

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## MARIE CIVIKOV

Marie Civikov's work merges her grandmother's written memoirs with archival photographs and bright interjections of dream-like images. Civikov's grandmother was an indischwoman; born to a native Javanese mother named Painem and a Belgian father. The pastiche of visuals and text brings the past into the present, critically reflecting on the oftentimes privileged existence of indischpeople in the archipelago while bringing attention to current forms of colonial oppression. This series reflects on different aspects of the colonial economy: the import of colonially produced goods into the local economy (including Mauser rifles which are still used by the Israeli Occupation Forces on Palestinian soil today), the feudal systems of pay and usury on European-owned land, and the weighted use of the derogatory word koelie to describe informal and indentured physical labourers. The words used by Civikov's grandmother illustrate colonial attitudes towards labour, and the alienation of native workers and peasants from the European bourgeois sensibility. Civikov's artistic interpretation of her complicated family history represents the entanglements of the personal and the political. It carefully reveals the subtle ways in which social and economic class division permeate into perceptions of one's surroundings; urging a reflection on the ways these legacies continue to obscure the systems of oppression operating before our own eyes. Text: Dewi Sofia Laurente for 'It smells of sweat and jasmine' at CBK Zuidoost, 2025

## WEBSITES

[www.mariecivikov.nl](http://www.mariecivikov.nl)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/marie.civikov/](https://www.instagram.com/marie.civikov/)

## MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Æther Haga, a sister and satellite of Æther Sofia (BG)

## PLATFORM

jegensentevens.nl

## EDUCATION

1998 - Autonom Rotterdam, Willem de Kooning  
2002 Academie diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

2025 Something Else IV Citadel of Saladin  
Cairo, Egypt Something Else is an  
annual all-out exhibition organised by

## PROJECTS

2015 De Torenkamer Opium op radio 4 (AVRO)  
werkperiode van 1 week in de Torenkamer  
van VondelCS met live verslaggeving in

	the team of Darb1718, with the direction of artistic director Simon Njami and director Moataz Nasr. Each year, a selection of international and Egyptian curators brings a proposal to the historic Citadel of Salah-el-Din on a promontory in Cairo. The mission of this exhibition is to create a significant moment of gathering of local and international artists around a month-long exhibition and a full programme of public events. International artists meet and congregate with the dynamic artistic circles of Egypt. <a href="http://somethingelse.art/Group">somethingelse.art/Group</a>		Opium op radio 4.
		2011	Groot Grafiek CBK Rotterdam Opdracht tot onderzoek naar grafische technieken om uiteindelijk tot prints te komen van groot formaat in Grafisch Atelier Daglicht, Eindhoven.
		2009	"Open atelier" als onderdeel van randprogrammering Ro Theater weken RO Theater Randprogrammering Ro-weken in de Rotterdamse Schouwburg
		2009	Op zoek naar het Noordgevoel n.a.v. een project van Nynke Deinema en Caroline de Roy Kortste artist in residence ter wereld in Amsterdam-Noord
2025	It smells of sweat and jasmine CBK Zuidoost Amsterdam, Netherlands It smells of sweat and jasmine - CBK Zuidoost Curated by Dewi Laurente (& friends :) It smells of sweat and jasmine addresses labour issues in colonial, contemporary, and diasporic Indonesia through the lens of women and genderqueer artists. Through collecting the artists' personal histories, experiences, and research, the exhibition traces the complex intersections of patriarchal violence, capitalist labour exploitation, and (neo)colonial plunder. Essentialist ideas of gendered labour in the archipelago were introduced by both native feudal and Dutch colonial systems, further enshrined in the 20th century by the fascist New Order in their policies of ibuisme negara (state motherhood). Throughout shifts in power, gender became consolidated within the binary of the male worker and female homemaker, condemning all those who exist in the margins—trans* and genderqueer (informal) workers, women farmers and factory workers—to deviant existences. This effectively erased their struggles and concerns in governmental development policies, while continuing to reap the economic benefits of their productive labour. The exhibition is modelled after Indonesia's street-side second-hand bookstores, as an ode to its desire to recirculate epistemologies of gendered labour. Through both artistic works and a curated selection of publications, the		

exhibition urges visitors to examine their own relationship to gender and labour through their engagement with different forms of knowledge. Part art exhibition, part archive, and part library, it smells of sweat and jasmine threads together a myriad of voices into a chorus that demands fair and just working conditions for those who hold up more than half the sky.

