

Swords & Kisses

curated by *Yifan He*

23 - 26 March 2023

P4mance nite XOXO (at the table) [ticketed]: Thursday 23 March 7 - 9pm

PV + chat room for gamers and more: a panel talk: Saturday 25th - 6-9pm

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ



image credit: Axe Binondo, Top text: I know a spot the spot, 2023

Chaney Diao, Kash & Germ, Axe Binondo, Zhuyang Liu, Nitesh Tailor, Song Han, Chia Amisola, Jiawei Zheng, and Angeldust.

PRESS RELEASE

Staffordshire St presents, *Swords and Kisses*, a four day programme of events around an exhibition of works by artists and gamers. The show centres around queer+trans visions of a non-linear time-space and experiences of diasporas. The exhibition space becomes a gathering space to create and inhabit other worlds. Queer and global majority artists build portals, props and false promises.

The show explores the technology of fantasy: world building, avatars, and storytelling; to suggest fabulous ways to be with each other through care, nightmare and fan-fiction. Through installation, memes, video games, costumes, critical essays the artists draw from their experiences of failing or succeeding to pass borders, gender and identity.

The exhibition prompts questions: Why do we create portals? Which bodies are allowed in the other worlds? What dreams and nightmares do we bring to these avatars? How do we confront the monetisation of virtual spaces by corporations? What toolkits need to be created to foster a community of care in our boldest fantasies?

The artists were brought together through a series of events by **Yifan He**, a curator interested in creating alternative digital spaces: open doc, chatrooms, and open world video games, for collaborations and gatherings of strange creatures and fanciful dreams.

Events

Thursday 23rd March 7 - 9pm

P4mance nite XOXO (at the table)

£4 - £5, book via eventbrite

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/p4mance-nite-xoxo-at-the-table-tickets-558789593717

*A night where characters gather at the site of Staffordshire St for murderous morphes, wondrous explores, a raves, a surgery, and a dinner decolonised: **P4mance nite XOXO (at the table)**. Artists, Song Han, April Lin 林森 & Chantel FOO 符匀瑄, Chaney Diao, Zhuyang Liu, Angeldust, and Nitesh Tailor, who perform care for bodies on the move, aka. dancing, transmuting, shifting, immigrating, fidgeting, etc.*

Saturday 25th March 6-9pm

Private view + chat room for gamers and more: a panel talk

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/558899151407

Chat room for gamers and more: a panel talk, is a conversation between **Kash & Germ**, **Axe Binondo**, **Chia Amisola**, and **Yifan He** on open-source techy tools, making video games, non-linear narratives, nature re-experienced in games, and our reading list of fictions and graphic novels. They will also share more about the making process of the games they are showing in terms of world building, interactivity, fandom, and rebuilding relationships.

Notes

Staffordshire St 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 [@staffordshires](https://www.instagram.com/staffordshires)

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
www.staffordshirest.com
[instagram.com/staffordshires](https://www.instagram.com/staffordshires)