

# G A S W O R K S

PRESS RELEASE 05.08.2021

## **Adam Khalil and Bayley Sweitzer with Oba: Nosferasta**

**6 October – 19 December 2021**



Adam Khalil & Bayley Sweitzer, Oba researching for his role in *Nosferasta*, 2021. Courtesy of the artists.

Gasworks presents a major new film commission by Brooklyn-based filmmakers **Adam Khalil and Bayley Sweitzer**. Acclaimed for their feature film *Empty Metal* (2018), a science-fiction political thriller set against a backdrop of racialised police brutality and mass surveillance, Khalil and Sweitzer delve into anti-colonial politics by weaving together indigenous histories and speculative imagination with a subcultural sensibility.

For their first UK solo exhibition at Gasworks, Khalil and Sweitzer will premiere *Nosferasta*, a Rastafarian vampire film starring and co-written by Oba, an artist and musician based in Brooklyn. Spanning 500 years of colonial destruction, human trafficking and blood sucking, the film reimagines Oba's origin story. In the late 15th century, Oba is shipped as cargo from West Africa to the Caribbean, where he is seduced by the vampire Christopher Columbus, ensuring his undying allegiance to the colonial project.

As the centuries blow by, Oba and Columbus work behind the scenes, pulling the strings of 'new world' geopolitics as they spread vampirism across the Western Hemisphere. Combining film forms and genre tropes, *Nosferasta* examines the guilt of being complicit in imperial conquest, while acknowledging the extreme difficulty of unlearning centuries of vampiric conditioning. Ultimately, the film tackles an uncomfortable question: *How can you decolonize yourself, if it's in your blood?*

*Nosferasta* is commissioned and produced by Gasworks, London and Spike Island, Bristol, as part of the European Cooperation project 4Cs: From Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture, co-funded by Creative Europe and the Royal College of Art. The film is also supported by Cinereach.

The film will be presented at Spike Island, Bristol, in February 2022.

Gasworks commissions are supported by Catherine Petitgas and Gasworks Exhibitions Supporters.

For high resolution images visit: <http://www.gasworks.org.uk/about-us/press/> or email [sheena@gasworks.org.uk](mailto:sheena@gasworks.org.uk)

---

#### Listings Information:

##### Gasworks

Free admission

Open Weds - Sun 12-6pm

[www.gasworks.org.uk](http://www.gasworks.org.uk)

155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Please visit [gasworks.org.uk](http://gasworks.org.uk) to see our covid safety measures.

Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram/ Vimeo/ Soundcloud: @GasworksLondon

URL: <https://bit.ly/NOSFERASTA>

Hashtags: #nosferasta #GasworksLondon

#### Editor's Notes:

##### About Adam Khalil and Bayley Sweitzer

Adam Khalil is a filmmaker and artist from the Ojibway tribe in Northern Michigan; Bayley Sweitzer is a filmmaker from Southern Vermont. Recent screenings include the Museum of Modern Art, Anthology Film Archives, and e-flux (New York); Walker Arts Center (Minneapolis); LACMA (Los Angeles); and Tate Modern (London). Their work has also featured at international events including the Whitney Biennial, Toronto Biennial, Sundance Film Festival. Adam Khalil is also a core contributor to the indigenous collective New Red Order (NRO), for which Bayley Sweitzer acts as a regular accomplice.

##### About Oba

Oba 'the Artist and Musician' is a multi-disciplinary artist and chef born in Trinidad. His paintings, sculptures and t-shirts have been featured at Motel Gallery and Rumblestiltskin, Brooklyn. He was lead singer of the avant-noise supergroup *Dead Companionship* from 2016-2018. Oba's world-class corn soup has been slurped at the legendary Club Temptation in Flatbush, as well as fine establishments across the world.

##### 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.

#### Supporters and partners



Spike Island



155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH  
[gasworks.org.uk](http://gasworks.org.uk) +44(0)20 7587 5202 [info@gasworks.org.uk](mailto:info@gasworks.org.uk) @GasworksLondon

Gasworks is the hub of

TRIANGLE  
NETWORK

Registered charity no. 326411  
Registered company no. 1646688



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND