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PRESS RELEASE MAMA & AVL at Documenta 15

For Documenta 15, Más Arte Más Acción (MAMA) reflects on climate change and deforestation, connecting knowledge and experience from the Colombian rainforests to the forests of Germany. During Documenta's 100 day duration, artists, activists and indigenous people will reflect on how monoculture and climate change have resulted in mass bark beetle infestations. Most of the programme will take place at the MAMA Werner, a mobile platform for social interaction created by Atelier Van Lieshout.

MAMA was founded in Western Colombia in 2011, to mark the 500th anniversary of Thomas Moore's groundbreaking publication *Utopia*. As an interdisciplinary network, it connects international artists, indigenous people, grass roots organisations and cultural initiatives. Together they discuss and rethink man's relationship with the natural environment and human interconnection. The prevailing paradigm of individuality is challenged drawing on non-western value systems.

MAMA's philosophy and practice are perfectly attuned to Documenta 15's leading principle of 'lumbung', the use of collective resources for the benefit of the community. During the event, MAMA will share its experiences and knowledge as an ecosystem. The programme consists of talks, debates, open readings, exhibitions, performances, film screenings and workshops. On 20 June 2022, Joep van Lieshout will participate in a talk at the MAMA Werner about MAMA's practices and his contribution to their operation in Chocó.

Most activities will take place in and around the MAMA Werner provided by Atelier Van Lieshout. It marks the continuation of the collaboration that MAMA and AVL first entered into in 2011. Joep van Lieshout travelled to Chocó and created a pavilion using a huge stump as a base. For over ten years it has functioned as a meeting place and office space for MAMA.

For Documenta 15, AVL will provide MAMA Werner, a mobile platform for social interaction and change. Its metal body functions as a documentation centre and library. An attached tent provides space for workshops, screenings and other public activities. AVL has also created a round table with a 14 metre diameter that will be used for debates and communal gatherings. The MAMA Werner is outfitted with a pyrolyser, capable of transforming left-over plastics into diesel. And the installation is completed with the *Excrementus Megalomanus*, a composting machine that turns human excrement into fertilizer.

The MAMA Werner was named after Werner Herzog, the pioneer of the New German Cinema, who always keeps on going. He is not unlike the protagonist in his masterpiece *Fitzcarraldo*, who has a steamboat pulled over a South American ridge to open up a new rubber production area – the height of imperialistic pride and destructiveness. In Kassel, MAMA Werner shows how much damage the likes of *Fitzcarraldo* have done over the centuries, which effects continue to this day and which solutions can be developed with respect for local knowledge and needs. The MAMA Werner may look like a war machine, but has purely peaceful intentions.

Documenta 15 marks a pause in MAMA's active programme. Its members will use the time to reflect on their practice and ways to make the latter more sustainable, especially with respect to funding. AVL will strengthen MAMA's financial foundations by donating half the proceeds, if the MAMA Werner is sold.

