

PRESS RELEASE | NEW EXHIBITION

# Charging Myths

Framer Framed and Z33 present *Charging Myths*, a group exhibition by the transnational artist collective On-Trade-Off. Opening on **23 February** and running until **4 June 2023** at Framer Framed in Amsterdam Oost, *Charging Myths* explores how technological innovation is dependent on natural resources by delving into our relationship with energy – from its colonial past to its unequal technological present.

Participating artists include the self-declared contemporary 'griot' Pélagie Gbaguidi, the previously Prix de Rome-nominated Femke Herregraven, artist and scientist Jean Katambayi Mukendi, and Maarten Vanden Eynde, co-founder of artist initiative Enough Room for Space.

Framer Framed is pleased to invite you to a press preview of *Charging Myths*. During the preview, curatorial advisor IIs Huygens and various artists from the collective On-Trade-Off will be present. Reserve a spot by emailing [press@framerframed.nl](mailto:press@framerframed.nl)



Beeld: Kristof Vrancken / Z33

EXHIBITION DATES  
ARTIST COLLECTIVE  
CURATORIAL ADVICE  
PRESS PREVIEW  
GUIDED TOUR  
OPENING

vr 24 feb - zo 4 jun 2023, di-zo 12:00-18:00 (Gratis entree)  
On-Trade-Off  
IIs Huygens  
Thu 23 Feb 2023, 17:00-18:00 (Reserve via [press@framerframed.nl](mailto:press@framerframed.nl))  
Thu 23 Feb 2023, 18:00-19:00 (For Framer Framed Friends)  
Thu 23 Feb 2023, 19:00-21:00 - Open for public ([Reserve a spot](#))

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**ADDRESS**

Oranje- Vrijstaatkade 71  
1093 KS Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

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**OPENING HOURS**

di - zo  
12:00 - 18:00

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**CONTACT**

[info@framerframed.nl](mailto:info@framerframed.nl)  
[www.framerframed.nl](http://www.framerframed.nl)  
[@framerframed](https://www.instagram.com/framerframed)

## PRESS

For inquiries, photographs,  
and artist contacts, please feel free to  
contact us at [press@framerframed.nl](mailto:press@framerframed.nl)

Taking the recent lithium rush as a starting point, *On-Trade-Off* explores a broad range of questions surrounding the connections between raw materials, technological industries, financial speculation, and the history of electricity.

The search begins in Manono, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where the world's largest stock of lithium ore was recently discovered. The former mining town is a place that hovers between past and present. While the scars of the colonial mining industry are still visible, multinationals launch large-scale mining of lithium, an important resource in the race for more sustainable sources of energy.

The artworks zoom in on the global race for raw materials – from exploitation to financial speculation, from raw materials to high-tech products. The 'Trade-Off' is a fundamentally unequal exchange. It takes place between technological growth and increasing inequality, between overconsumption and survival, between the precious metals we carelessly carry in our pockets and the hands that extract them from the earth.

The artists focus on collaboration and knowledge distribution, offering an artistic counterweight to the capitalistic logic of exploitation and extraction. Alongside a critical outlook, *Charging Myths* showcases the magic of energy and electricity, the resilience of man and land, and the belief in a new sun.

*Previously shown at Z33 (Hasselt, BE), Charging Myths is a coproduction of Framer Framed and Z33.*

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**On-Trade-Off** is an artist-run project initiated by Atelier Picha (Lubumbashi) & Enough Room for Space (Brussels).

The project is designed as a collaborative research activity by a (growing) group of visual artists and critical thinkers that results in a series of (collaborative) art works, exhibitions, essays. All the participants approach *On-Trade-Off* from their own perspectives and specializations, looking at different raw materials, the history of electricity, financial speculation, and social and economic inequality. However, their works come about from collectively developed knowledge and research material around the various subjects, to be used as open source / shared materials, ultimately introducing a more sustainable method of (art) production.

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### Made possible with support from:

Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap; Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst; Gemeente Amsterdam; Framer Framed Friends.

The participation of Jean Katambayi Mukendi is made possible by the Thami Mnyele Foundation Residency Award.

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