

Bow Arts presents Kat Anderson's *Mark of Cane* at Nunnery Gallery, Bow



Kat Anderson, '*Las, Fiya*' ('*Last, Fire*'), 2023, ungraded film still, photography Edward PG Tucker

Mark of Cane

9 February - 21 April 2024

Bow Arts is delighted to present a solo exhibition by Kat Anderson, winner of the inaugural East London Art Prize, at the Nunnery Gallery. Anderson will premiere a fictional short film and new paperworks which explore the impact of sugar on the African-Caribbean Diaspora.

Part of Anderson's ongoing project 'Episodes of Horror', which uses the genre of Horror to examine representations and the projected threat of the Black body and mental illness on society, *Mark of Cane* confronts the haunting legacies of the Industrial Revolution and the Transatlantic Slave trade.

The exhibition is an immersive, audio-visual experience, centred around Anderson's new single-channel, fictional short film. Shot largely on an existing sugarcane farm in Jamaica, the film weaves historical methods of harvesting sugarcane and sugar production with the cinematic concept of the 'Origin Story'. The accompanying series of paperworks, that the artist has hand-made from the extracted by-products of sugarcane, marks an exploration of a new medium for them. The series is produced as part of Anderson's residency at UCL East, a key partner of the East London Art Prize, where a special cane crusher and boiler furnace will be used to extract materials for the paper-making process.



In line with the larger project 'Episodes of Horror', *Mark of Cane* questions the emancipatory potential of creativity, reclamation and listening to history. Sugarcane becomes a vessel, both narratively and materially, for an imaginative and impactful examination of colonial histories. The work invites conversations around the forced and coerced movements of Black African-Caribbean people, from slavery through to the Windrush generation and its subsequent scandal.

In addition to this solo show with Bow Arts, Anderson has been invited by UCL East Urban Room to extend the residency beyond the exhibition.

Anderson's film has been supported by funds from Arts Council England and produced with support from Spike Island, Bristol.

The East London Art Prize celebrates and promotes the incredible talent and diversity of art made in the cultural hive of east London. The inaugural year's judges, artist Larry Achiampong, critic Louisa Buck, Director/Founder of Guts Gallery, Ellie Pennick, and Megan Piper, Director/Co-Founder of The Line, selected Anderson from a shortlist of 12 East London artists.

Notes to Editors

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About Kat Anderson

Kat Anderson is an award-winning visual artist, musician and filmmaker, currently working under the artistic and research framework 'Episodes of Horror', which uses the genre of horror to discuss representations of mental illness and trauma as experienced by or projected upon Black bodies in media.

Please click [here](#) to see Kat Anderson's portfolio of art works.

About the East London Art Prize

The [East London Art Prize](#) celebrates and promotes the incredible talent and diversity of art made in the cultural hive of east London. Proudly sponsored by Minerva and Prue MacLeod, the winner receives a cash prize of £15,000 and a solo exhibition at our Nunnery Gallery. The runner-up second prize is a year's studio space with Bow Arts.

More than just a competition, the Prize is supported by organisations and institutions working within its catchment boroughs, including the British Council, Dulux, The Line, London College of Fashion, London Legacy Development Corporation, University College London, V&A East and Whitechapel Gallery. This creates a network that enables the Prize to uniquely support and open up opportunities for artists through



an associated events programme, highlighting new connections, and providing resources.

The inaugural year's judges are Larry Achiampong (artist), Louisa Buck (art critic), Ellie Pennick (Director & Founder, Guts Gallery) and Megan Piper (Director & Co-Founder, The Line).

About Bow Arts

Since 1994, [Bow Arts](#) has nurtured London's diverse creativity and talent. We've provided artists and creative practitioners with affordable workspace, connecting them with local communities and supporting their professional development. We give communities throughout London greater access to and interaction with the arts, through our schools programme, workshops, exhibitions and events.

We're an arts and education charity and a social enterprise; our services support the growth of sustainable local creative economies. Over 600 artists, designers and makers are affiliated with Bow Arts through our workspaces, Nunnery Gallery, affordable housing for creatives, and award-winning schools and young people's learning programme.