

aspex portsmouth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release:

Traces of the Non-Existent, Eburn Sodipo



Image: Eburn Sodipo *'Left Hand of the Sisters'* 2024. Installation view at Southwark Park Galleries, London. Originally commissioned for Jerwood Survey III (2024-25), led by Southwark Park Galleries and supported by Jerwood Arts.

This spring, Aspex Portsmouth presents *Traces of the Non-Existent*, an evocative new commission by London-based multidisciplinary artist Eburn Sodipo. Opening in May 2025, the exhibition weaves together sculpture, collage, and text to explore the experiences, histories, and strategies of resistance of real and imagined Black trans women across time.

At the heart of *Traces of the Non-Existent* is the figure of Vitoria - a 16th-century Black trans woman who was enslaved and defied European conceptions of gender and the body. Through an assemblage of historical fragments and imagined futures, Sodipo reclaims and reconfigures Black trans narratives, inviting audiences to engage with histories that have been silenced or erased.

Visitors will encounter objects that transport them into a recognisable yet fabulated past, where Black trans voices empower, rage, laugh, unite, and persist in the face of ongoing injustices. Moving beyond the limits of historical documentation, Sodipo speculates on alternative futures, envisioning worlds where Black trans lives are empowered, connected, and celebrated.

At the core of Sodipo's practice is a commitment to creating for those who will come after - Black trans people of the future. Her work, rooted in Black feminist study, investigates the construction of a Black trans-feminine self in the aftermath of slavery and colonialism. Using collage and fabulation as key methodologies, the artist reimagines the body, desire, archives, and history, offering a profound reflection on identity and existence.

During the exhibition, Aspex Portsmouth will be offering a residency kindly supported by Photoworks, as part of their Photography Champions programme which supports photography in the city.

Following the exhibition at Aspex, *Traces of the Non-Existent* will continue as part of a nationwide project with BUILDHOLLYWOOD. The exhibition will travel to Brighton during Trans Pride and Pride 2025, and to Birmingham Pride 2025, building from the engagement of the exhibition and continuing its legacy through a national billboard campaign.

Sodipo was named one of Frieze's 'Ten Artists to Watch in 2025' and has exhibited at renowned galleries and institutions. Her recent solo exhibitions include

An Ominous Presence, Soft Opening, London (2025), *Nasty Girl 2 (The Beast)*, Soft Opening at Paul Soto, Los Angeles (2024), *Image on the Tongue*, inter.pblc, Copenhagen (2024), *Nasty Girl (The Sharpest Girl in Town)* at V.O Curations, London (2023) and *The Edge Sheen of a Cut* at VITRINE Gallery, Basel (2023). Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at Hauser & Wirth, Somerset (2024), Neven Gallery, London (2024), and FACT, Liverpool (2022), among others. This exhibition marks the first presentation of Sodipo's work in Portsmouth and will be a highlight of the UK Pride 2025 programme in the city.

Traces of the non-existent is kindly supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, Patrick Holmes, and the Portsmouth Pride Trust.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

***Traces of the non-existent*, Eburn Sodipo**

Exhibition: 2 May – 13 July 2025

Preview Event: Thursday 1 May 2025

(Artist Networking 5.30pm–6pm / All welcome 6pm – 8pm)

Address:

Aspex Portsmouth, The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm

Closed Monday & Tuesday

Further information:

www.aspexportsmouth.org.uk

Instagram: [@aspexportsmouth](https://www.instagram.com/aspexportsmouth)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aspexportsmouth

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aspex-portsmouth

About the Artist

Eburn Sodipo works across performance, moving image, text, and installation. Recent solo exhibitions include *Nasty Girl (The Sharpest Girl in Town)* at V.O Curations, London (2023) and *The Edge Sheen of a Cut* at VITRINE Gallery, Basel (2023). Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at Hauser & Wirth, Somerset (2024) and The Block Museum, Evanston (2022). Sodipo has delivered performances and talks at leading institutions including Turner Contemporary, Margate, and Bergen Kunsthall, Norway, with residencies at V.O Curations (2022) and Gasworks, London (2020–21).

About Aspex Portsmouth

Aspex brings new art and ideas to the heart of Portsmouth. Our mission is to cultivate art and creativity rooted in community. We believe art brings joy, broadens minds, facilitates learning and nurtures our communities.

We create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience contemporary visual art – from looking and discussing, to making and curating. We achieve this by delivering an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions, off-site projects and participation events.

For all press enquiries, please contact:

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