

Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE
TANOASASRAKU
TERRATYPES
28 May to 17 July 2022



Spike Island presents *Terratypes*, a major solo exhibition by Tanoa Sasraku. The exhibition includes newly commissioned works on paper, photographs and bronzes that build upon the artist's ongoing research into hostile wildlands, and personal relationship to the energy, mythology and memories stored deep within the British landscape. Made using digital and analogue techniques, and processes that shift scale, materiality and texture, the works draw connections between microchip circuitry, tartan textile fabrics and ancient rock formations.

The title of the exhibition comes from Sasraku's series of *earth photos* documenting sites of personal significance: Dartmoor – a vast moorland near where she grew up, and the Scottish Highlands – the site of a recent residency, and where her partner is from. Heavily worked sheets of blank newsprint are hand-rubbed with foraged natural pigments, where they take on geological and geographical information in ochre, graphite and manganese. The sheets are then stacked, cut and stitched together to form abstract geometric compositions, before being steeped in water. Shards of paper are then gesturally torn away, revealing layers that both expose and encrypt details about the materiality of the land, like microchips storing data or a clan's tartan cloth.

Looming over these modestly-sized pieces are freestanding *Liths* in which slithers of stained and modified newsprint, torn from the *Terratypes*, are flattened, scanned and enlarged into monolithic structures reminiscent of standing stone formations. Encased in totemic wooden frames, these structures evoke portals or doorways



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Spike Island Artspace Limited
Registered charity no. 1003505
Registered in England
and Wales no. 2624621
VAT no. 650 5760 40

to an alternate landscape. Large enough to reveal the warp and weft in the structure of the paper but difficult to take in at once, the *Liths* both give and withhold. They recall the wonder of stone circles in charged rural spaces yet like these sites, are equally unknowable and mysterious.

Presented alongside these works, a series of cast bronzes with small concentrated masses of pigment held delicately in their centres captures the intense energy flows of the land; and a fragmented representation of a horse's head offers a reminder of a darker, lonelier aspect of the Moors.

Sasraku's works are bound up in emotional memory, and dwell on how we understand or connect deeply to rural environments and their potential energy. Moving between opposing scales and poles of the British Isles, she harnesses technological processes to glitch and disrupt traditional rural ideologies, whilst also recognising that history, tradition and myth frame our responses to her work.

– Ends –

Image: Tanoa Sasraku, Terratype soaked in the Sligichan river, Isle of Skye (2021). Courtesy the artist

For further information and high-resolution images please contact Jon McCall, Interim Communications Manager at Spike Island on jon.mccall@spikeisland.org.uk or +44 (0)117 9292266.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- **TANOASASRAKU**
Tanoa Sasraku (b. 1995, Plymouth, based in London, UK) graduated from Goldsmiths College (2018) and is currently studying at the Royal Academy Schools. Recent solo and group exhibitions include Testament, Goldsmiths CCA, London (2022); *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.
- **IN-CONVERSATION WITH ROSALIND NASHASHIBI**
Thursday 9 June
Sasraku will be in conversation with artist Rosalind Nasashibi, where they will discuss *Terratypes*, and broader concerns in Sasraku's practice.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Spike Island Artspace Limited
Registered charity no. 1003505
Registered in England
and Wales no. 2624621
VAT no. 650 5760 40

- **EDITION**
On the occasion of *Terratypes*, Sasraku has produced *Knots*, a limited edition of prints based upon imagery in the exhibition and referencing a personal encounter she had on the Moors. Inkjet print on Kozo paper, 50 x 55.3cm. Available to purchase from the Spike Island shop.
- **PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS**
Terratypes is commissioned by Spike Island, Bristol and is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England.
- **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

West of England
Visual Arts Alliance



Spike Island Artspace Limited
Registered charity no. 1003505
Registered in England
and Wales no. 2624621
VAT no. 650 5760 40