UCL Urban Room

What’s on

2024

2024

Artist in Residence
Kat Anderson
15.03.24 – 16.06.24

Sonia Barrett Exhibition
Maplective ~ Tool Breakers Corp.
02.07.24

MemoryWork Exhibition
09.08.24

In Practice Two Showcase
Kat Anderson, is a filmmaker and winner of the East London Art Prize 2023. By engaging with challenging subjects through the lens of creativity, Kat encourages individuals to actively participate in dialogue and self-expression.

During her year long residency, Anderson will be working on the project *Mark of Cane*:

- Exploring the impact of sugar on descendants of enslaved Africans in Jamaica. Through film and paper-works, commune with ancestors and confront the haunting legacies of the sugar industrial revolution and the Transatlantic Slave trade. This work is an extension of the series ‘Episodes of Horror’, which is an ongoing project that uses the genre of Horror, to examine representations and the projected threat of the Black body and mental illness on society, whilst questioning the emancipatory potential of creativity, reclamation and repurposing of these representations.

- This will culminate in a series of paper works, using extracted by-products of sugar cane. Accompanied with a single-channel, short fictional film, shot primarily on an existing cane mill in Jamaica. Historic methods of the harvest and making sugar will interplay with abstract ‘origin stories’ of strange beings living in the cane.

- The work will premiere at the artist’ solo show at the Nunnery Gallery at Bow Arts, London in February 2024, as part of winning the inaugural ‘East London Art Prize’ 2023.

This project has been supported by funds from Arts Council England and produced with support from Spike Island, Bristol.
Sonia E. Barrett

Maplective

In this exhibition, artist Sonia E Barrett takes European colonial tools, instrumental in creating colonial power, and reconfigures them to do the cultural work they disrupted.

Colonial Maps, Desks and Cameras are reimagined to make a tool that draws on pre-colonial cultural instruments.

In activations, contemporary cultural practitioners can pick up those tools to work in the cultural rupture.

Sonia E Barrett will convene three initiatives, one maplectic and two of an inaugural collective: TBC (Tool Breakers Corp.)

The exhibition is a starting point for a further residency that reflects on using sculpture to create space to convey change.

Hosting Sonia is about extending invitations to women to gather and think about things like time, space, geography and the built environment.

This showcase connects research by members of the Urban Lab Steering Committee. It positions creative outputs as entry-points for understanding complex evidence.

The presentations span across disciplines and geography. The range of materials reveal a multidisciplinary approach to ideas of memory.

Contributions have come from scholars across UCL in the research areas of architecture, geography, political science, planning, critical heritage studies, history and anthropology.

Photo courtesy of the artist: Detail of Maplective installation (2021).
Located in Stratford at the UCL East Campus, the Urban Room is an experimental exhibition space for students, researchers, artists, and community members.

Based on the idea of an ‘urban room’ as a forum for community-based debate and dialogue, the UCL Urban room brings together academic research and lived experiences of city residents to inspire meaningful education for our students and visitors.

Together, the Urban Room and Memory Workshop are supported by The Bartlett Faculty of Built Environment and the School for Creative and Cultural Industries at the University College London.

The Urban Room hosts and facilitates events, projects, workshops. To book the Urban Room, fill out our Application form here.