



Sekai Machache to showcase new films across the Mount Stuart house and gardens this Autumn with performances in dance and song by artists such as Alberta Whittle, Mele Broomes and Eyve Madyise

This Autumn at Mount Stuart Zimbabwean-Scottish artist Sekai Machache will showcase a series of short gestural films curated across the Mount Stuart house and gardens, that come together to form the immersive *Svikiro*. The work opens on 2 September and runs until 29 October 2023.

Utilising academic, visual, and embodied research at Mount Stuart and in its collections and archives: Machache counters the ongoing erasure of a complex oracular culture that is profoundly connected to envisioning the future. This series of short films will support experimental and innovative storytelling, suggesting alternative readings of past and present, and proffering a model for a decolonised future archive built on collaboration.



These films will comprise performances in dance and song by invited artists such as **Alberta Whittle, Mele Broomes, and Eyve Madyise** who are all adorned in beautiful bespoke costumes created in collaboration with Fiona Catherine Powell.

Svikiro in Shona culture means one who mediates between the spiritual and human world, receiving visions in dream, performs healing rituals and serves as messenger to the ancestors.

With themes of hyper visibility and invisibility, erasure and existence, apparitions and traces; Machache has succeeded in curating an emotive display that offers us glimpses of the diasporic

experience of familial severing and habitual longing. Machache does this, while utilising literary and symbolic references, in a stunning showcase of multidisciplinary skill and collective visioning. At Mount Stuart these themes resonate with the spiritual enquiry of the Third Marquess of Bute and his embedding of religious, astrological, and mythological iconography in the architecture, decoration and fabric of the house.

Performers / Collaborators

- Alberta Whittle (gestural performance)
- Mele Broomes (dance performance)
- Eyve Madyise (musical performance)
- Trisha Margolis (musical performance)
- Esther Swift (harp performance)
- Zethu Maseko (mbira performance)
- Fiona Powell (costumes)
- Gigi Gumbimura (Hair)
- Adebusola Ramsay (research assistance, voiceovers)
- Chris Ramsay (sound tech)
- Carine Barinia (production assistance)
- Gillian Katungi (musical consultancy)
- Rhea Lewis (production consultancy)
- Tilda Williams-Kelly (support work / assistance / storyboards)





Filmed, Photographed and Edited by Ambroise Leclerc of Paradax Period, Washington Gwande and Douglas Tyrell Bunge

Directed, produced, researched, written and conceptualised by Sekai Machache.

Sekai Machache is a Zimbabwean-Scottish visual artist and curator based in Glasgow. Machache works with a wide range of media including photography. She is the recipient of the 2020 RSA Morton Award and is an artist in residence with the [Talbot Rice Residency Programme 2021-2023](#).

Recent shows include: *Body of Land: Ritual Manifestations* at Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow, Glasgow International Festival (2021); *These Stories: The Divine Sky* at Studio Pavilion, House for an Art Lover, Glasgow, Glasgow International Festival (2021); *Projects 20: The Divine Sky* at Stills Gallery and Edinburgh Arts Festival (2021).

Recent shows include: *Scottish Women Artists - 250 Years of Challenging Perception* at the Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh (2023). *Mundane x sacred x profane* at Sakhile&Me Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany (2023). Machache's film *Hypnagogia Glossolalia* will be screened at Fringe of Colour in Edinburgh this August, and in April 2024, Sekai will be exhibiting at the 60th Venice Biennale as part of the Zimbabwe Pavilion.

ENDS

For media information

Nicola Jeffs
nj@nicolajeffs.com
07794 694 754

Image credit - courtesy of the artist

Special thanks to

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About Mount Stuart Trust

Mount Stuart is an extraordinary Neo-Gothic mansion on the Island of Bute, sitting between Glasgow, Argyll and Ayrshire on the Firth of Clyde. Since 2001, this unorthodox building has provided both the inspiration and location for an acclaimed Contemporary Visual Arts Programme. The Programme enables the Trust to promote and facilitate interest in the contemporary visual arts and bring exhibitions of international standard to Bute and Argyll. Each exhibition is complemented by a programme of events, publications and educational activities.

Ferry and train information:

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/summer-timetables>

Mount Stuart opening dates:

Easter- October 2023. Please see website for further details.

Please call +44 (0)1700 503877 for further information or visit

www.mountstuart.com

Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute PA20 9LR

