Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE SPIKE ISLAND 2021–22 EXHIBITIONS AND COMMISSIONS



PEGGY AHWESH VISION MACHINES 25 September 2021 to 16 January 2022 The first survey exhibition in the UK by pathbreaking artist and filmmaker Peggy Ahwesh. Co-curated with film scholar Erika Balsom, the show includes films, videos and installations made between 1993 and 2021 that explore the relationship between corporeality and technology, spanning notions as diverse as gender, climate change and war. Vision Machines is accompanied by the first book dedicated to Ahwesh's practice, which includes texts by film scholars Erika Balsom and Elena Gorfinkel, writer Tendai Mutambu, novelist Shola von Reinhold, and a conversation between the artist and academic John David Rhodes, published by Spike Island and Mousse Publishing.



LUCY STEIN WET ROOM 25 September 2021 to 16 January 2022 The first UK institutional solo exhibition by artist Lucy Stein, including a hand-painted tiled wet room inspired by the artist's research into the fougou: ancient womb-like Neolithic passages



unique to West Cornwall. Surrounding this centrepiece are a series of new paintings and drawings that build upon Stein's lasting engagement with Northern European expressionist painting, ecclesiastical imagery, goddess culture, and the idea of the "anima". *Wet Room* is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England. Following its presentation at Spike Island, the exhibition tours to the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea in Spring 2022.



CANDICE LIN PIGS AND POISON 5 February to 8 May 2022

A major new commission by artist Candice Lin that expands her ongoing research into marginalised histories, colonial legacies and the materials that link them. *Pigs and Poison* includes flesh-like sculptures, a virtual reality animation, and a huge medieval trebuchet that launches cannonballs made of lard and bone black pigment directly at the gallery walls. *Pigs and Poison* is commissioned by Spike Island, Bristol; Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth and Guangdong Times Museum; and is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England. The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue, with contributions from Jih-Fei Cheng, Robert Leckie, Lisa Lowe and Shani Mootoo, as well as a conversation between the artist and Alvin Li.



ADAM KHALIL AND BAYLEY SWEITZER WITH OBA NOSFERASTA 5 February to 8 May 2022 Nosferasta is a Rastafarian vampire film by filmmakers Adam Khalil and Bayley Sweitzer, starring and co-written by artist and



musician, Oba. Spanning 500 years of colonial destruction, human trafficking and blood-sucking, the film reimagines Oba's life: in the late 15th century, he is shipped as cargo from West Africa to the Caribbean, where he is seduced by the vampire Christopher Columbus, ensuring his undying allegiance to the colonial project. *Nosferasta* is commissioned and produced by Spike Island, Bristol and Gasworks, London, and is part of the European Cooperation project 4Cs: *From Conflict to Convivality through Creativity and Culture*, co-funded by Creative Europe and the Royal College of Art. The film is also supported by Cinereach.



DIGITAL COMMISSION: DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY 17 March to 19 April 2022 An interactive digital commission by artist Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, that simulates an MMO (massively multiplayer online) game. The audience's actions will influence the evolution and structure of the game, as will their identities and how they have historically taken up space in the world. Developed in partnership with Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival and CIRCUIT Artist Moving Image Aotearoa New Zealand.



ERIC BAUDELAIRE AND ALVIN CURRAN WHEN THERE IS NO MORE MUSIC TO WRITE 28 May to 18 September 2022 A two-person exhibition by artist and filmmaker Eric Baudelaire and composer Alvin Curran. Co-curated with music historian Maxime Guitton, the exhibition includes a new film exploring how Curran's life and work intersect with the radical political movements emerging in Italy and around the world during the 1970s. When There Is No More Music to Write is presented in partnership with





TANOA SASRAKU 28 May to 17 July 2022

A major new commission by artist Tanoa Sasraku sees the artist rendering monoliths and megaliths in thread-bound newsprint. These forms, tethered to the gallery space, draw upon relics of her paternal heritage via the Fante Asafo war flags of Coastal Ghana, geometric forms found in Tartan cloth, and the rural expanses of Dartmoor and the Scottish Highlands. The exhibition is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England.



AMITAI ROMM

27 July to 18 September 2022

The first UK solo exhibition by artist Amitai Romm explores how scientific modelling relates to more open-ended forms of world-making. Romm encrypts and relays data from one of the world's oldest continuous datasets of carbon sequestration—an environmental sensing system set up in a mature beech forest in east Denmark in 1996—to produce new works in sculpture and sound, from a series of parabola satellites moulded from plant fibres to the minor oscillations of a low-frequency drone. Supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, Grosserer L.F. Foght Fund, Knud Højgaard Fund and 15 June Foundation.





ROSEMARY MAYER

WAYS OF ATTACHING

8 October 2022 to 15 January 2023

The first exhibition in the UK by artist Rosemary Mayer (1943–2014), a founding member of A.I.R. Gallery in New York, which was formed in 1972 as the first all-female cooperative gallery in the United States. Mayer is primarily known for her gauzy and colourful fabric sculptures named after historical women, such as *Hroswitha* (1972– 73), a celebrated 10th century nun-poet and *Galla Placidia* (1973), a major force in 5th century Roman politics. *Ways of Attaching* is organised in partnership with Swiss Institute, New York; Ludwig Forum, Aachen; and Lenbachhaus, Munich; and is supported by the Terra Foundation.



LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN *THE 49TH PARALLEL* 8 October 2022 to 15 January 2023

A major new film commission by Lawrence Abu Hamdan focusing on the Haskell Free Library and Opera House—a unique municipal site between the jurisdictions of Canada and the US. Telling stories of permeable borders and impermeable laws, the work reflects on how free movement, free knowledge and free space are under threat. *The 49th Parallel* is commissioned by Spike Island, Bristol; the Toronto Biennial; Mercer Union, Toronto; Sharjah Art Foundation; and the Western Front, Vancouver. The film is produced by LONO Studio and supported by Arts Council England and the Ford Foundation. The exhibition is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England.



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

NOTES FOR EDITORS

IMAGES

- Peggy Ahwesh, Verily! The Blackest Sea, The Falling Sky (2017) two-channel video installation, 9 minutes, 30 seconds. Courtesy the artist and Microscope Gallery, New York
- Lucy Stein, *Precognition* (2021), Oil on canvas, 58 x 119cm. Courtesy the artist and Gregor Staiger, Zurich. Photograph by Steve Tanner
- 3. Candice Lin, A Robot Spoke What My Father Wrote (2019), Cut sheetrock, razor wire, bone black pigment and mould, ceramic, welded gate, miscellaneous drawings and printed material. Courtesy the artist and François Ghebaly, Los Angeles
- 4. Adam Khalil and Bayley Sweitzer, Oba researching for his role in *Nosferasta* (2021) Courtesy the artists and Oba
- 5. Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, *We Are Here Because of Those That Are Not* (2020), Interactive online archive (https://blacktransarchive.com/). Courtesy the artist
- 6. Eric Baudelaire, *When There is No More Music to Write* (2021) Film still. Courtesy the artist
- 7. Tanoa Sasraku, *A Tower To Say Goodbye* (2021) Installation view at Chelsea Sorting Office, London, presented by General Release. Photograph by Alexander Edwards
- 8. Amitai Romm, ICOS Sorø (2020) Photograph by Emil Rønn Andersen
- 9. Rosemary Mayer, *Galla Placidia* (1973), Satin, rayon, nylon, cheesecloth, nylon netting, ribbon, dyes, wood. Courtesy the Estate of Rosemary Mayer
- Lawrence Abu Hamdan, *Earshot* (2016) Installation view at Portikus, Frankfurt/Main. Courtesy the artist, Portikus, Frankfurt/Main and Maureen Paley, London. Photograph by Helena Schlichting

BIOGRAPHIES

- PEGGY AHWESH
 - Peggy Ahwesh is an American experimental filmmaker and video artist. Born in 1954 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, she received her B.F.A. at Antioch College, Ohio. Retrospective exhibitions include: *Girls Beware!*, Whitney Museum of American Art (1997); Filmmuseum, Brussels; Anthology Film Archives, New York; *Peggy's Playhouse*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University; others. Screenings: Whitney Biennial (1991, 1995, 2002); New York Film Festival (1998, 2007); Flaherty Film Seminar (2003); Pompidou Center (2002, 2004); Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (2017). Festivals include: Berlin; London; Cairo; Toronto; Rotterdam; and Creteil, France. *Certain Women* (codirected with Bobby Abate) was



an official selection at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and the opening night film at the New York Underground Film Festival (2004). Other films include *Martina's Playhouse, The Deadman* (codirected with Keith Sanborn), *Strange Weather*, and *Nocturne*, all in Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. She has received grants from Jerome and Guggenheim Foundation fellowships, Alpert Award in the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Art Matters. She teaches Film and Electronic Art at Bard College, New York.