[www.cbkzuidoost.nl/tentoonstellingen/nunen-verwacht/it-smells-of-sweat-and-jasmine/?lang=en](http://www.cbkzuidoost.nl/tentoonstellingen/nunen-verwacht/it-smells-of-sweat-and-jasmine/?lang=en)

Group

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[www.cbkzuidoost.nl/tentoonstellingen/nunen-verwacht/it-smells-of-sweat-and-jasmine/?lang=en](http://www.cbkzuidoost.nl/tentoonstellingen/nunen-verwacht/it-smells-of-sweat-and-jasmine/?lang=en)

Group

- 2024 Being embedded in ulterior layers  
Odapark Venray, Netherlands Marie Civikov, Iver Uhre Dahl, Karla Paredes K, Fedrik Vaessen & Noa Zuidervaart met within the Apprentice/Master project of Kunstpodium T in Tilburg. At the end of this trajectory, they were awarded the Jan Naaijken Prize 2023 as a collective. Part of the prize is this follow-up exhibition at Odapark. In 'Being embedded in ulterior layers' the artists collectively weave a layered landscape. Within this environment they reflect on (fictional) pasts, the turbulent present and possible futures. What is affected by the ravages of time, and what remains intact? Using artificial remains, the artists explore our understanding of temporality and permanence. Marie Civikov's sculptural paintings hang from the ceiling in this landscape like banners or shields, recounting a complex family history intertwined with the Dutch history of migration and colonialism. Translated with DeepL.com (free version)  
[www.odapark.nl/tentoonstelling/item/314-embedded-in-ulterior-layers](http://www.odapark.nl/tentoonstelling/item/314-embedded-in-ulterior-layers)  
Group

- 2024 the head, the hat, the soul, the soil SEA Foundation Tilburg, Netherlands The exhibition is curated and accompanied with a text by Julia Fidler which you can read/download on my website.  
[www.seafoundation.eu/marie-civikov-artist-netherlands-wearables/](http://www.seafoundation.eu/marie-civikov-artist-netherlands-wearables/)  
Solo

- 2022 Structura Gallery Sofia, Bulgaria  
[structura.gallery/en/](http://structura.gallery/en/)  
Solo

- 2020 #stateofexception Art Project Depot /

+359 Gallery Sofia / online, Bulgaria On March 13, 2020, a state of exception was stated in Bulgaria, as in many countries around the world, in connection with the declared pandemic of Covid 19 virus. The subsequent social isolation stopped not only the normal rhythm of life for every citizen from the affected countries, it rescheduled all over the world under completely new rules of conduct in the public arena unforeseen for us all. Unexpectedly, we found ourselves in a situation of an unfamiliar form of government, which, according to Giorgio Agamben's definition, "is no one's land between public law and political fact, and between law and order." In his book Homo Sacer 2: The State of Exception Agamben explores this "temporary and extraordinary" measure of emergency management from the time of the Roman Empire to the present day. At the heart of this analysis is Agamben's observation that such a government technique is "increasingly presented as the dominant paradigm of government in the contemporary politics", and threatens to radically transform the structure and meaning of the traditional distinction between the constitutionally established forms of power (legislative, executive, judiciary). Or, as Agamben describes it, "the state of exception" is "the threshold between democracy and absolutism." In this sense, he examines the difference between the political and the legal, and between the law and the living being, while trying to answer a fundamental question for our time: What does it mean to act politically? The #stateofexception project launches on April 5, 2020 with an online exhibition hosted by +359 Gallery [www.plus359gallery.com](http://www.plus359gallery.com) and Art Project Depot association [www.artprojectdepot.com](http://www.artprojectdepot.com), in partnership with KX - Critique & Humanism Publishing House [www.kx-publishing.org](http://www.kx-publishing.org). Our goal was to start a discussion on the state of exception involving contemporary visual artists, publishers, philosophers and cultural scientists. The exhibition is a constant dialogue between the artists, the

artistic platforms on which the event takes place and the publishing house, which adds book quotes from books, published by Critique & Humanism, to the works prepared by the artists for the project.  
[plus359gallery.com/en/stateofexception/Group](http://plus359gallery.com/en/stateofexception/Group)

- 2019 Digital Ecologies Ancient Bath Sofia, Bulgaria Digital Ecologies 2018-2019, Plovdiv, Bulgaria: an international exhibition project in two folds Fold II, 2019. Digital Dramatizations: Ecologies from the Future (04 May - 30 June 2019; symposium 05/06 May 2019) Fold I, 2018. Operaismo Naturale: Ecology of the Event (27 July - 05 September 2018) Curated by Dimitrina Sevova Digital Ecologies is part of the program of Plovdiv 2019, European Capital of Culture. [digital-ecologies.arttoday.org/Group](http://digital-ecologies.arttoday.org/Group)
- 2018 Soft Power Palace Kunstgebäude Stuttgart Stuttgart , Germany with Æther Sofia, an initiative by a.o. Akademie Schloss Solitude, ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen  
[www.softpowerpalace.de/#participationGroup](http://www.softpowerpalace.de/#participationGroup)
- 2018 The Revolution will not die with Us #2, Robotic Thought Sofia City Art Gallery Sofia, Bulgaria performance and installation in collaboration with Voin de Voin  
[jegensentevens.nl/2018/03/the-revolution-will-not-die-with-us/Group](http://jegensentevens.nl/2018/03/the-revolution-will-not-die-with-us/Group)
- 2018 The Revolution will not die with Us #3, You have seen me in your Sleep Ruimtevaart The Hague, Netherlands performance and installation with Voin de Voin and Andrew Fremont-Smith  
[mariecivikov.nl/trwndwu.htmlDuo](http://mariecivikov.nl/trwndwu.htmlDuo)
- 2017 Willem Twee Kunstruimte Encounter with the unknown  
[Solo](#)
- 2017 Revealing Galerie Nouvelles Images The Hague, Netherlands  
[jegensentevens.nl/2017/11/nouvelles-](http://jegensentevens.nl/2017/11/nouvelles-)

[images-legt-bloot-koubaa-heeken-van-den-toorn-civikov/](https://images-legt-bloot-koubaa-heeken-van-den-toorn-civikov/)

Group

- 2016 TETEM Kunstruimte, Enschede Size Matters - We Like Art - groepstentoonstelling  
[Group](#)
- 2013 Galerie Maurits van de Laar Bad Times New Religion  
[Group](#)
- 2012 Novosibirsk State Art Museum (Russia) International Triennial of Contemporary Graphic Arts  
[Group](#)
- 2012 Kunsthal Rotterdam AANWINST Collectie Hogeschool Rotterdam  
[Group](#)
- 2011 Every picture tells a story TENT Rotterdam  
[Group](#)
- 2011 Koninklijke Paleis Amsterdam Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst  
[Group](#)

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Elias Canetti House Ruse, Bulgaria With the generous support of The Artist in Residence grant „Sharing Future“ of the International Elias Canetti Society, sponsored by the Danube Rectors' Conference, I have spent the month of September in my father's hometown Ruse (Bulgaria) in the Elias Canetti House to explore some more of the family archives.  
[eliascanetti.org/2024/07/04/sharing-future-scholarship-holder-2024/](https://eliascanetti.org/2024/07/04/sharing-future-scholarship-holder-2024/)
- 2018 Akademie Schloss Solitude Stuttgart, Germany Soft Power Palace, uitwisselingsproject Europese kunstinitiatieven

## COMMISSIONS

- 2011 CBK Rotterdam Rotterdam Groot grafiek, zie finished
- 2010 DGS Harderwijk tekeningen finished
- 2010 diverse Rotterdam/Den Haag portretten finished
- 2007 eye2eye media Hilversum portret finished

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2017	Diverse particuliere aankopen 2003 - 2017 NL schilderijen
2016	Stroom Den Haag, Stroom Pro Premium Den Haag
2012	Hogeschool Rotterdam Rotterdam schilderij
2012	Ploum Lodder Princen Rotterdam schilderij
2012	Collectie Hugo & Carla Brown Den Haag Schilderij
2011	CBK Rotterdam Rotterdam grafiek

## PUBLICATIONS

2016	Terugblik op De Torenkamer AvroTros online interview
2015	Dichtkunstkrant Efrat Zehavi en Florimond Wassenaar <a href="http://mariecivikov.nl/press.html">mariecivikov.nl/press.html</a> a magazine about poetry, art and current eveJaarlijks magazine over poëzie en beeldende kunst.e
2014	Een Kritische Positie. Over schilderijen van Marie Civikov Philip Peters <a href="http://mariecivikov.nl/about-press/index.html">mariecivikov.nl/about-press/index.html</a> Essay
2012	Aanwinst / ACQUISITION Kunstcollectie Hogeschool Rotterdam UitgAanwinst / Aave Hogeschool Rotterdam Catalogus bij de gelijknamige tentoonstelling in de Kunsthall
2011	Signalement "Genadeloos binnenkomen" Kunstbeeld, Sandra Spijkerman <a href="http://mariecivikov.nl/about-press/Kunstbeeld%20jan.%202012%20-%20tekst%20Sandra%20Spijkerman.html">mariecivikov.nl/about-press/Kunstbeeld%20jan.%202012%20-%20tekst%20Sandra%20Spijkerman.html</a> 6 pagina's in woord en beeld.
2011	Koninklijke prijzen vrije schilderkunst uitgereikt NRC Handelsblad recensie over de Koninklijke Prijs 2011
2011	Tegen de pixeladepten, schilderen anno 2011 De Groene Amsterdammer, Paul Kempers recensie van Every Picture Tells A Story, tentoonstelling in TENT Rotterdam
2011	Geen titel, Radio interview VPRO Radio, De Avonden interview in een reportage over Every Picture Tells A Story, tentoonstelling in TENT Rotterdam
2011	Catalogus Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst 2011 Stichting Koninklijk Paleis Amsterdam Catalogus bij de gelijknamige prijs en tentoonstelling

