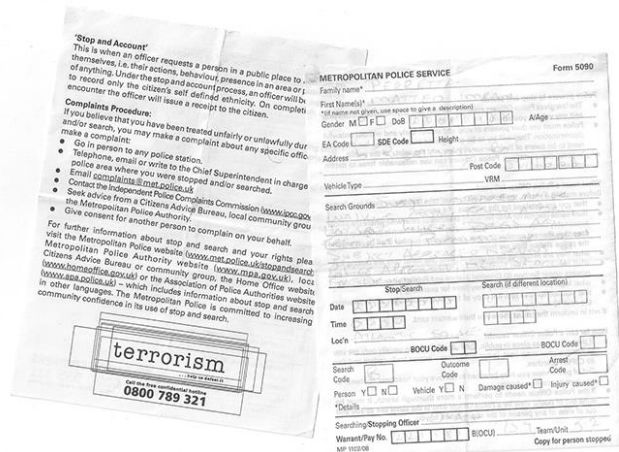


# Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE  
IMRAN PERRETTA  
*THE DESTRUCTORS*  
28 September to 8 December 2019  
Preview: Friday 27 September, 6–9pm



Imran Perretta's practice explores ideas of state power, identity and biopolitics. His major new two channel video work, *the destructors*, draws on the artist's own experience as a young man of Bangladeshi heritage, and explores personal and collective experiences of marginalisation and oppression.

The film is produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London and Spike Island, Bristol, and commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery; Spike Island; the Whitworth, The University of Manchester; and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead. It will be exhibited at partner venues across 2019 and 2020.

*the destructors* borrows its title from Graham Greene's 1954 short story. Set in post-war London, still recovering from the Blitz, Greene's story follows a gang of youths who plot to tear down an old man's house. In an era of desolation, hopelessness and austerity, Greene explores the destructive tendencies of young men in a society marred by inequality, material devastation and social death (a sociological term used to describe the condition of people not accepted as fully human by wider society). Perretta's *the destructors* reflects on the narrative of post-war disaffection in Greene's story, through the prism of the contemporary post 9/11 moment which is characterised by state sponsored Islamophobia and the perpetual 'War on Terror'. Taking the figure of the alienated male youth as a point of reference, the film meditates on the complexities of adolescence and 'coming of age' for young British Muslim men living in the UK.

Situated within the Bangladeshi community of Tower Hamlets, London, the film's script is informed by conversations with local young men invited to participate in a series of roundtable discussions around the issues affecting them. The workshops were devised in collaboration with the Mile End Community Project, a community organisation working with young people



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on film and media projects, and Jawaab, a social justice organisation working with young Muslims across the UK. The script draws on Perretta's own experiences in particular, and addresses issues surrounding the current climate of fear in a society that is conditioned to see the brown, male body as a threat. Through the work, Perretta explores issues of marginalisation, oppression and becoming, in an era driven by austerity politics and a far reaching surveillance state.

Filed in a community centre in Tower Hamlets, four protagonists deliver the film's poetic script as a series of monologues, combining staged cinematic scenes with computer-generated imagery. Perretta focuses on the small gestures of each character, such as itching, scratching and fidgeting; obsessive behaviours which make visible their discomfort and unease as they reflect on their experiences of structural violence and Islamophobia.

Through this new film commission and further discussions staged during exhibition of the work at partner venues across the UK, Perretta raises complex questions surrounding the homogenisation of marginalised communities and the resulting impact this has on young people at a formative point in their lives. *the destructors* invites us to think through our place in the world, as individuals but also as a society comprised of many perspectives, backgrounds and voices.

Image: Courtesy the artist and The Metropolitan Police Department

– Ends –

For further information and high-resolution images please contact Sam Talbot on [sam@sam-talbot.com](mailto:sam@sam-talbot.com) / +44 772 5184630 or Jane Faram, Communications Manager at Spike Island on [jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk](mailto:jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk) or +44 (0)117 9292266.

Notes for editors:

- Imran Perretta (b. 1988, London) lives and works in London. Encompassing moving-image, sound, performance and poetry, Perretta's work explores ideas of biopower, marginality and the (de)construction of cultural histories. Perretta is a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London (2014) Recent exhibitions include *15 Days*, Jerwood Space, London (2018); *Mene Mene Tekel Parsin*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2017); *it wasn't a crash, in the usual sense*, Arcadia Missa, London (2016); *5 percent*, Copenhagen Art Week, Denmark; and *Devotions*, MOT International Project Space, London (both 2015). Perretta was selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries, World Museum, Liverpool and ICA, London (2014–15). In 2016, Perretta presented *Pale News*, a performance devised in collaboration with artist Milo van der Maaden and members from the PoC and LGBTQ communities in East London, as part of Chisenhale Gallery's 21st Century programme of performances and events.
- *the destructors* is produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London and Spike Island, Bristol, and commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery; Spike Island; the Whitworth, The University of Manchester; and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.
- *the destructors* will be exhibited at partner venues across 2019 and 2020: Chisenhale Gallery from 17 January to 15 March 2020; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art from March to June 2020; and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester from May to October 2020.
- Imran Perretta *the destructors* is supported by Outset Contemporary Art Fund.



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- 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.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.

CHISENHALE GALLERY

**BALTIC**

the **Whitworth**

outset.



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