

Artists  
Mae-ling Lokko, Nana Afua Pierre Haynes, Selassie Atadika

Curators  
Silvia Franceschini, Tim Roerig, Heleen Van Loon

House for Contemporary  
Art, Design & Architecture



# Mae-ling Lokko

26.09.21–09.01.22

## Grounds for Return

EN

Vleugel 58

+1

# How can we give to earth more than we take?

Mae-ling Lokko combines the production of food and building materials in a regenerative, circular process that returns nutrients to the soil. The parcours of the exhibition follows the process of crops and fungi restoring life to the land and its people.

## ① Generative Grounds 2021, with Nana Afua Pierre Haynes

Three large-scale screen printed drawings depict the creation, transformation and return of value within the generative justice economies. Relative to the relentless extraction and downcycling of materials, the artists explore pathways for addressing alienated human labor and restoring nutrient-depleted soils and subterranean fungal networks.

## ② Thresholds of Return 2015-2021

A gate and floor installation made of coconut husk and agricultural waste materials reference the iconic Door(s) of No Return. The historic gate symbolises the extraction of raw materials and the departure of enslaved individuals from West Africa. In contrast to the vista of the Atlantic Ocean, this gate frames a video projection filmed from the ocean of the West African coastal landscape, which represents a return to African soil.

## ③ Healing Meadow 2019-2021

Although mycelium (network of fungal threads) generally remains hidden in underground networks, this work celebrates it as a component of a flourishing landscape of medicinal herbs.

The mushrooms caps are marked by dynamic change as they grow, in terms of form, size and orientation. In this work, the surface patterns of the mycelium panels are experienced visually and texturally beside a series of edible plants.

## ④ MycoTunnel 2018-2021

Rows of mycelium wall panels fed from agricultural waste connect the two adjacent spaces. This mycelium tunnel evokes the ancient history of Atlantic port cities and their role in unidirectional extraction and export. In this case, the tunnel leads to a communal Ghanaian dining table.

## ⑤ Elemental Table 2021, with Selassie Atadika

In *The Elemental Table*, the table represents an important locus for bringing together food producers and consumers who would not otherwise meet. With tabletops made from Ghanaian apampa market trays and using elemental ingredients placed on the table, new food rituals and interaction between table users are activated.

Mae-ling Lokko is an architectural scientist and designer in the field of biomaterials technology from Ghana and the Philippines. Her work focuses on the upcycling of agricultural waste and biopolymer materials. Her research integrates a broad range of criteria that question contemporary materials value systems in order to develop lifecycle designs that meet the criteria of generative justice.