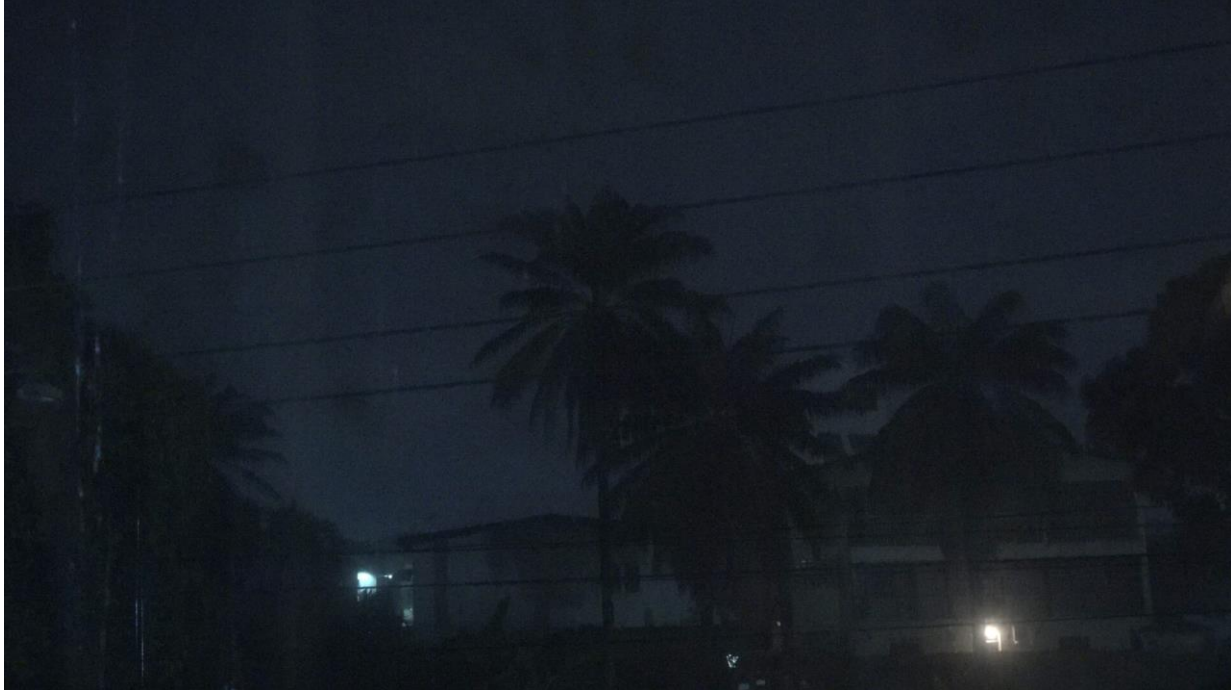


Ayo Akingbade: *Show Me The World Mister* 18 November 2023 – 14 April 2024



Ayo Akingbade *Show Me The World Mister* (2022) production image. Courtesy the artist.

Opening 18 November 2023 at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, ***Show Me The World Mister*** is an exhibition by **Ayo Akingbade** comprising two new film commissions.

The Fist and *Faluyi* (2022), both shot on location in Nigeria, are distinct but interconnected works build upon Akingbade's interest in history, place-making, legacy and power.

The Fist is a study of the first Guinness brewery built outside of Ireland and the UK, located on the outskirts of Lagos. Completed in 1962, in the wake of Nigeria's independence from Britain, it is a place where histories of industrialisation and labour collide. Shot on 35 mm, the film follows the comings and goings of workers and their tasks on the assembly and packing lines. Akingbade draws attention to the deep-rooted politics embedded in the production of this popular drink.

Faluyi follows the protagonist, Ife on a journey tracing familial legacy and mysticism in ancestral lands. Shot on 16 mm in the Idanre Hills – a UNESCO World Heritage site in Ondo State, the birthplace of Akingbade's parents – the film explores the artist's personal relationship with Nigeria. Panoramic views of bouldering hills surrounded by dense woodland form the backdrop to this sensitive tale of longing and loss, which eventually turns to hope and celebration. The two films are presented in the gallery divided by a structure made of aluminium, steel and polycarbonate that resembles the infrastructure of the Guinness factory itself.

Both works are co-produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London, and Spike Island, Bristol, and commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery; Spike Island; the Whitworth, The University of Manchester; Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; and John Hansard Gallery, Southampton. Following the presentation at Baltic, the work will be exhibited at the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

The commission and its acquisition by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester collection, are made possible with Art Fund support. With additional support from the Chisenhale Gallery Commissions Fund and WEVAA (West of England Visual Arts Alliance).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Arist Biography:

Ayo Akingbade is an artist writer, and director based in London. Selected exhibitions include: Duette, Towner Gallery, Eastbourne; Jitterbug, Museum of the Home, London (2022); Domestic Drama, Halle Fier Kunst Steiermark, Graz; A Glittering City: Ayo Akingbade with Duchamp & Sons, Whitechapel Gallery; An Infinity of Traces, Lisson Gallery, London (2021); Songs From A Forgotten Past, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, Sao Paulo (2020); Towner International Biennial, Towner Eastbourne; No News Today, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2019); and Urban Rhapsodies, Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York (2017). Her films have been shown at Cannes Film Festival, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, MoMA Doc Fortnight and International Short Film Festival Oberhausen among others.

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 and 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. Baltic is supported by Arts Council England, Gateshead Council and Northumbria University.

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