

'st_age', 2020 - Ongoing

WHAT

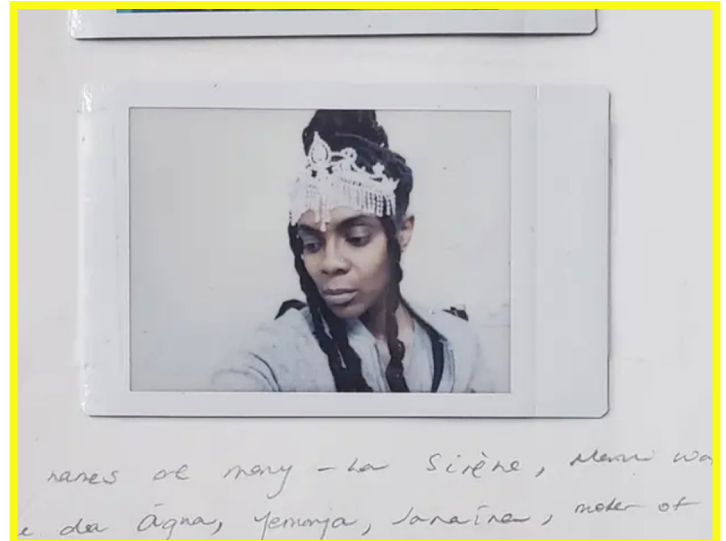
[st_age](#) is an online production programme which presents creative projects engaged in current urgent issues, in collaboration with partners from around the world. Each work is contextualized by a podcast series, artist conversations, research clusters and calls to action in order to strengthen their understanding and impact. [st_age](#) explores new ways of commissioning and making art accessible to a broad audience, triggering conversations that lay the ground for critical thinking. This online platform is an initiative by [Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary](#) (TBA21), a foundation and academy in Vienna and Madrid committed to supporting the production, commissioning and dissemination of unconventional, trans-disciplinary projects worldwide.

COMMISSIONS

[st_age](#) develops two [seasons](#) per year, each comprising of ten commissioned artworks, which are presented online and further explored through streamed artist talks, conversations and podcasts.

ARTISTS COMMISSIONED TO DATE

Yeo Siew Hua, Himali Singh Soin, Patricia Domínguez, Christian Salablanca Díaz, Dana Awartani, Dorine Mokha, Eduardo Navarro with BaRiya (Pratyush Pushkar and Riya Raagini), [freq_wave](#), Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Saraab (Omer Wasim and Shahana Rajani), Diana Policarpo, Courtney Desiree Morris, Asunción Molinos Gordo, Omar Mismar, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, Alaa Mansour, Claudia Comte, Abhishek Hazra.



Yemayá, Madre de Agua: Diasporic Spirituality, Marine Motherhood, and Black Feminism, Courtney Desiree Morris, 2021. Commissioned by st_age.

WHO

[st_age](#) has over 50 contributors, led by an executive team:

Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, **Editor-in-Chief**

Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza is an activist, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Driven by a belief in the power of art as an agent of change, Thyssen-Bornemisza has supported artists throughout her career to create work that fuels engagement with the most pressing issues of our times. Since 2002, TBA21 has built an unparalleled collection of contemporary art under Thyssen-Bornemisza's leadership, including more than 100 commissions. In 2011, Thyssen-Bornemisza co-founded TBA21-Academy with Director Markus Reymann, which convenes artists, scientists, policymakers and local leadership to catalyse oceanic research and advocacy.

Soledad Gutiérrez Rodríguez, Chief Curator

Soledad Gutiérrez Rodríguez has been working in the arts for the last twenty years, occupying different positions in various institutions from the Guggenheim Bilbao, to the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), and the Whitechapel Gallery in London. Most recently, she was the Director of CentroCentro in Madrid, where she developed a programme based on contemporary artistic practice and collective learning.

Nina Šperanda, Project Manager

Nina Šperanda has a strong background in cinematography, photography, education, and digital content. She graduated from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb and the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague. Šperanda has been working as a teaching assistant at Prague's Academy of Performing Arts, Department of Photography since 2017, where she also brings experience with social media and digital content, and has been a proud member of the TBA21 st_age team since its launch.

WHERE

st_age is an online platform with international contributors and audiences, operated by the TBA21 team from Vienna and Madrid.

WHY

st_age was developed by TBA21 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, in order to support artists to continue to carry out their commissions and to present these to international online audiences while museums were closed.

HOW

st_age has been realised thanks to the TBA21 Covid-19 emergency fund to support artists and cultural practitioners during the pandemic, and through the generous support of independent art organizations and curators: Ashkal Alwan, Dharamshala International Film

Festival, FLORA ars+natura, KHOJ, Kunsthall Trondheim, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and TBA21 Academy.

IMPACT

- st_age has continued to support artistic practice during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The online platform, which has a wider and more international reach than TBA21's physical exhibition venues, also invites audiences to support humanitarian charities linked to the commissions it presents through their online [Call to Action](#).

IMPACT INDICATORS

- To date, sixteen artists have been commissioned to carry out research and produce new work.
- In the first year since the launch, st_age addressed 25,000 visitors only through its online platform, and had more than 72,750 views.
- As part of their longstanding cultural programme *Metrópolis*, Spanish television has dedicated [two special programmes](#) to the first season of st_age.
- A physical exhibition of a selection of the projects from *Season 01: How To Tread Lightly* was presented at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid from October 2020 to January 2021.

"Like many institutions, we found ourselves having to cancel or postpone projects with artists we care deeply about. So we asked them if they would reconsider the commissioning format and create projects in response to an online platform, rather than for the Thyssen Museum in Madrid. We have created st_age as we have felt a responsibility towards artistic practice"

- FRANCESCA THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA