

PRESS RELEASE

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XR-History Award for *Loot. 10 stories*

The XR-History Award 2024 by Körber Stiftung’s eCommemoration programme goes to *Loot. 10 Stories* by Jongsma + O’Neill. This prize honors creative XR projects that skillfully combine elements of narration, art, and history to foster critical reflection on historical discourses and memory. The exhibition was initiated and developed by the Mauritshuis in The Hague in partnership with guest curators and creative directors Jongsma + O’Neill, and realised in cooperation with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin and the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz. It has since captivated audiences at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, where it can be seen until 26 January 2025.

In *Loot. 10 Stories*, artist duo Eline Jongsma and Kel O’Neill have investigated ten objects looted at various points in history — during the colonial era, the Napoleonic conquests of the early 19th century, and Nazi Germany. This immersive exhibition uses VR, documentary, and installation design to explore the issue of looted art in museum collections and examine potential steps — legal, technological, or personal — to address historical injustices. The project employs human-scaled storytelling to highlight the subjective perspectives of the people and communities impacted by the taking and exhibiting of looted art.

The Körber Stiftung’s eCommemoration programme awarded the [XR-History Award 2024](#) to *Loot. 10 Stories*. Jury member Esther Wright summarises: “This project offers a new way of asking the public to consider the status of looted objects in museums, openly reflecting ongoing conversations about this issue and facilitating a different take on the kind of “commemoration” that such institutions traditionally offer. There’s a nuanced contrast between the physical and digital, and past and present here: between the objects, their origin, current location, and how they arrived there. Underpinning this, the use of

XR tools have a specific purpose in the experience, rather than being employed for novelty. Different aspects of the installation take visitors to a different context to help them understand an object's complex history."

Eline Jongasma and Kel O'Neill: "We're deeply honoured to receive this award for our work creating Loot. 10 Stories. We hope the jury's decision will serve as a signal that risk-taking storytelling has a place in museums, and that new technologies can offer endless possibilities for confronting history in compelling and never-before-seen ways. After working in the immersive storytelling space for more than a decade, it is thrilling to see techniques that once seemed out of reach find large audiences throughout the world."

Loot. 10 Stories is a temporary exhibition initiated and developed by the Mauritshuis in The Hague in partnership with guest curators and creative directors Jongasma + O'Neill, and realised in cooperation with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin and the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz.

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