

RENZO MARTENS

*1973 in Terneuzen (Netherlands),
lives and works in Brussels and Kin-
shasa

Education

2013
Yale World Fellow

2010 – 2015
PHD at the School of Arts, Ghent

2010
ISCP, New York

1999–2000
Free University, Brussels

1993–1996
Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam

1992–1993
Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent

1991–1992
Political Sciences, University Nijmegen

Awards

2015 • Amsterdam Art Prize
• Witteveen+Bos Art
+Technology Award

2013 • Prins Bernhard Culture Fund
Documentary Stipend

2010 • Flemish Cultural Award of
Film
• Dutch Film Fund Incentive
Price

Solo Exhibitions (Selection)

2017 • Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs des Plantations Congolaises,
Sculpture Center, New York (with Institute for Human Activities)

2016 • Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs des Plantations Congolaises,
Middlesbrough Institut of Modern Art (with Institute for Human
Activities)

2015 • A Lucky Day, KOW, Berlin (with Institute for Human Activities)
• A New Settlement, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam
(with Institute for Human Activities)
• The Matter of Critique, KunstWerke, Berlin (with Institute for
Human Activities)

2014 • The BOX Gallery, Los Angeles

2011 • Episode 3, Kunsthalle Goteborg

2009 • Episode 3, Wilkinson Gallery, London

2008 • Episode 3, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam

2005 • Episode 1, Vtape, Toronto

2004 • Episode 1, Marres, Maastricht

2003 • Episode 1, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam

1999 • Rien ne va plus, de Merodestraat, Brussels

Group Exhibitions (Selection)

2022 • Paradys, Arcadia, Leeuwarden

2020 • Monoculture / A Recent History, M HKA Museum of Contemporary
Art, Antwerp

2019 • The Wall and Other Stories, Total Museum of Contemporary Art,
Seoul

2017 • Transactions – About the value of artistic labour, Haus am
Lützowplatz, Berlin (with Institute for Human Activities)

2016 • Out of the Dark, KOW, Berlin
• Bread and Roses, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw
• Shock Room, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam

2015 • Neither Back Nor Forward: Acting in the Present, Jakarta Biennial
• Produktion (with the Institute for Human Activities), Galerie
nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Vienna
• Art Brussels, KOW (with the Institute for Human Activities)
• Art Cologne, KOW (with the Institute for Human Activities)
• Art Rotterdam, Galerie Fons Welters (with the Institute for Human
Activities)

2014 • Confessions of the Imperfect (with the Institute for Human
Activities), Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
• Artes Mundi 6 (with the Institute for Human Activities), National
Museum Cardiff
• Böse Clowns, Hartware Medien Kunstverein, Dortmund
• Manifesto! An alternative history of photography, Folkwang
Museum / Kunstmuseum Winterthur
• Hunting and Collecting, Mu.Zee, Ostend
• You Imagine what You Desire, 19th Biennale of Sydney
• It's my hair and I can do what I want with it, Galerie Kamm, Berlin
• 9 Artists (with the Institute for Human Activities) MIT List Visual

- Art Center, Cambridge
- 2013 • Arte Útil (with the Institute for Human Activities) Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
- global aCtlVISm, ZKM I Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe
 - 9 Artists (with the Institute for Human Activities) Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
 - Ghost in the system – scenarios for resistance, Moscow Biennale
 - Space of Exception, Artplay, Moscow Biennale
 - Either/Or, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin
 - Either/Or, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen
- 2012 • Forget Fear, 7th Berlin Biennial, (with the Institute for Human Activities), Berlin
- Models for Taking Part, (curated by Juan Gaitan), Kenderdine Art Gallery, Saskatoon
 - A Series of Navigations, Sligo, Ireland
- 2011 • Moscow Auditorium, A Sketch for a Public Space (curated by Ekaterina Degot, Joanna Mytkowska, David Riff) Moscow
- Le Peuple qui Manque, Le Bal, Paris
 - Models for Taking Part, Hart House, University of Toronto
 - Radical Ruptures, Kunsthalle Charlottenburg, Copenhagen (with a lecture by TJ Demos on Episode 3)
 - All that Fits, the Aesthetics of Journalism, (curated by Alfredo Cramerotti and Simon Sheikh), Quad, Derby
 - A Film Cycle, Nomas Foundation, Rome
 - Models for Taking Part, (curated by Juan Gaitan), Presentation house Gallery, Vancouver
 - Antiphotjournalism, (curated by Tom Keenan and Carles Guerra), Foam, Amsterdam
 - My War, Participation in an Age of Conflict, Kingston
 - Alias, (curated by Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin), Krakow Photo Month, Krakow
- 2010 • Into the Eye of the Storm, (curated by Chen Tamir), Center for Digital Art, Holon
- 2nd Antakya Biennale, (curated by Dessislava Dimova) Antakya
 - The Ethics of the Encounter, Stills Gallery, Edinburgh
 - Monumentalism, (curated by Jelle Bouwhuis), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
 - Antiphotjournalism (curated by Thomas Keenan and Carles Guerra), La Vireinna, Barcelona
 - The Human Condition, (curated by Adam Budak), Kunsthaus Graz
 - 6th Berlin Biennial, (curated by Kathrin Rhomberg), Berlin
 - My War, Edith Russ Haus fir Medienkunst, Oldenburg
 - All that is Solid Melts into the Air, Museu Coleccao Berardo, (curated by Miguel Amado), Lisbon
 - And the Moral of the Story is..., (curated by Zoe Grey), Apex Art, NYC
 - My War, FACT, Liverpool
 - Self as Dissapearance, Espace d' Art Contemporain La Synagogue de Delme, Delme
 - Morality, ACT III, And the Moral of the Story is, Witte de With, Rotterdam
- 2009 • Recent Acquisitions, De Hallen, Haarlem
- Le Temps de la Fin, Espace d' Art Contemporain La Tollerie, Clermond Ferrand
 - Rien ne va Plus, Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
 - Endurance, Abington Art Center, (curated by Sue Spaid), Philadelphia
 - Exploring the Age of Repression, Pavilion, Bucharest
 - Images Recalled, Fotofestival Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg
 - Monumentalismus, One's History is Another's Misery, (curated by

- Jelle Bouwhuis), Autocenter, Berlin
- Until the End of the World, AMP Gallery, Athens
- 2008
- To burn oneself with oneself: the Romantic Damage Show, De Appel, Amsterdam
 - L'Art en Europe, Domaine Pommery, Reims
 - Weder Entweder Noch Oder, Wuerttembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart
 - Manifesta 7, Matter of Fact, (curated by Krist Gruijthuijsen) Treviso
 - Brussel Biennial, (curated by Barbara Vanderlinden) Brussels
 - Matter of Fact; Aftermath, Galeria Vermelho, Sao Paulo
- 2007
- A Picture of War is not War, Wilkinson Gallery, London
- 2006
- A Picture of War is not War, Wilkinson Gallery, London
 - Excess, Z'33, Hasselt
- 2005
- Inner and Outer Worlds, Argos festival, Argos, Brussels
 - Soft Target, Basis Actuele Kunst, Utrecht
 - Undercurrents, Presentations by Hito Steyerl, Boris Buden, Renzo Martens, Basis Actuele Kunst, Utrecht
- 2004
- Plug-In, Futura, Prague
 - Yugoslav Biennial, Vrsac
 - Monitoring, Kunstverein Kassel
- 2003
- Urban Dramas, De Singel, Antwerp
 - Etablissements d'en Face, Brussels

Film Festival Participations

- 2010
- CPH:Docx, Copenhagen
 - Anasy Doc, Abu Dhabi
 - Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara Film Festival México, Guadalajara
 - Leeds International Film Festival, Great Britain
 - One World Romania, Bucharest
 - :Dokufest, Prirzen, Kosovo
 - Salem Film Fest, Jerusalem
 - Festival de Cine Africano de Tarifa
 - Vermont International Film Festival, Vermont
 - Jersey Amnesty film festival, Jersey
 - Helsinki International Film Festival, Helsinki
 - Aarhus Filmfestival
 - Festival Cinema Africano, Asia, America Latina, Milan
 - Bergen Internasjonale Filmfestival
 - Nederlands Filmfestival, Utrecht
 - Jerusalem Film Festival
 - Black Nights Film Festival, Tallinn
 - New Zealand International Film Festival
 - Planet+Doc Film Festival, Warsaw
 - Docville, Leuven
 - Dockanema, Maputo, Mosambique
 - MiradasDoc, Tenerife
 - Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire de Montréal
 - DocHouse, London
 - SilverDocs, Washington DC
 - Hot Docs, Toronto
 - Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Thessaloniki,
- 2008
- International Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)
- 2004
- International Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)
 - Golden Cube, Kassel
- 2003
- Urban Dramas, De Singel, Antwerp
 - Etablissements d'en Face, Brussels

Screenings, Symposia, Events (Selection)

