

Anoek Steketee and Eefje Blankevoort

Love Radio: Episodes of Love and Hate

as part of the *A New Display: Visual Storytelling at a Crossroads* exhibition

Curator: Iris Sikking

Love Radio (2014) is a transmedia documentary project about the process of reconciliation in post-genocide Rwanda. The project was disseminated in the form of an online documentary, tap stories for mobile phones, journalistic magazine articles, and a traveling exhibition.

In 1994, virulent hate campaigns in the media were at the heart of a genocide taking place amongst the Hutu and the Tutsi in Rwanda. Today, on the same frequency that once incited the murder of the Tutsi *inyenzi* (cockroaches), the radio soap *Musekeweya* (“New Dawn”) broadcasts a message of reconciliation. The soap is immensely popular, with millions tuning in weekly.

The web documentary reveals the complex reality of the country. The On Air layer retells the radio soap’s fictional story of hate, violence, and love in two rival villages. In the Off Air layer, the artists portray the country and sketch a picture of contemporary Rwanda. While in the soap happy endings predominate, in real life reconciliation is rather more intransigent.

Love Radio combines film with photography, audio, text, and archival material. Using excerpts from the actual soap, interviews with the creators, portraits of and fan mail from listeners, and images of Rwanda’s countryside, the project gradually shows that “the truth” does not exist—only different versions of reality.

The web documentary can be found online:

www.loveradio-rwanda.org

Anoek Steketee (1974) and **Eefje Blankevoort** (1978) previously collaborated on the project *Dream Cities* (2010), a journey through the constructed worlds of amusement parks. Steketee is represented by Flatland Gallery (NL). Blankevoort works for her own journalism production company, Prospektor.