LUCY STEIN

Lucy Stein has been based in St. Just, Cornwall since 2015. She studied at The Glasgow School of Art, and later at De Ateliers, in Amsterdam. Recent solo exhibitions include Thesmophoria (including the performance lecture Bride of Quiet) Galerie Gregor Staiger Milan (2020); Digitalis Purpurea (a re-introspective), Conceptual Fine Arts, Milan (online) (2020), £10.66, Palette Terre, Paris (2018); Crying the Neck, NICC Brussels (with Nina Royle) (2017); On Celticity (organised with Paola Clerico), Rodeo Gallery, London (2016). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Futura, Prague (2020); Bonington Gallery, Nottingham (2019); Tate St Ives (2018); TULCA festival, Galway; Newlyn Gallery, Penzance (all 2017); Le Bourgeoise, London(2016); UKS Oslo (2015). In 2017 she co-organised "Fuck you wheres my Suger" a two day festival celebrating depression and hysteria at Cafe Oto in London with Mark Harwood. In 2016 she co-curated NEO-PAGAN BITCH-WITCH! at Evelyn Yard, London with France-Lise McGurn and in 2015 she organized the performance event The Wise Wound with Tate St Ives and Porthmeor studios.

ADAM KHALIL AND BAYLEY SWEITZER

Adam Khalil is an artist and filmmaker from the Ojibway tribe born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and Bayley Sweitzer is a filmmaker from Southern Vermont. Khalil and Sweitzer's acclaimed debut feature film, *Empty Metal* (2018), is a science-fiction political thriller set against a backdrop of racialised police brutality and mass surveillance, delving into anti-colonial politics by weaving together indigenous histories and speculative imagination with a subcultural sensibility. Recent screenings include the Museum of Modern Art, Anthology Film Archives, and e-flux in New York; the Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis); LACMA, Los Angeles and Tate Modern, London. Their works have also featured at the Whitney Biennial, Toronto Biennial and Sundance Film Festival.

OBA

Oba 'the Artist and Musician' is a multi-disciplinary artist and chef born in Trinidad. His paintings, sculptures and t-shirts have been featured at Motel Gallery and Rumplestiltskin, Brooklyn. He was lead singer of the avant-noise supergroup Dead Companionship from 2016-2018. Oba's world-class corn



soup has been slurped at the legendary Club Temptation in Flatbush, as well as fine establishments across the world.

CANDICE LIN

Candice Lin (b. 1979, Concord, Massachusetts) works in Altadena, California. She received her BA in Visual Arts and Art Semiotics from Brown University, in 2001, and MFA in New Genres from San Francisco Art Institute, in 2004. Her practice utilizes installation, drawing, video, and living materials and processes, such as mould, mushrooms, bacteria, fermentation, and stains. Lin has had recent solo exhibitions at the Pitzer Galleries, Claremont, CA: Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Art Center, Canada; Ludlow 38, New York; Francois Ghebaly, Los Angeles, (all 2019) as well as the exhibition cycle A Hard White Body at Bétonsalon, Paris (2017); Portikus, Frankfurt; and the Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago (both 2018). Lin has been included in recent group exhibitions including the 2020 Ashkal Alwan Home Works 8 Forum, 2019 Fiskars Village Art & Design Biennale, 2018 Taipei Biennale; the 2018 Athens Biennale; Made in L.A. 2018, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; New Museum, New York. She is the recipient of several residencies, grants and fellowships, including the Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant (2019), The Artists Project Award (2018), Louis Comfort Tiffany Award (2017), the Davidoff Art Residency (2018) and Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (2009). She is Assistant Professor of Art at UCLA and lives and works in Los Angeles.

DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY

Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley is an artist based in London. Brathwaite-Shirley graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art (London) in 2019. They work predominantly in animation, sound, performance and video games to communicate the experiences of being a Black Trans person. Their practice focuses on recording the lives of Black Trans people and intertwining lived experience with fiction to imaginatively retell Trans stories. Spurred on by a desire to record the "History of Trans people both living and past," their work can often be seen as a Trans archive where Black Trans people are stored for the future. In 2020, Brathwaite-Shirley produced a solo performance work at Tate Modern, London. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Focal Point Gallery, London (2020); Science Gallery, London (2020); and MU Hybrid Art House, London (2020). Group exhibitions include Re\$\$urection Lands, Les Urbaines, Lausanne, Switzerland (2019); BBZ GRADUATE SHOW, Copeland Gallery, London (2019); and Transpose: The Future, Barbican, London (2018).

ERIC BAUDELAIRE

Eric Baudelaire (b. 1973, Salt Lake City, Utah, based in Paris, France) is a visual artist with a research-based practice incorporating photography, printmaking and video. He studied political science at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Recent solo exhibitions include *Faire avec*,



Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain Occitanie, Sète, France (2019); Walked the Way Home, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Berlin (2018); The Music of Ramón Raguello and his Orchestra, Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2017); The Secession Sessions, BAMPFA, Berkeley (2015); FRMAEOWRK, Fridericianum, Kassel (2014); Now_Then_Here_Elsewhere, Beirut Art Center, Lebanon (2013); and Hammer Projects: Eric Baudelaire, HAMMER, Los Angeles (2010). His work has been included in group exhibitions at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France; Kunstmuseum Bonn (both 2019); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2018); MAXXI, Rome; Portikus, Frankfurt am Main (both 2017); Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2016); and Raven Row, London (2015). He has participated in the Whitney Biennial (2017); the Front International Cleveland Triennial (2018); Sharjah Biennial (2017); and Biennale de Montréal (2016). His films have circulated widely in film festivals including Locarno, Toronto, New York, FID Marseille and Rotterdam). In 2019 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

ALVIN CURRAN

Alvin Curran (b. 1938, Providence, Rhode Island, based in Rome, Italy) has realised a long and fruitful career as a composer, performer, installation artist, writer, and teacher in the American experimental music tradition. He studied with Ron Nelson, Elliott Carter and Mel Powell, and cofounded the group Musica Elettronica Viva in 1966 in Rome. He has taught at Rome's National Academy of Theater Arts; Mills College, Oakland and the Mainz Hochschule für Musik, Frankfurt am Main. Recent projects include: Concerto for Bathtub and Orchestra (2017); the disintegrating installation - Pian de Pian Piano (2017); Maritime Rites Rome - for musicians on rowboats (2017); A Banda Larga - a street symphony (2018). He has performed at the Teatro Colon (2017); Big Ears Festival (2017); The New York Armory (2018), and collaborated with poet Clark Coolidge (Other Minds Festival, 2018), pianist Ciro Longobardi, and stage director Achim Freyer (on *Der Goldene Topf*, 2019). He has published articles in the New York Times, Musiktexte, The Contemporary Music Review, amongst others, and released more than thirty solo and and sixty collaborative recordings. A book about his work, Alvin Curran: Live in Roma (2011), was edited by Daniela Tortora, and in 2015 Curran published the alvin curran fakebook, an illustrated compendium of more than two hundred (mostly) notated pieces. In 1975 he won the Logos Award, in 1995 the Leonardo Award for Excellence, and in 2004 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is currently a consultant for the American Academy in Rome.

CANDICE LIN

Candice Lin was born in 1979 in Concord, Massachusetts, and has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 2005. Her recent solo exhibitions include the exhibition cycle *A Hard White Body* at Bétonsalon, Paris; Portikus, Frankfurt; and the Logan Center for the Arts, University of Chicago, as well as solo





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Registered charity no. 10035 Registered in England and Wales no. 2624621 VAT no. 650 5760 40 exhibitions at Gasworks, London; 18th Street Art Center, Los Angeles; and Human Resources, Los Angeles. Lin has been included in prominent recent group exhibitions including the 2018 Taipei Biennale; the 2018 Athens Biennale; Made in L.A. 2018, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; New Museum, New York; Sharjah Biennial 2017, Beirut; and SculptureCenter, New York. She is the recipient of several residencies, grants and fellowships, including the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award (2017), the Davidoff Art Residency (2018) and Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship (2009). In 2018 she was appointed to the faculty of the University of California Los Angeles Department of Art.

