

Kupfer



Nectere

MARIA, Hannah Morgan, Ding Ruyi and Sabīne Šnē

In collaboration with Acme

26 January - 10 February 2024

Opening: 25 January, 6 - 9 pm

Kupfer, 3 Scrutton Street, EC2A 4HF

Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday: by appointment, please email contact@kupfer.co to arrange a visit

Nectere, a Latin verb meaning 'to attach, bind, connect', is a group show exploring points of intersection present in the artists' practices. The works consider relationships and states of being within interconnected organic and non-organic systems. This exhibition is the culmination of a year-long residency at Acme's Warton House studio building.

Hannah Morgan explores entangled states of matter, medieval mythologies, and speculation within mines and caves in the UK. In *Nectere*, she presents a new iteration of her ongoing research series *Animula* (*little soul*), which looks at decay, grief and emergence in underground spaces. Morgan's installation considers the act of descent as transformation along a disused English Alabaster seam in Nottingham, with sculptures hand-carved from abandoned Alabaster, video footage of excavated terrain, and collected oral histories.

Sabīne Šnē is interested in the interconnection between humans, non-humans and nature. By exploring different organisms inhabiting soil and their role in sustaining life, the mixed media installation *Terrain We Traverse* questions the value we place on beings who are not humans and recognises the intimacy of the non-human within us.

MARIA's practice eviscerates and reassembles the intersections of chronic illness, language, race and notions of transformation through pain. Her video and sculpture installation, *YOU ARE (NOT) ALONE*, featuring original sound by artist Samuel Barbier-Ficat, is influenced by the potential of constructing new bodies: digital, earthen, and weaponised through the lens of chronic illness, race, and gender and sexuality. She explores combining sculptural and digital media forms that take cues from art history, anime, high femme mindset, weaponry, and deconstructed club beats.

Ding Ruyi's practice focuses on a series of social issues, including surveillance, consumerism and power relations. Ding's installation *print("Hell World!")* is catalysed by the artist's job as an accountant and examines the precarious capitalistic economic system. Her recent work *What do you do for a living as an artist?* further questions the value of labour and aesthetic by subverting the historical conception that art and work are opposing factors.

With practices spanning digital media, sculpture, and sound, each artist presents their unique vision into their shared space of research exchange over the course of their year-long Acme residency.

Acme's early career programme provides artists in their first five years of practice with a variety of support structures, including bursaries, rent relief, professional development, mentoring and exhibition opportunities. The programme aims to make a significant intervention at critical moments in artists' careers. Recipients work from shared studios in order to encourage an environment of peer support and critical dialogue.

The Goldsmiths MFA Award is a partnership between Acme and Goldsmiths, University of London, generously supported by Jane Hamlyn. The Adrian Carruthers Award is a partnership between Acme and The Slade School of Fine Art, funded by Acme and the Adrian Carruthers Memorial Fund. The Helen Scott Lidgett Award is a partnership between Acme, Central Saint Martins (University of the Arts London), Art Academy of Latvia and the family of Helen Scott Lidgett.

About the artists:

MARIA (Goldsmiths MFA Award) is an aggressively high femme Latine/American writer, performer, and artist who can usually be found at her local karaoke bar or serving her hot takes on pop culture. Based in London, she makes sculptural installations, performances, video and sound that eviscerate and reassemble the intersections of chronic illness and race, and systemic powers by using herself/body as a conduit and muse. She combines natural and digital materials to engineer environments that create radical bodily connections between cyber and organic networks. Currently, she is exploring pain (body, emotional, communal, spiritual) as a grounding for transformation and transmutation of the bodymind into an equitable and liberated future. She has exhibited internationally with shows at Copperfield Gallery (London, 2022), PWA (NYC 2023), Beeler Gallery at CCAD (Columbus, OH) and ArtRotterdam (2023). Her work is supported by the Goldsmiths Exhibitions Hub.

Hannah Morgan's (Adrian Carruthers Award) practice is sculptural installation. Working across audio/video, sculpture, and text to create material components that consider decay and emergence in underland spaces. Using excavation as an entry point, Hannah examines geographic entangled states of matter and organisms within caves and mines across the UK. In this, Hannah addresses grief, acts of pilgrimage, and the radical potential of the subterranean as a speculative landscape. Hannah was awarded the Prankerd Jones Memorial Prize 2019 for excellence in fine art at the Slade School of Fine Art, the Adrian Carruthers Award 2022/23 where she has been in residency in Stratford. Hannah recently completed a residency at Cove Park, Scotland in 2023, and a solo presentation with Xxijra Hii Gallery, London, earlier this year.

Ding Ruyi (Helen Scott Lidgett Award) a London-based artist working in installation, moving image and performance. Inspired by her nuanced observation and experience of the surroundings, most of her research and practice focus on a series of social issues, including surveillance, power relations and consumerism. Through the use of found materials derived from everyday life, her interactive installations allows the spectators to experience, question and criticize the ideologies that we take for granted.

Sabīne Šnē (Helen Scott Lidgett Award) explores the intersections between culture and nature and is particularly interested in the relationships between humans and non-humans. By weaving together scientific research, contemporary theories, and fiction, she creates worlds that highlight entanglements in ecosystems and multi-species intelligence. Šnē has a broad interdisciplinary practice that combines video, 3D animation, sound, sculpture, and drawing. Sabīne moved to London from Riga after receiving the Helen Scott-Lidgett Studio award (2023) post graduating from the Art Academy of Latvia. She has had two solo exhibitions *To Be We Need to Know the River* (Lot Projects, London, 2023) and *Partner, Parasite* (Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Rīga, 2022), and has participated in various group exhibitions in the UK and Europe.

About **Acme**:

London-based charity Acme has been supporting artists in necessitous circumstances for over 50 years. Over this time, it has provided thousands of artists with affordable studios, work/live space and a programme of artist support.

Acme is the single largest provider of permanent affordable artist studios in England, supporting over 800 individual artists across 15 buildings in Greater London each year.

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