

# Capital

## Coumba Samba

Opening & Performance: 27 March 2024, 6-9pm [RSVP](#)

*The performance is durational throughout the evening*

28 March - 2 June 2024

Seasonal closure March 29 - 31

*Capital*, the first major UK solo exhibition by Senegalese-American artist Coumba Samba, features a room-sized mud enclosure, photographic prints, and a commissioned performance titled 'FIFA' produced in collaboration with École Des Sables (Dakar, Senegal), and artist Gretchen Lawrence (UK/Estonia) to produce a permanent soundscape for the exhibition. The project revolves around the circulation of objects, forms, materials and ideologies between the West and West Africa; a feedback loop of defined futures, economic suppression, and the event of hope.

In *Capital*, Samba explores the act and structure of recycling Euro-American trash, shiny in its amassed grandeur. Junk is a direct material representation of the logic of capital, its colonial underside, and the failed prophecies of progress that come with it. Fédération Internationale de Football Association's ill-famed corruption case findings mark how these ideological fantasies shape individual aspirations, and spill out into the arena of global politics and finance, where the desire for symbolic power drives underhanded flows of capital globally.

The choreography of 'FIFA', co-developed by Alesandra Seutin (Artistic Co-Director, École Des Sables) and Coumba Samba, is informed by a mixture of repetitive body motions and gestures found in football, Senegalese Laamb wrestling, and the South American game Queimada. The imprints of the dancers' movements, hardening in the drying dirt, are a double agent: a promise of elusive agency and a desire machine for absent living bodies.

Gretchen Lawrence's sound composition echoes in every part of the gallery space during and after the performance, through a loudspeaker installation reminiscent of those found in public spaces and mosques. The sound features field recordings from Senegal and distorted kicks and sirens taken from royalty-free loops.

The large-scale installation of stainless steel, plexiglass, and industrial plywood continues and builds upon Samba's artistic language and attitude, noting their invisibilised production, intentionally irreverent to the historicity and fetishistic value of these materials. The artist plays with (art) historical tropes and idioms, creating sharp contrasts, a bricolage of ideas and matter that sit together awkwardly. Perhaps they were never supposed to touch or beautify each other.

Curators Milika Muritu and Adomas Narkevičius

In response to *Capital*, a one-day public programme event inviting artists, professionals, and academics from a range of fields to discuss critical aspects of African diasporic practice today, will be hosted by Coumba Samba alongside Galerina (Niina Ulfak, Mischa Lustin), and Infinite Fxx (Còvco).



*Senegalese-American artist Coumba Samba was born in 2000 in Harlem, New York City. In 2023 she presented solo exhibitions 'This is Money', Drei, Cologne; and 'Couture', Galerina, London. Recent group presentations include '118 1/2', Emalin; 'World as diagram, work as dance', Emalin, London; 'Ways of Living #3', Arcadia Missa, London; and 'Slow Dance (3)', Stadtgalerie, Bern. Recent performances as NEW YORK have been held at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK (2023); UCLA Broad Art Center, Los Angeles, US (2023); and The Lewben Art Foundation, Vilnius, LT (2023).*

*Alesandra Seutin is one of École des Sables' Artistic Directors. Alesandra Seutin is an award-winning multidisciplinary performance artist and creator, whose focus is exploring movement as a foundation for theatre, media and site-specific works. The daughter of South African and Belgian parents, Alesandra was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. She has reached global audiences through her work as an artistic director, choreographer, performer, mentor, teacher, movement director, dramaturg and writer for performance and music.*

*École des Sables is an International Centre for Traditional and Contemporary African dances based in Toubab Dialax, Senegal. Founded in 1998 by Germaine Acogny, considered the Mother of Contemporary African Dance, and her husband Helmut Vogt, the school is dedicated to professional training for young dancers and choreographers of African origin.*

*Gretchen Lawrence is an Estonian performance and audio-visual artist working with found objects, flicker animation and digital media.*

Performers: Alesandra Seutin, Fatou Niang, Nosiphiwo Samente  
Costume: Lulu Bullock  
Sound: Gretchen Lawrence  
Choreography: Alesandra Seutin

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