

June 2022

---

Dear Reader

Over the past month of *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts*, we have had our fourth and final Expert Council meeting for year 1, held the third reading circle and a conversation between Åsa Bharathi Larsson and artist in residence Munish Wadhia has taken place.

For the fourth Expert Council Meeting we were hosted by Torekällberget on Monday, May 23. We were introduced to the institution and to their collection by Susanna Lovén and Eva Hakanen. Over the four hours of meeting, we exchanged common challenges and questions around processes of acquiring for a collection as well as creative and fruitful ways of activating the stories held therein. Visits such as these allow for an exchange of institutional challenges, questions and learnings as well potential beginnings for deeper collaboration. While we may work with different subject matter and collect different objects, through our exchange, we both see opportunities for collections to tell diverse stories and for revisiting dominant narratives to reveal the perspectives and histories that are omitted therein.

The text for the third reading circle was titled *An(other) Invitation to Epistemological Humility: Notes towards a Self-Critical Approach to Counter-Knowledges* and is penned by Otto Maduro for the anthology 'Decolonizing Epistemologies: Latina/o Theology and Philosophy', edited by Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz and Eduardo Mendieta. In this text knowledge and truth come under fire, we are prompted to approach both in decolonial ways and to consider 'epistemological humility' as method. Maduro's epistemological humility, amongst other things, holds within it the notion that current understandings of knowledge are known and created amidst asymmetrical power relations. I think *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* acknowledges and acts with this axiom in mind.

With the creation of a new collection being at stake (and, thus, one more system of knowledge organization), Maduro's axiom prompts me to consider, what knowledge will be collected and what asymmetrical power relations will be avoided and which are we doomed to, whether knowingly or not, recreate? Perhaps this is not the most important thing. Perhaps more important is the accepting that the collection policy we create presently, is created amidst skewed power relations, and will be practiced and continue to operate in a world of such power relations. If we accept this, the task then, question, to me, is what kind of flexibilities and resiliencies and should be programmed into such a policy so its norm-critical perspective prevails? Maduro's axiom, prompts

---

---

and a sigh, an unclenching of the jaws and a relaxing of the shoulders and leads us to asking different questions.

Maduro additionally writes:

All epistemological problems are simultaneously political and ethical problems. All political problems are simultaneously ethical and epistemological problems. All ethical problems are simultaneously political and epistemological problems. Actual power dynamics, our efforts toward knowledge, and our accountability toward our planet and all our fellow creatures are intricately intertwined with each other.

This axiom is one that, in some ways, Munish Wadhia consistently works with and reveals in his practice and research surrounding colonial history reflected in visual culture. His conversation with art historian and researcher Åsa Bharathi Larsson, surrounding his research during his time as a *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts* artist in residency brought to the fore, amongst other things, Sweden's 'colonial amnesia' that sees the erasure, in the collective memory, of Sweden as a colonial player. Åsa notes that while archival material, including prints, may tell a colonial history, the lack of naming certain archives as 'colonial archives' in Sweden, means that a different narrative around the national identity emerges. I look forward to sharing with you a form of this conversation in an upcoming publication documenting Year 1 of *Samlande tankar/Collecting Thoughts*.

Thank you for reading and until soon.

Signed,  
Mmabatho Thobejane  
Process leader and curator