

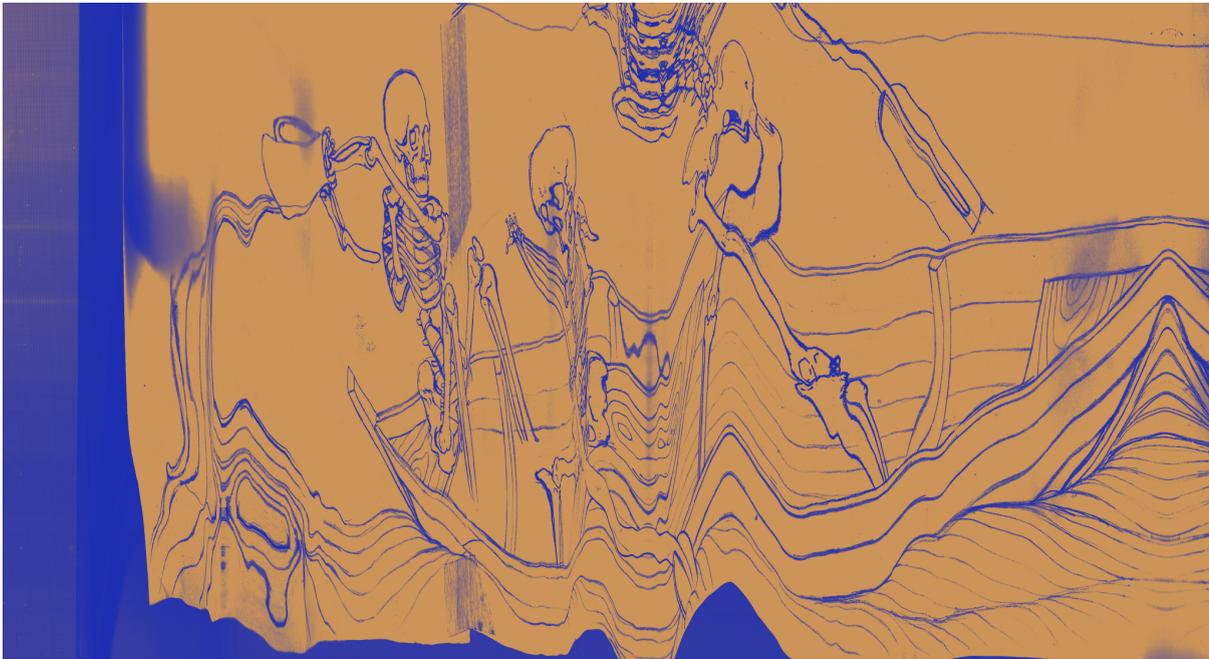
As a Child with a Matchstick Castle

Presented by *FAF Collective*

13 April 2023 - 01 March 2023

Opening: Thursday 13th 6-10pm

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ



*We stand very still, feet flat - mosaic islands raised from the ground, excavated mound of concrete narrowing beneath,
Then we start to move with them
turning into them*

*Walking through feels more like wading in knee-deep waters, leading down into a hidden underworld. A site of moments
in which dreams arise like notes in the dust.*

*Outlines of skeletal rafters shift above our heads - clad with tin, secured by rivets - cast ghosts of
arches once rushed through.*

Staffordshire St presents 'As a Child with a Matchstick Castle' a large-scale installation by F.A.F that explores how layers of history and myth are interwoven. The largest Roman mosaic to be found in fifty years was unearthed directly beneath the site of F.A.F's temporary work 'Constant's New Garden' and living space 'The Caravan Complex'. This brought a halt to the development of the flats that had forced their departure. The mosaic is thought to be from the floor of a dining room of an upmarket motel, a place where visiting officials may have stayed. The endurance of this mosaic, that they had once unwittingly lived above, prompted a reflection on the temporal nature and transience of F.A.F's previous architectural structures. In this new work F.A.F explores the mythologies surrounding their own works, creating a fictional scenario in which the remnants of a past project has been unearthed.

F.A.F has brought together the broken fragments of a whole mosaic floor to float between the cast iron pillars supporting the main gallery at Staffordshire st. The deconstructed parts of the mosaic are cradled within a steel structure, turning the gallery into an archaeological site. Amongst the mosaic islands will be a wooden structure that emerges like a sapling to form a vaulted ceiling. A scaffold platform will create a vantage point in which to bridge the gaps of dereliction and imagine the complete tableau. The design of the floor documents moments of F.A.F's previous projects that have long since been bulldozed to make way for redevelopment. Although the fragility of 'As a Child with a

Matchstick Castle' alludes to a sense of abandonment, it's met with an optimism for growth with the possibility of new beginnings.

F.A.F emerged out of a shared indifference to the financial and physical restraints placed on the creation of large scale sculptures in London. In a disused industrial site, which had been fly-tipped with construction debris, this shared sentiment first manifested itself with the creation of 'Stephen Bhatti's Diving Tower'.

Using the physical limitations of sites, as well as the materials contained within, F.A.F creates temporary, fantastical structures. They introduce absurd fictional sub-plots into the periphery of the city. The works exist in the realm of myth due to the in-accessibility of these locations; sightings are fleeting with glimpses being caught from places like the top deck of a bus or through the fence of a station platform.

Between 2019-21 F.A.F developed an alternative living situation, occupying a car park in London Bridge. This saw a transition for F.A.F with their construction style being applied to functional spaces. Both this and their earlier work focuses on the repurposing of redundant materials and space, reimagining the normality of the domestic within cities.

Alongside their personal practices, F.A.F maintain a co-operative working method that weaves individual research interests with a shared trust and desire to realise ambitious sculptural installations.

For further information please contact: info@staffordshirest.com

Events

Thursday 27th April 6-8pm

Revaluing ~~Property~~ in Your Area

Panel discussion on alternative ways of living in the current housing crisis to explore the future of our communities inside and outside of London. [Sign up here](#)

Sunday 7th May 12-6pm

Extension Cable Cuisine

Nestled amongst the mosaic floor structure you will find crock-pots, slow cookers and hot plates powered by a medley of daisy-chained extensions. Bring a tin can and cutlery to help yourself to a meal prepared and left to stew. [Sign up here](#)

Wednesday 3rd May 6-8pm

Through the Caravan Window

A life drawing session held in and amongst the installation in a series of 30 minute drawing sessions. Spotighting and domestic objects will create surreal vignettes to be drawn. Drawing boards, bulldog clips, paper and basic drawing materials will be provided. [Sign up here](#)

Notes

Staffordshire St <http://www.staffordshirest.com>

Staffordshire St is an independent project space in Peckham, South East London. The venue facilitates arts and cultural events and provides affordable studios for artists, makers and designers. More information on upcoming events at : info@staffordshirest.com or [@staffordshirest](#)

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Friday 12-8pm

Saturday - Sunday 12–6pm or by appointment

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ

Transport: 12 minute walk from **Queens Road Peckham** or **Peckham Rye**



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