- 2021 • White Cube, Online Stream
- 2017 • Conference The Matter of Critique Part IV, Sculpture Center, New York
- 2016 • Lecture, Kunstakademie Münster
- 2015 • Conference: Straight from the Horse's Mouth, Artes Mundi, Cardiff (with the Institute for Human Activities)
 - Conference The Matter of Critique, Lusanga, Congo (with the Institute for Human Activities)
 - Conference The Matter of Critique, Tate Modern, London (with the Institute for Human Activities)
 - Conference: Solidarity & Unionising, Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin (with the Institute for Human Activities)
 - Ruskin School, Oxford University, Oxford
 - Goldsmiths College, London
- 2014 • On the Institute for Human Activities, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
 - Susan Sontag Trilogie: Be Serious!#2 (with the Institute for Human Activities), De Balie, Amsterdam
 - Screening Episode 3 and conversation (on the Institute for Human Activities), CUNY Center for the Humanities, New York
 - On the Institute for Human Activities, MIT List Visual Art Center, Cambridge
 - More news on the Institute for Human Activities, Städelschule, Frankfurt
 - Episode III: Enjoy Poverty, VPRO NPO Doc, Netherlands
- 2013 • On the Institute for Human Activities, CPH:DOX, Copenhagen
 - Off-site panel: Art and Media in Congo, Congo in Harlem Film Festival, New York
 - On the Institute for Human Activities, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Hebel am Ufer, Berlin; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; University College, London; Wiels, Brussels
 - Battles Of Images, Contemporary Image Collective (CIC), Cairo
 - Interdisciplinary Seminar: T.J. Demos considers Episode III, Cooper Union School of Art, New York
 - The Politics of the Social in Contemporary Art, (with the Institute for Human Activities) Tate Modern, London
- 2012 • Registration of the Opening Seminar of the Institute for Human Activities, Closing event 7th Berlin Biennial, KunstWerke, Berlin
 - On the Institute for Human Activities, Städelschule, Frankfurt; Yale University, New Haven
- 2011 • Episode 3, The Thinking Eye, Kunstverein, Milan
 - Episode 3 (a conversation between Stefan Jonsson and Renzo Martens), House of Win Win, Goteborg
 - Episode 3, A conversation between Yehoshua Simon and Renzo Martens, Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon
 - Episode 1 and 3, A debate with Lieven de Cauter and Ruben de Roo, Ritz, Brussels
- 2010 • Capitalism and the Aesthetics of Knowledge in the 21st century, Kunsthalle Athena, Athen
 - Image Mouvement, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneve
 - 12 Gestures, Screening and Discussion around Episode 3, with Mathieu Abonnenc, Betonsalon, Fondation Kadist, Paris
 - Do We All Have Strength Enough to Endure the Misfortunes of

- Others?, A Conversation about Episode 3, with Jennifer Allen, Felix Ensslin, Renzo Martens, Ana Teixeira Pinto and Dieter Roelstraete, Salon Populaire, Berlin
- Episode 3, Screening, Liebaert Projects, Foundation for Contemporary Art, Kortrijk
 - Episode 3, Screenings and Discussions in Kinshasa, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles and Halle de la Gombe
 - Episode 3, A Screening and Conversation with Renzo Martens by T.J. Demos and Tamar Garb, Tate Modern, London
 - Uneven Geographies, curated by T.J. Demos and Alex Farquharson, Screening and Conversation with Alfredo Cramerotti and Renzo Martens, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham
 - The Hopelessness of Contemporary Art, Symposium around Episode 3, with TJ Demos, Hilde Van Gelder, Carles Guerra, Thomas Keenan, Toma Muteba Luntumbue, Renzo Martens, The Lieven Gevaert Research Centre for Photography, Leuven
 - Eric van Lieshout, Renzo Martens and Hans de Hartog-Jager at Museum de Hallen, Haarlem
- 2009
- Globaliseringslezing, A Conversation with Jos de Putter and Renzo Martens, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam
 - Episode 3, A Conversation with Jan Ritsema and Renzo Martens, Kaaithheater, Theaterfestival, Brussels
 - Episode 3, A Conversation with Dana Linsen, Renzo Martens and Joris Luyendijk, Ketelhuis, Amsterdam
 - The Future of Picturing the World: Filming and Imaging in a Global Era. A discussion with Lilie Chouliaraki, Max Houghton, Renzo Martens, Julian Stallabrass, London School of Economics, London
 - Episode 3, A Conversation between JJ Charlesworth and Renzo Martens, Wilkinson Gallery, London
 - Lost and Found at the New Museum, New York
 - Lapdogs of the Bourgeoisie, (curated by Nav Haq and Tirdad Zolghadr), Arnolfini, Bristol
 - Hors Pistes, and Collussions, Screenings and Debates, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2008
- Episode 3, A Conversation with Marc Nash and Renzo Martens, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam
 - A Prior # 16, A Conversation with Els Roelandt and Renzo Martens, Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent
 - Joris Luyendijk debat, LUX, Nijmegen
- 2007
- A Night with Renzo Martens, (curated by Krist Gruijthuisen), Platform Garanti, Istanbul
- 2004
- Whose story is it? IDFA Masterclass, Amsterdam
 - Constructing Visions, A Screening and Conversation with Renzo Martens, TENT, Rotterdam
 - Mediamatic Supersalon, A Conversation with Renzo Martens, Mediamatic, Amsterdam
 - I Love Video Art, Musee d'Art Contemporain, Strassbourg
- 2003
- Blick zum Nachbarn, Kunstfilmbiennale, (curated by Chris Dercon)