

PRESS RELEASE

21 September 2020, Amsterdam

### **SHAME! Exploring Masculinities**

Exhibition, publication and programme of events

**Open from 23 October 2020 till 31 January 2021**

Since the #MeToo movement, the connection between masculinity and power has been closely monitored. The focus on 'toxic masculinity' influences our perception of male sexuality and significantly affects men's self-image and self-esteem. Men are embarrassed by others and they feel embarrassed too. This program explores and researches the representation of male shame, nudity, fatherhood, violence, rape, fascism and virility, men and war from both male and female perspectives. The programme presents contemporary works that address the complexity and contradictions of these socio-cultural constructions and realities and combines a scientific approach with the artistic perspective, personal stories, conversations and workshops.

Curator **Ernst van Alphen** shows how the representation of masculinity in visual culture has changed significantly since the 1960's, with a.o. *politician, stateswoman, dick by dawn, enlarged* by **Ina van Zyl**, *the universal souvenir series* by **Natasja Kensmil**, the soundscape *special boy* by **Philip Miller** and an extensive print cabinet by **Marlene Dumas** with never before publicly shown work such as: *the sexuality of christ, man bound to his own sight, whatever happened to the greeks!* And with the works of **Jeanette Christensen** *la reproduction interdit*, **Arnoud Holleman** *family and friends*, sculptures of alabaster and soapstone by **Hans Hovy**, a video work by **Nalini Malani** and *chronophotography, nrs 1 to 5* by **Artur Żmijewski**.

On 22 October Valiz Uitgeverij in collaboration with H401 will publish the book **SHAME! and masculinity** with contributions by Wahbi Long, Maaïke Meijer, Tijs Goldschmidt, Adeola Enigbokan, Ernst van Alphen and visual essays by the participating artists.

For programme in the exhibition and the exact possibilities to visit, see: [h401.org/shame](http://h401.org/shame) Because of Corona there is no regular vernissage.

There will be an online registration of a 'private viewing' of **SHAME! and masculinity** by curator Ernst van Alphen and some of the participating artists.