

G A S W O R K S



Pedro Neves Marques, Exhibition poster for *It Bites Back*, 2019. Courtesy of the artist.

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Pedro Neves Marques: *It Bites Back*

11 April – 16 June 2019

Preview: 10 April 2019, 6.30–8.30pm

Gasworks presents the first UK solo exhibition by New York-based artist, filmmaker and writer, Pedro Neves Marques, in collaboration with London-based music producer HAUT.

[It Bites Back](#) features new and existing works based on a laboratory in São Paulo that breeds genetically-engineered mosquitoes. Transgenic male mosquitoes are designed to reduce the insect's population by passing a lethal gene on to their offspring when released into the wild. Ranging from analogue film to sound installation, digital animation and poetry, Neves Marques' exhibition interrogates the laboratory as a place that defines the biopolitics of the 21st Century.

Working across theory and fiction, Neves Marques' films and writings trace the histories of colonialism past and present, weaving a constant dialogue with contemporary issues of political ecology, science and technology. His work engages with feminist histories of science as well as indigenous cosmologies in Brazil, where most of his films are produced. They are driven by the imagination of possible futures and livelihoods emerging from the gaps between radically different worlds.

It Bites Back examines the current trauma of biological warfare against the backdrop of the Zika virus epidemic and the increasingly palpable threat against non-normative bodies in Brazil and elsewhere. In the exhibition, body fluids and sex hormones are revealed as agents of power that operate with extraordinary force in our lives at the molecular level. Drawing inspiration from the literary traditions of horror and science fiction, Neves Marques invites the viewer to speculate on the future of love, care and intimacy in the midst of the current rise of authoritarian politics.

The exhibition revolves around the film installation *A Mordida (The Bite)*, a diptych comprising two short films from 2018, separately titled *Sex as Care* and *The Gender of the Lab*. In them, polyamorous encounters and the intimacy of queer lives run parallel to the scientific production of gender in sterile laboratory environments. In a twist on popular tropes associated with pulp genres such as weird fiction and gothic horror, *A Mordida* investigates contemporary expressions of terror and moral panic in the face of viral infection. It also explores alternate forms of living together, exemplifying modest hope in a time of rising fascism and militarization.

The films are presented alongside a multi-channel sound installation featuring an eerie, dark ambient soundscape by London-based music producer HAUT. For Gasworks, the two film projections are synchronised with the dim lighting of the space, choreographing the movement of audiences across the galleries. In *A Mordida*, documentary footage and fictional scenes are interspersed with a selection

of poems from Neves Marques' upcoming book *Sex as Care and Other Viral Poems*, fragments of which will be presented in a public reading at Gasworks.

It Bites Back is punctuated by two digital animations. One is displayed in a ceiling-mounted flat screen, while the other exists online. In the exhibition space, *Aedes aegypti* (2017) is a hyperrealistic render of the infamous mosquito, which is a vector for diseases including Zika and Dengue. The audience is granted a glimpse of the transgenic female specimen as it mates with a male and feeds on human blood. In dialogue with this work, a newly commissioned animation will be released through Gasworks' online platforms as a viral intervention.

Pedro Neves Marques' exhibition follows on from his residency at Gasworks in 2018. *A Mordida (The Bite)* was originally commissioned by Perez Art Museum (PAMM) in Miami.

Free admission. Address: Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Commissioning partners and exhibition supporters:



Related Events

Pedro Neves Marques: It Bites Back is accompanied by a public programme including readings and screening events. Visit www.gasworks.org.uk for more information.

Editor's Notes:

About the artists

Pedro Neves Marques is a New York-based artist born in Lisbon. Recent exhibitions and screenings include: Pérez Art Museum of Miami; Anthology Film Archives, Sculpture Center and e-flux in New York; Jeu de Paume and Kadist Art Foundation in Paris; Tate Modern and Serpentine Galleries at Peckhamplex Cinema in London; V-A-C Foundation and PAV in Italy; Sursock Art Museum in Beirut; the Times Museum in Guangzhou; Fundación Botín in Santander; Museu Coleção Berardo in Lisbon.

In 2017, he published his second short-fiction book, *Morrer na América (Dying in America)*. He is also the editor of *The Forest and the School: Where to Sit at the Dinner Table?* (2015), the first anthology in English that explores the Brazilian tradition of *Antropofagia* (cannibalism), understood not just as an aesthetic movement but a South American cosmopolitical philosophy. Together with fellow artist Mariana Silva, he is the founder of *inhabitants*, an online video channel for exploratory video and documentary reporting.

HAUT is a music producer, sound researcher and former psychiatrist working across the fields of experimental electronic music, affect and embodied music cognition. In his work he explores sound as tool for emotional healing, and as individual and collective expression; in accordance with the belief that the human body is both material and immaterial, female and male, singular and multiple. He envisions bodies as sites of process, movement and multiplicity, as open systems that connect to others, human and non-human, in an always unfinished process of becoming. He is currently undertaking a MA in music at Goldsmiths, University of London.

About Gasworks

For over twenty years Gasworks has played a unique role in the contemporary visual arts sector by working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. It does this by providing studios for London-based artists; commissioning emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in London; and developing a highly-respected international residencies programme, mainly working with artists based outside Europe and North America. All programmes are accompanied by events and participatory workshops that engage local and international audiences with artists and their work.

Gasworks is also the hub of Triangle Network, an international network of small-scale arts organisations and projects that support and disseminate the work of emerging artists through artist-led workshops, residencies, exhibitions and outreach events. Gasworks and Triangle Network are registered as a charity in the UK under 'Triangle Arts Trust' and all their activities are free to the public.

www.gasworks.org.uk / Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram/ Vimeo: @GasworksLondon

URL: <http://bit.ly/pedronevesmarques>

For high resolution images visit: <http://www.gasworks.org.uk/about-us/press/>

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