

# Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE

DAN LIE

*SLEEPING METHODOLOGIES*

Saturday 27 September to Sunday 11 January 2026



Spike Island presents *Sleeping Methodologies*, a major solo commission by artist Dan Lie that represents a new chapter in their practice. In line with its commitment to support artists at crucial moments in their careers and champion experimentation, Spike Island has given Lie *carte blanche* to explore new avenues, departing from a well-established methodology of producing monumental, site-specific installations. *Sleeping Methodologies* is instead premised on the humble gesture of creating an atmosphere that invites visitors to slow down, rest and reflect.

Born out of a state of exhaustion and burnout, Lie's new installation explores how crisis and fatigue can become catalysts for transformation. While still informed by their ongoing research into mortality and renewal, non-human ecologies, and ritualistic ontologies *Sleeping Methodologies* begins from a deeply personal place: the artist's grief and fatigue, and their admitted need for a *tabula rasa* – a clean slate. From this state of crisis, Lie has created a total environment, bathed in yellow light and populated with objects and 'other-than-human' companions that invite both body and mind to pause, drift, feel, observe, engage and disengage. An anti-monumental provocation to take a step back and consider: 'What would happen if I stopped?'

In deploying the emotional utility of the gallery to evoke feelings that can be difficult to pin down or process, Lie transforms the exhibition experience into a uniquely introspective encounter. Exhibition visitors fulfil a dual function in acting as performers within the installation, completing the work with their presence, their reactions and their interpretations.

The installation is produced onsite with natural materials that will be repurposed or returned to the earth after the exhibition: second-hand chairs wrapped in cotton dyed in tea and coffee, large stones keeping watch over mattresses filled with hay and lavender, a garland of popcorn that traverses the gallery. It builds on a year of research in Bristol, Berlin and elsewhere, and was shaped by visits to archaeological sites such as Stonehenge, engagement with Spike Island's creative communities and a series of public dialogues titled *Honest Grieving for a Better Life*, which took place at Spike Island in May. This series included conversations between Lie, artist Abbas Zahedi and death doula Aly Dickinson, which are broadcast at low volume in the exhibition.

Rejecting interpretation in favour of an ethics of work and creation, Lie offers a place to slow down and linger. Visitors are invited to approach the gallery as a place for *being* with the work and to observe what memories, feelings and sensations arise.

The exhibition is supported by the Henry Moore Foundation.

Key elements of the exhibition were produced with members of Spike Island's Visitor Services team, students from the University of the West of England's Fine Art courses, and Proud to be, Creative Youth Network's LGBTQ+ group.

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For press enquiries please contact Isabel Davies at [isabel@sam-talbot.com](mailto:isabel@sam-talbot.com) and Gwyneth Tambe-Green at [gwyneth@sam-talbot.com](mailto:gwyneth@sam-talbot.com)

## 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](http://www.spikeisland.org.uk)

## IMAGE CAPTION

- Dan Lie, *Sleeping Methodologies* preview 2025. Courtesy of the artist.