

Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE
AYO AKINGBADE
SHOW ME THE WORLD MISTER
18 February to 21 May 2023



Spike Island presents *Show Me The World Mister*, an exhibition by Ayo Akingbade comprising two new film commissions: *The Fist* and *Faluyi*. Shot on location in Nigeria, these distinct but interconnected works build upon Akingbade's interest in history, place-making, 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 tasks on the assembly and packing lines. Akingbade draws attention to the deep-rooted politics embedded in the production of this popular drink.

Faluyi follows protagonist Ife on a journey tracing familial legacy and mysticism in ancestral lands. Shot on 16 mm in the Idanre Hills – a UNESCO World Heritage site in Ondo State, 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.



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

– Ends –

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

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- **Ayo Akingbade:** *Show Me The World Mister* is produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London and Spike Island, Bristol. Commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery, London; Spike Island, Bristol; 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.
- **AYO AKINGBADE**
Ayo Akingbade lives and works in London. Selected exhibitions include: *Duette*, Towner Gallery, Eastbourne; *Jitterbug*, Museum of the Home, London (2022); *Domestic Drama*, Halle Fuer Kunst Steiermark, Graz; *A Glittering City: Ayo Akingbade with Duchamp & Sons*, Whitechapel Gallery; *An Infinity of Traces*, Lisson Gallery, London (2021); *Songs From A Forgotten Past*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, Sao Paulo (2020); *Towner International Biennial*, Towner Eastbourne; *No News Today*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2019); and *Urban Rhapsodies*, Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York (2017). Her films have been shown at Cannes Film Festival, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, MoMA Doc Fortnight and International Short Film Festival Oberhausen among others.
- **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



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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
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