

GASWORKS

PRESS RELEASE

Nolan Oswald Dennis: *throwers*

24 April – 22 June 2025

Preview: Wednesday 23 April, 6:30–8:30pm



Gasworks presents *throwers*, the first UK solo exhibition by Johannesburg-based artist Nolan Oswald Dennis. The exhibition includes large-scale murals, intricate diagrams, and a 3D-printed installation exploring the intersections of geology, cosmology, and political histories. The works on display examine the conditions that organise our social sub-terrain and the structures that pre-determine the limits of our political imagination.

Featuring new and existing works, the exhibition challenges the colonial conception of a singular, knowable “world”, instead suggesting new models for envisioning a Black planet. One model is a new iteration of *recurse 4 a late planet* (2024-ongoing), a vast wall mural weaving cosmological, geological, and techno-political knowledge towards a social history of stones. Nolan’s diagram draws from an archive of near-Earth asteroids and their cosmic journeys, with particular attention to the “potentially hazardous objects” that periodically threaten catastrophic damage to our planet. Alongside these celestial perils, Nolan brings together a political history of stones, tracing their trajectories through mythological, spiritual, and activist accounts of justice and social change. Adorning the surface of the mural will be three-dimensional notes including beads, shells, and archival materials touching on references to the world-ending and world-mending properties of stones put into motion through the void. Mindful that a stone flying through the air traces a path through a hierarchy of values, Nolan will for the first time exhibit *throwers* – a personal archive of images of people throwing rocks.

These materials will be presented alongside *isivivane* (2023-ongoing), an installation featuring a 3D-printing machine reproducing rocks selected from specimens held in research archives in London. Tended regularly by Gasworks’ staff, the number of rocks will accumulate throughout the duration of the exhibition, creating a “Black Earth library”. Elsewhere, *further notes 4 a planet* (2025), a fragmented wall-based diagram, playfully makes lateral connections between different

worlds and their speculative modalities. Presented together, these works will tie social, political, and ecological time to the precariousness of existence in any given world.

The exhibition will be contextualised by a new iteration of the Black Earth Study Club, a space for transdisciplinary thinking where collective learning, togetherness, and sociality go hand-in-hand. Convened by interdisciplinary writer, artist, editor, and curator Imani Mason Jordan, the club will invite artists, writers, and scholars to reflect on the topics orbiting Nolan's practice and offers a relaxed environment in which to reflect on the personal, philosophical, historical, political, scientific, and technological. Black Earth Study Club events will take place at Gasworks on the evenings of 15 and 22 May 2025.

EXHIBITION CREDITS

The Lead Supporter for Nolan Oswald Dennis' exhibition is Marcus and Alexa Waley-Cohen. The exhibition is supported by the Henry Moore Foundation and Goodman Gallery, and is presented in partnership with Swiss Institute New York. Gasworks' Exhibitions programme is supported by Catherine Petitgas, Gasworks Exhibitions Supporters and Arts Council England. Gasworks' 2025 programme is generously funded by Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a Donor Advised Fund held at The Prism Charitable Trust.

PRESS CONTACT

press@gasworks.org.uk

<https://www.gasworks.org.uk/about-us/press/>

IMAGE CREDIT

Nolan Oswald Dennis, *recurse 4 a late planet (lush)*, 2024. Wallpaper. Courtesy the artist and Swiss Institute New York. Photo: Daniel Pérez.

ABOUT NOLAN OSWALD DENNIS

Nolan Oswald Dennis (b. 1988, Lusaka, Zambia) lives and works in Johannesburg. Dennis holds a B.Arch from the University of the Witwatersrand and an MS in Art, Culture and Technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recent solo exhibitions include *overturns*, Swiss Institute New York (2025); *understudies*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town; *geo-logics*, Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam (both 2024); *a recurse 4 [3] worlds*, Back wall project, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2023). Recent group exhibitions include *Traces of Ecstasy*, Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia and Lagos Biennial Fourth Edition, Lagos (2024); *Cinema Cosmos*, 14th Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai (2024); *Memory is an Editing Station*, Biennial SescVideobrasil, Sao Paulo (2023); and *THIS TOO IS A MAP*, Seoul Mediacity Biennale, Seoul (2023). Dennis is the 2016 winner of the FNB Arts Prize and the 2023 Videobrasil Jury prize. They are a founding member of the artist group NTU; the Indexing Literacy Program; and the convenor of Black Earth Study Club. Their writing has been published in academic and art publications including *The Funambulist*, *CLARA Architecture/Recherche Journal*, *Unearthing Traces*, *Mater and the inaugural Serpentine Reader* amongst others. They are currently a Research Associate at VIAD, University of Johannesburg and a member of the Edouard Glissant Art Fund Scientific Committee.

ABOUT GASWORKS

Gasworks is a leading non-profit arts organisation based in south London. Working at the intersection of UK and international contemporary art, we have supported more than 600 artists from over 80 countries since our founding in 1994.

We commission and produce exhibitions by emerging and underrepresented artists, and host residencies that enable artists from all over the world to research and develop new work. We also provide subsidised studios for London-based artists and co-design participation projects for local children, young people and families together with community partners.

Above all, Gasworks is a home for artists. We are committed to building long-term relationships with all the artists we work with. Thanks to our award-winning history, we have developed an unparalleled reputation for cultivating new artistic talent.

Gasworks is a registered charity, the London hub of Triangle Network, and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Nolan Oswald Dennis: *throwers*

24 April – 22 June 2025

Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Open: Weds – Sun 12–6pm. Free admission

www.gasworks.org.uk

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URL: <https://www.gasworks.org.uk/exhibitions/nolan-oswald-dennis/>