

MUNICH,  
OCTOBER 2023

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**WITCHES IN EXILE**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS ANN-CHRISTINE WOEHRL**  
**INSTALLATION SENAM OKUDZETO**  
**24.11.2023-5.5.2024**

Again and again, people are stigmatised and marginalised by communities for a supposed common good. Focusing on the isolated Northern Region in Ghana as an example, the exhibition *Witches in Exile* is dedicated to the belief in witchcraft, which largely turns women into scapegoats. Such beliefs exist in many regions of the world and are by no means limited to rural or educationally disadvantaged circles. Today, witch hunts take place in more than 40 countries.

On a joint journey through Ghana to Burkina Faso in 2005, the artists Ann-Christine Woehrl and Senam Okudzeto dealt with contemporary witch hunts. The special exhibition focuses on women who were accused of witchcraft. Envy and resentment, as well as the accusation of being responsible for diseases, deaths, droughts and other catastrophes, turned these women into ostracised outsiders. Often in danger of death, they were exiled to so-called »witch camps«. These villages, of which there are eight in Ghana today, are located in very remote areas, far from the capital Accra. For this reason, few people in Ghana at the time were aware of their existence.

Ann-Christine Woehrl shows these women in a haunting conceptual portrait series with all of their dignity and vulnerability – and with all of their pride.

The broader context of the »witch camps« and the portraits is illustrated by Senam Okudzeto in a multimedia installation – consisting of photographs from Ann-Christine Woehrl's extended archive as well as her own photographs, drawings and paintings made especially for this exhibition. Senam Okudzeto talks about their joint journey through Ghana to the Northern Region, where she and Ann-Christine Woehrl visited two very different villages – Kukuo and Gambaga. Okudzeto and Woehrl's work illustrates the social and economic disparity that existed at the time between the northern areas cut off by the Volta Reservoir and the rapidly developing centre of Ghana and its coastal regions with its capital, Accra. This intends to place the series of portraits, which were taken between 2009 and 2013 in the camps of Gambaga and Gushiegu, in a more complex geographical, temporal, social, political, religious and economic context.

The Museum Five Continents is taking the current political brisance of the topic in Ghana, the critical discourse there about witch hunts, and the closure of the »witch camps« as a reason to show *Witches in Exile* at this time. Gertrude Nkrumah addresses the socio-political questions of the current debate.

Ghanaian historian **Gertrude Nkrumah** is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon and serves concurrently as a lecturer at the Department of History Education, University of Education, Winneba. She has engaged with several consultancy assignments at the national and international levels such as Transforming Teacher Education and Learning (T-TEL) and the Institute for Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development (ITERCPD). As a member of the *Exploring Visual Cultures* (EVC) project she is part of an expert team currently developing a joint transnational textbook for art lessons in secondary schools in Ghana and Germany.

**Senam Okudzeto** is a British postnational artist of US and Ghanaian descent. She lives and works in Basel. Having lived in the US, UK, Europe and West Africa from a young age, she is both an insider and outsider to many different cultures. As a kind of translator of cultural experiences, her work incorporates West African, US and European perspectives. Okudzeto holds a PhD in Cultural Studies (London Consortium, Birkbeck College) and studied painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, Royal College of Art London and as part of the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (ISP).

**Ann-Christine Woehrl**, German-French photographer, has been documenting the lives of women who are outcasts on the margins of society since the beginning of her career after her studies in Paris (including the projects *In/visible* and *Peace is named after a woman*, which have already been shown at the Museum Five Continents). *Witches in Exile* has already been exhibited nationally and internationally, among others at the International Festival of Photography in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) or the Angkor Photo Festival in Cambodia. *Witches in Exile* was realised in cooperation with Simon Ngota, the founder of the Ghanaian NGO Witch-hunt Victims Empowerment Project (further information at <https://witches-in-exile.art>).

**Witches in Exile**  
Photographs Ann-Christine Woehrl  
Installation Senam Okudzeto  
24.11.2023–5.5.2024

**Opening times**

Tue–Sun, 9.30am–5.30pm

For times on public holidays see [www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de)

**Admission charges**

Adults €6, concessions €5. All admission charges can be found on our [Website](#) under Öffnungszeiten & Tickets (English summary)

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