands visits artwork - Homage to Karl Appel in Lima

Ambassador Nathalie Lintvelt of the Dutch Embassy in Peru visited the mural that artist Stephanie Rhode created in early August (2019) in collaboration with a large group of very enthusiastic children from Villa El Salvador. Villa El Salvador is a suburb, and former slum, of Lima. As well as the partner city of Amstelveen/ NL. The idea for the project came into being in collaboration with the Cobra Museum and the municipality of Amstelveen, where policy officer for international affairs Anne Kaiser spoke about the artist Karel Appel who visited Villa El Salvador in the 70s. This was when VES had just been established from the surrounding sandy plains and he made a mural painting for the brand-new residents.

The idea behind the art project from Stephanie Rhode was to bring a homage to the Dutch artist Karel Appel, as well as to María Elena Moyano, the woman who meant a lot to Villa el Salvador in the founding years of the city.

During the workshops, in which the children started to draw and paint shapes, animals and plants in the style of COBRA, a design for the mural gradually came into being. During this learning process it was not about precise representations, but rather about loosening and releasing traditional ideas. It was a fantastic experience for Rhode to work with these enthusiastic children, as well as with enthusiastic employees of the municipality of VES.

During the viewing of the artwork, Rhode presented a photo album that shows the various steps in the creative process and beautiful and colourful recording of, among other things, the children and the project, to the mayor Kevin Iñigo Peralta of VES. Ambassador Nathalie Lintvelt was also pleasantly surprised by how much can be achieved in two weeks. During the workshops, Rhode was able to explain not only about techniques, but also about the COBRA movement, as well as about the artist Karel Appel himself. For example, he did not mind that his wall painting was hardly visible two years after creation. The theme of transience is also one of the topics that Rhode regularly discusses in her artworks.

Rhode spoke extensively about the project and these themes during her lecture at the Dutch Embassy in Lima. In addition, this was an opportunity for her to talk about her experiences during her artist in residence at X-Change Art Project, and her latest coastal work: The "moving" house. The latter can be admired in a short film, shot in the southern desert of Lima, which will soon be screened. She has also been able to present 20 photos of her project HOME with knitted house to the Dutch Embassy in Lima.

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