

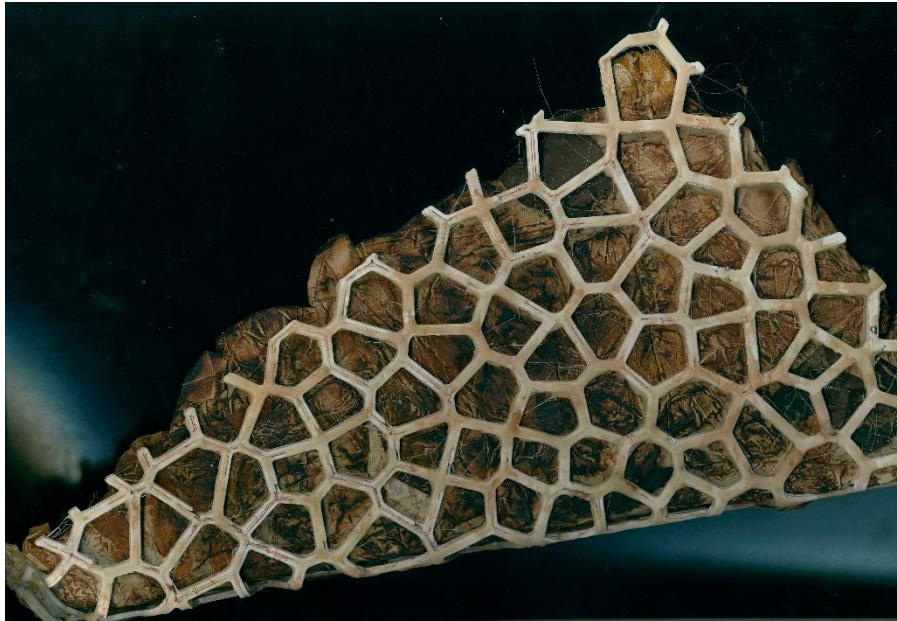
# Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE

AMITAI ROMM

HUM

23 July to 18 September 2022



Spike Island presents *Hum*, the first major UK solo exhibition by Copenhagen-based artist Amitai Romm. The show explores how ecosystems are mediated by technology and proposes speculative ways to make the natural world legible.

Two colossal speakers emit a sub-acoustic drone throughout the exhibition. Their vibrations are based on real-time data transmitted from a climate measuring station in a mature beech forest in east Denmark. The station produces one of the world's oldest continuous datasets of carbon sequestration and has gathered an unfathomable amount of data over three decades. In Romm's installation, this raw data is recoded into sound waves that are played at around 10Hz: lower than a human ear can decipher but powerful enough for a human body to sense.

Laying and hanging in front of the speakers are five sculptures that gently quiver from the inaudible tremors. They comprise a 3D-printed mesh that acts as a skeleton for coarse handmade paper made from by-products, including decomposing plant fibres (from the forest) and shredded confidential documents (from Spike Island). Their lattice structures are based on a Voronoi diagram, a mathematical principle found in the cell structures of dragonfly wings, human bone structures and the eyes of insects. Taking the shape of parabolic satellite dishes, they are also what Romm refers to as "non-communicative objects", both familiar and yet unclassifiable as antennas or listening devices.



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In *Hum*, Romm explores alternative ways to track and measure nature's rhythms, speculating on how new, hybrid relationships can be formed between plant life, sensors, data collection and ourselves. Piecing together complex structures from nature and technology alike, the exhibition thinks expansively about how we consume and interpret data to cast a critical view on the systemisation of our natural environment.

– Ends –

Image: Amitai Romm, *Graft* (2022), Digital scan. Courtesy the artist

For further information and high-resolution images please contact Rebecca Simpson, Communications Manager at Spike Island on [rebecca.simpson@spikeisland.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.simpson@spikeisland.org.uk) or +44 (0)117 9292266.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- **AMITAI ROMM**  
Amitai Romm (b.1985, Jerusalem, based in Copenhagen, Denmark) studied at the Jutland Art Academy, Akademie der Bildenden Künste Vienna and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Macula Lutea*, VEDA, Florence (2019); *Hibernation*, Tranen, Gentofte (2017); and *How shall the sea be referred to*, Bianca D'Alessandro, Copenhagen (2016). His work has been included in group exhibitions at Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Vermillion Sands, Copenhagen (both 2019); the Dorothea Von Stetten Award, Kunstmuseum Bonn (2018); Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2017). In 2018 he was the recipient of the Niels Wessel Bagges Kunstfond and in 2017 he received the Grosserer L.f. Foghts Fond. Romm is a co-founder of Diakron, a studio for transdisciplinary research and practice, and Primer, a platform for artistic and organisational development, located in the headquarters of the global water technology company Aquaporin in Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark.
- **PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS**  
*Hum* is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, Danish Art Workshops, Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fund, Knud Højgaards Fund, Major Tom Audio Production and 15 June Foundation. With thanks to Andreas Ibrom from the Technical University of Denmark; ICOS Sorø; Anthony Finch and Mads Westrup.
- **ABOUT SPIKE ISLAND**  
Spike Island supports, produces and presents contemporary art and culture across an 80,000 square foot former industrial building in Bristol. Its diverse artistic programme includes free major exhibitions, events and engagement activities taking place on-site and online. Championing outstanding work by emerging and underrepresented local, national and



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international artists, the programme enhances access to contemporary art for audiences from all backgrounds.

Alongside its public offer, Spike Island directly supports artists through new commissions, over 70 subsidised studios, and sector-leading artist development opportunities that widen access to its programme and facilities. Its Exhibition Services business supports the bespoke production and installation of artists' film and video throughout the UK and internationally. Spike Island is home to a dynamic community of hundreds of artists and creative businesses, working in flexible, affordable workspaces, alongside UWE Bristol's Fine Art department, Spike Print Studio, and café bar Emmeline.  
[www.spikeisland.org.uk](http://www.spikeisland.org.uk)



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