



Spike Island

TANOA SASRAKU
TERRATYPES

28 MAY TO 17 JULY 2022

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Drawing upon research into hostile wildlands and a deep personal relationship to the energy, mythology and memories stored deep within the British landscape, *Terratypes* presents newly commissioned works on paper, photographs and bronzes that map connections between circuitry, textiles and rock formations.

Referencing early photographic techniques such as Daguerreotype and Tintype, Tanoa Sasraku's *Terratypes* [earth photos] document sites of personal significance: Dartmoor – a vast moorland near where she grew up, and the Scottish Highlands – the site of a recent residency. Beginning as blank sheets of newsprint, hand-rubbed with foraged earth pigments, they are imbued with geological and geographical information in ochre, graphite and manganese. The sheets are 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.

Presented alongside these works are a series of cast bronzes with small concentrated masses of foraged earth pigment held delicately in their centres, and freestanding *Liths* in which the by-products of the *Terratypes* are flattened, scanned and enlarged into monolithic structures reminiscent of standing stones. Evoking portals or doorways into alternate landscapes, they

recall the wonder found in charged rural spaces yet are equally unknowable and mysterious.

Sasraku's works are bound up in emotional memory and are concerned with the ways in which we understand or connect deeply to rural environments and their potential energies. *Terratypes* harnesses technological processes to disrupt traditional rural ideologies and systems. The objects in the exhibition form an open circuit, oscillating in a register that is at once material, functional and symbolic.

Image: Tanoa Sasraku, *Grey Wet-Cell* (2022), Patinated cast bronze, resin glue, foraged Fremington grey graphite. Photograph by Andy Keate. Courtesy the artist

Terratypes is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England.

Large print guides are available in the gallery and to download at spikeisland.org.uk

Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art, located in Bristol's harbour area.

Admission to the gallery is free.
Visit our website to explore upcoming events and activities.

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