

Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE
PAUL SIMON RICHARDS
QUASI-MONTE CARLO
6 April to 16 June 2019
Preview: Friday 5 April, 6–9pm



For his exhibition at Spike Island, London-based artist Paul Simon Richards presents *Quasi-Monte Carlo* (2019), an ambitious new video work exploring patterns of randomisation and their role in the production of an image. The work combines computer generated imagery and spoken word monologue in an attempt to depict an image of a dream holiday to Monte Carlo. Memories, fantasies, paranoia and desires cohere in a kaleidoscopic narrative that oscillates between the mundane and the spectacular.

Quasi-Monte Carlo is part of an ongoing body of video works dating back to 2016. The series takes its title from the name of the algorithm that Richards has used to produce the CGI footage that appears in different forms throughout these works. The equation that underpins this algorithm was originally devised during the late 19th century in and around the Monte Carlo Casino, where the work was filmed. Combining this formula with techniques borrowed from hypnotic induction and structural film, *Quasi-Monte Carlo* seeks to draw a link between the creation of an image in our minds – which involves the rapid processing of random information – and the creation of digital images, relating human error to questions of probability and random access.

The work includes performances by actress and Richards' long-term collaborator, Jacky Bahbout. Costumes are designed by artist Claire Hooper and the score is produced by experimental musician Kenichi Iwasa.

Quasi-Monte Carlo is commissioned by Film London Artists' Moving Image Network through FLAMIN Productions (2017).

Image: Paul Simon Richards *Quasi-Monte Carlo* (2019) Film still. Courtesy Paul Simon Richards and Arcade

– Ends –

For further information and high resolution images please contact Jane Faram, Communications Manager at Spike Island on jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk or +44 (0)117 9292266.

Notes for editors:

- Paul Simon Richards (b. 1981, UK, lives and works in London) studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London and holds a MA Philosophy from the University of Greenwich, London. Recent solo exhibitions include *L*a*b*, Arcade, London; *Love's Hidden Symmetry*, AND/OR, London (both 2016); and *Voices* at Nile Sunset Annex, Cairo (2015). His work has featured in group exhibitions at venues such as The Showroom, London; Frieze Art Fair (with Lucky PDF), London; Galerie kunstbuero, Vienna; Jerwood Space, London; and Modern Art Oxford; and film festivals such as the BFI London Film Festival, Experimenta section.
- In 2017, Richards was selected by FLAMIN Productions to make his video work *Quasi-Monte Carlo*, and in 2015 he was awarded the Fokus video prize, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen.
- *Quasi-Monte Carlo* is commissioned by FLAMIN Productions through Film London Artists' Moving Image Network with funding from Arts Council England. With additional support from Monte Carlo Société des Bains de Mer; Ranch Computing; Central Saint Martins College, University of the Arts London and Gasworks. Produced by Paul Simon Richards.
- Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design, located close to Bristol's harbourside. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.
- Spike Island is a partner of Tate as part of the Plus Tate network.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.



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