

Mass

Gaika and Ben Cullen Williams

Dates: 08 - 11 February 2024

Opening: Thursday 7 February 2024 6 - pm

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ



Staffordshire St presents an audio visual installation by Gaika and Ben Cullen Williams which investigates the demise of club culture. Seeing these ritual sites as integral to community, stemming from their own experiences of London club culture growing up and seeing these spaces turn into commercial developments, forcing out grassroots venues. The work will explore the relationship between economics, gentrification, club culture and religion. The exhibition's name is a nod to a former club in Brixton called Mass, which was housed in a converted church.

For **Mass** Gaika and Williams intend to build on this relationship between the cinematic, sculptural and performative aspects of their work. The installation will start as a live recording on opening night, where Gaika will create a soundscape on site incorporating recorded interviews and soundbites from people and communities personally invested in club culture and urban planning. Both Gaika and Williams are from London and grew up enmeshed in London's club culture. They have however, seen these spaces slip away, closed down due to a number of factors including economics and urban development.

Through sculpture, video, light and sound, the new installation will exist as an active site at the intersection of club culture and urban development, sitting on a line between destruction and creation, death and rebirth. Gaika and Williams have collaborated many times, most recently at Now Gallery in Greenwich & in Sicily at Picnic Affair, an art and music festival where they floated a raft of stage trusses on the Ionian Sea. This exhibition will become a relic of its own making a legacy of a congregation, a meeting place, a mausoleum of the moment it was made.

Gaika, an enigmatic multidisciplinary artist. Emerging from the electronic music underground, he draws directly on his Afro Caribbean heritage and his experience of navigating the built environment across the world's mega megacities His politically charged views of urbanised, mechanised and mediated living are expressed as total artworks that combine large scale spatial and architectural aspects with music and video and performance. His works are largely considerations of psychogeography, morality, technology, memory, and emotion. Aiming for people to get truly lost in the worlds he builds, and for that journeying to trigger internal investigations beyond the moment of encounter.

Williams explores humankind's relationship to the world in a rapidly changing environment; he focuses on the intersection between space, technology and landscape. His work fluidly moves between sculptures, installations, photography and video. He investigates how related spatial typologies can be understood as a physical manifestation of our own human condition. While showing his work across a spectrum of spaces internationally from museums and galleries, to theatres to public spaces. As a keen advocate of cross conversations between disciplines, collaboration is an integral part of his practice. He has travelled to the Antarctic with polar Explorer Robert Swan from which he presented a video work at Somerset House on which Gaika created the score, collaborated with Royal Ballet resident choreographer Wayne McGregor and developed work with Google Arts and Culture Lab.

Events

Wednesday: 07 Feb 6-9pm

MASS

Guests are invited to see GAIKA and Williams finalising the creation of the work within the gallery. Sounds and lights will be programmed in real-time as the first marker in an evolving installation.

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. The venue was recently established as an art gallery, before then it was for many years a community centre and originally it was built as a Methodist Hall. Staffordshire St will build on the established record of these histories, opening up again to the neighbourhood

and developing a welcoming interdisciplinary arts space. More information on upcoming events at : info@staffordshirest.com or [@staffordshirest](https://www.instagram.com/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**

info@staffordshirest.com

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