## REVIEWS

2018	Towards Possible Futures - Schloss-Post Blog/Vlog The interview was conducted by Denise Helene Sumi Germany <a href="http://schloss-post.com/towards-possible-futures/?">schloss-post.com/towards-possible-futures/?</a>
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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2021	PRO Onderzoek, Stroom Den Haag
2017	Werkbijdrage Bewezen Talent mondriaan fonds



	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd9u4dpfdBg">fbclid=IwAR1jZHYDk7VhZzW8sm3BhtK_wZq516Z-qBGghZjtWZPxxw9_ONg6TabfK4</a>	2016	PRO Premium, Stroom Den Haag
	Interview About Becoming The Other, Our contribution to Schloss-Post, the open platform of Akademie Schloss Solitude in the run-up to the Soft Power Palace Festival where we will be present with Æther. with Æther: Voin de Voin, Marie Civikov, and Andrew Fremont Smith — Oct 15, 2018	2011	Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst St. Koninklijk Paleis Amsterdam
		2010	Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst (nominatie) St. Koninklijk Paleis Amsterdam
		2009	Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst (nominatie) St. Koninklijk Paleis Amsterdam
2018	Revolutia TV Sofia, Bulgaria <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd9u4dpfdBg">www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd9u4dpfdBg</a> "Revolutia", Tele-doc by Silviya Stanoeva and Andrey Volkashin on The Revolution will not die with Us, during the making of episode 2, Robotic thought, a long term project in collaboration with Voin de Voin. Part of the series "Atelié" broadcasted on (BNT) by Alma Mater tv. (EN/BG) 2018	2006	Basissubsidie (Productiesubsidie) Fonds BKVB
		2004	Buning Brongersprij's Buning Brongersstichting

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - --	Advisor Mondriaan Fund On-going
2021 - --	Educator Kunstmuseum On-going
2020 - --	Adviescommissie Cultuur Alkmaar On-going
2018 - 2021	Commissie Broedplaatsensubsidies
2013 - 2024	redacteur Jegens&Tevens On-going
2012 - 2012	Gastdocent Willem de Koning Academie Rotterdam
2009 - 2009	Docent tekenen en schilderen TU Delft
2006 - 2011	Museumdocent Gemeentemuseum Den Haag



It's not the eyes that can't see, but the hearts that are blind - Pray for us (left), Children of God - Anak Tuan Allah (right), 2025  
acrylic and oil on artificial Javanese waxblock print fabric, ±115 x 245 (double-sided)



For that amount, he bowed like a penknife + Sewing fee: One guilder, 2024  
oil/acrylics on artificial/factory java wax print, 180 x 120 cm. (double-sided)



Dearest mom, 2024  
Oil/acrylic/canvas, 140 x 40 + 200 x 45, double-sided



Resistance, 2024  
oil/acrylic/canvas, ± 200 x 80 cm. double sided



In roosters we trust, 2024  
oil/acrylic/canvas, ± 200 x 50 cm. double sided



Head, 2022  
2020-2022, canvas/oil/acrylic, 210 x 145

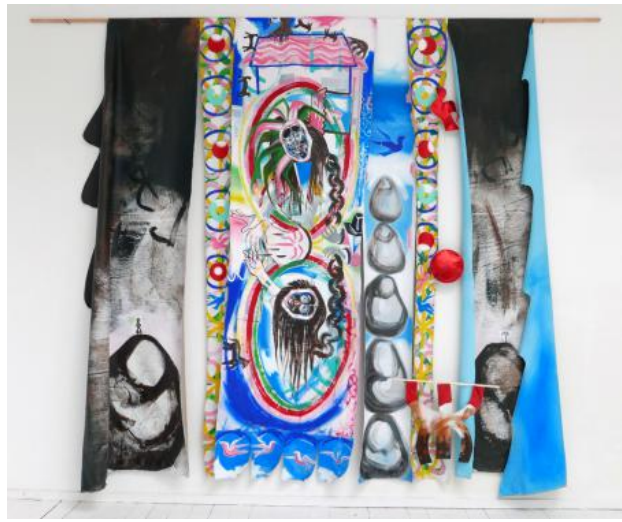


Dreaming of Home, 2022  
Oil/acrylic/table cloth, 67 x 67



In search of, 2021  
oil/acrylic/table cloth, 50 x 50





A Roof, 2021  
Canvas/acrylic/oil/artificial leather, 220 x 220



B. Esties, 2020  
2:22