

MEDIA RELEASE: September 2024

Press Preview: Friday 6 December 2024, 11am-4pm

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## Mani Kambo

7 December 2024 – 2 June 2025



Mani Kambo, 2024. © Courtesy the artist.

Opening on 7 December 2024, Mani Kambo's solo show at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead is a major new commission and will be the artist's first institutional exhibition. A multidisciplinary artist, Mani Kambo is based in Newcastle upon Tyne and explores the inner spirit by drawing on her own personal totemic symbols.

Influenced by her upbringing in a household filled with superstition, prayer, and religious ceremony, Kambo's practice encompasses textiles, fabric dyeing and printmaking, and is rooted in her family history within the caste system.

Kambo questions routines, objects and rituals distilled in the everyday and mythology. She is interested in the human soul and its connection to the cosmos, taking inspiration from the Latin phrase 'axis mundi'. Translating to 'world axis', the phrase has become a common symbol in many religions and regions, and for Kambo it represents a vertical bridge between heaven and earth, connecting the surface of the earth to the underworld and the heavens.

Her work records movement, and documents performative actions – the hand that creates the action, fire that reveals, water which is the purifier, and eyes that perceive - through the exploration of totemic objects and symbols. Through layering and editing images together she collages narratives and weaves dreamscapes. These visuals are repeated throughout her work like markers linking to notions of spirituality and belief in reincarnation.

Kambo embarked on a seven-month residency at Baltic, exploring new mediums and creating an entirely new body of work comprising textiles, wood engraving and symbolism. The artist residency was conceived as part of Baltic's Artist Development Programme and has provided Kambo with a studio, curatorial and technical support and access to Baltic's facilities. Baltic's Artist Development Programme was established in 2022 and offers learning and developmental support for artists and curators working across the North East of England.

*Exhibition supported by*

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## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

### **About Mani Kambo**

Mani Kambo (b.1992) is a multidisciplinary artist primarily working in textile, print and moving image, based in Newcastle upon Tyne. She explores the inner spirit by drawing on her own personal totemic symbols, influenced by her upbringing in a household filled with superstition, prayer and religious ceremony. Textile, fabric dyeing and printmaking is rooted in Kambo's family history within the caste system. She focuses on objects, routines and rituals distilled both from the everyday and mythology. Through layering and editing images together she collages narratives and weaves dreamscapes.

Recent exhibitions and screenings include Sudden Beams 2: Extraction, Platform Asia (2023) 'Hinterlands' Baltic (2022-2023), 'Jubilee' Vane Gallery (2022) Altitude, Womxn of Colour Art Award, 198 Contemporary and Learning (2019). Solo exhibitions and commissions include Harewood House Biennial: Create/Elevate (2024), 'Swimmers Limb' Somerset House - Gallery 31 (2022) 'Lore' GemArts Masala Festival, (2022) 'RIFT' Vane Gallery (2018) 'Semblance', System Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne (2018).

### **About Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art**

Baltic is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. It has welcomed over eight million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. Baltic presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, Baltic consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution.

Baltic has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date.