

"It is to produce an idea of the future of a new community in diversity, a community that is indifferent to critiques of populists"
(Andreas Zick)

"Refugees are the avant-garde of their people!"
(Hannah Arendt)

Migration route Tetterode

Tetterode is a monumental residential-work building in the centre of Amsterdam, which has a long tradition of supporting refugees without legal documents. Visitors will soon be able to follow a migration route throughout this entire building. A route along hope, fear, flight, hiding, waiting, struggle and homesickness, but also ambition, perseverance and talent. You can experience it through films, installations, exhibitions, discussions and workshops. Migrants reveal their dreams and experiences. What are their motives? Which obstacles do they encounter in realizing their ambitions? Adopting this perspective, we examine ourselves and the citizens, society and governments in Europe. How far does our own field of vision reach? Do we set limits to our solidarity and responsibility?

Migration as a mirror - loading & unloading

Europe presented itself as a bubble of prosperity, equal rights, civilization and democracy. Migration has punctured that bubble. Europe has become a fortress. It is not willing to share the profits of a globalizing economy. Refugees and migrants come here to share and contribute to this economy and values: "Loading and unloading".

The arrival of so many people fleeing from war, poverty and terror, forced to take increasingly dangerous routes to Europe - this arrival holds up a mirror to us. We may see ourselves as world citizens who lead a transnational life; however, do we also bear the consequences arising from the ideals that we stand for? Does our sense of responsibility stop at the borders? How international is our solidarity? Do we consider human rights universal or do they only apply here in Europe? And what are the contributing factors when we set limits: prejudice, miscommunication, poor education, individualism, lack of courage?

We could also look at migration differently. If we were all to see ourselves as migrants, then suddenly we would no longer feel like building forts and constructing dead-end routes. We would all become people who have the courage and creativity to build a new life.

Migrants? Everyone is a migrant. Nation states? Obsolete; the world belongs to everyone. Limits? To privacy, yes, to solidarity, no. An open society? This is by definition transnational. Talent? We all have it.