

Spike Island

LARGE PRINT EXHIBITION GUIDE

AYO AKINGBADE

SHOW ME THE WORLD MISTER

18 February to 21 May 2023

Show Me The World Mister is an exhibition comprising two new film commissions by Ayo Akingbade. Shot on location in Nigeria, *The Fist* and *Faluyi* are distinct but interconnected works that build upon Akingbade's interest in history, placemaking, legacy and power.

The Fist is a study of the first Guinness brewery built outside of the UK and Ireland, located on the outskirts of Lagos. Completed in 1962, in the wake of Nigeria's independence from Britain, it is a place where histories of colonialism, industrialisation and labour collide. Shot on 35 mm, the film follows the comings and goings of workers and their various tasks on the assembly and packing lines.

Akingbade draws attention to the deep-rooted politics embedded in the production of this internationally popular drink.

Faluyi follows protagonist Ife on a journey tracing legacy and mysticism in ancestral lands. Shot on 16 mm on the Idanre Hills - a UNESCO World Heritage site in Ondo State and the birthplace of Akingbade's parents - the film explores the artist's personal relationship with Nigeria. Panoramic views of bouldering hills surrounded by dense woodland form the backdrop to this sensitive tale of longing and loss, which eventually turns to hope and celebration.

The two films are presented in the gallery divided by a screen made of aluminium, steel and polycarbonate. This structure resembles the infrastructure of the Guinness factory and recalls Spike Island's own history as a former tea-packing factory.

Image: Ayo Akingbade, *The Fist* (2022). Film still. Courtesy the artist

Produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London and Spike Island, Bristol, and commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery; Spike Island; the Whitworth, The University of Manchester; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; and John Hansard Gallery, Southampton.

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

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.

spikeisland.org.uk

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