- ADAM KHALIL AND BAYLEY SWEITZER
 Adam Khalil is an artist and filmmaker from the Ojibway tribe born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and Bayley Sweitzer is a filmmaker from Southern Vermont. Recent screenings include the Museum of Modern Art, Anthology Film Archives, and eflux in New York; the Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis);
 LACMA, Los Angeles and Tate Modern, London. Their works have also featured at the Whitney Biennial, Toronto Biennial and Sundance Film Festival.
- TANOA SASRAKU

Tanoa Sasraku (b. 1995, Plymouth, based in London, UK) graduated from Goldsmiths College (2018) and is commencing her studies at the Royal Academy Schools in 2021. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *A Tower to Say Goodbye*, presented by General Release at the Chelsea Sorting Office (2021); *Recession Grimace*, Klosterruine, Berlin; *Tanoa Sasraku: O'Pierrot*, LUX Moving Image, London (both 2020); *Resist: be modern (again)*, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton; *Nashashibi / Skaer – Thinking through other artists*, Tate St Ives (both 2019). Her moving image works have been screened at the BFI Southbank, as part of the *18th London Short Film Festival* (2021); *Selected X*, VideoClub online and touring (2020); *Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival*, Berwick-upon-Tweed (2019). In 2021 she was awarded the Arts Foundation Futures Award for Visual Arts.

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); Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2017); New Galerie, Paris (2015). 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.

ROSEMARY MAYER

Rosemary Mayer (1943-2014) was a prolific artist involved in the New York art scene from the late 1960s. She was a founding member of A.I.R. Gallery, the first cooperative gallery for women in the United States., and had one of the earliest shows there. During the 1970s and 1980s, her work was also shown at many New York alternative art spaces, including The Clocktower, Sculpture Center and Franklin Furnace, and in university galleries throughout the country. In 1982, her translation of the diary of Mannerist artist Jacopo da Pontormo was published along with a catalogue of her work. Recent exhibitions of Mayer's work have taken place at Gordon Robichaux, New York (2021); ChertLüdde, Berlin (2020); Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia (2017); and Southfirst, Brooklyn (2016). Her work was also included in the exhibition Bizarre Silks, Private Imaginings and Narrative Facts, etc., curated by Nick Mauss at Kunsthalle Basel (2020).

• LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN

Lawrence Abu Hamdan (b.1985, Amman) is a "Private Ear". His interest in sound and its intersection with politics originates from his background as a touring musician and facilitator of DIY music. The artist's audio investigations have been used as evidence at the UK Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and as advocacy for organisations such as Amnesty International and Defence for Children International, together with fellow researchers from Forensic Architecture.

Abu Hamdan completed his PhD in Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London (2017) and has undertaken fellowships at the Gray Centre for Arts and Inquiry at the University of Chicago and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School, New York.

Abu Hamdan has exhibited his work at the 58th Venice Biennale; the 11th Gwanju Biennale; the 13th and 14th Sharjah Biennial; Witte De With, Rotterdam; Tate Modern Tanks, London; Chisenhale Gallery, London; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Portikus Frankfurt; The Showroom, London; and Casco, Utrecht. His works are part of collections at MoMA; Guggenheim, (both New York); Van AbbeMuseum, Eindhoven; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and Tate Modern, London. Abu Hamdan's work has been awarded the 2019 Edvard Munch Art Award, the 2016 Nam June Paik Award for new media, and in 2017 his film Rubber Coated Steel won the Tiger short film award at the Rotterdam International Film festival. For the 2019 Turner Prize, Abu Hamdan – together with nominated artists Helen Cammock, Oscar Murillo and Tai Shani – formed a temporary collective in order to be jointly granted the award.



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 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



