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Spike Island

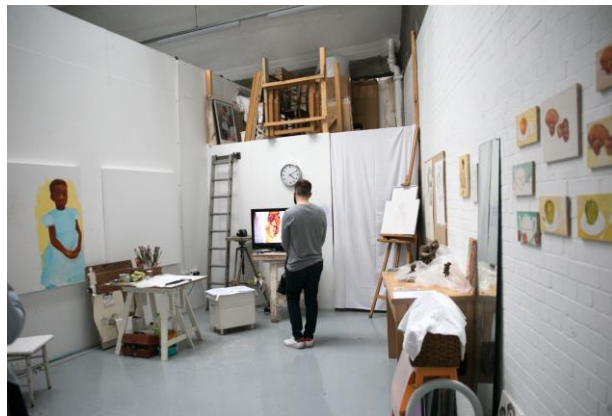
133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX
0117 929 2266 / www.spikeisland.org.uk

Spike Island Open Studios

4 to 7 May 2018 (free entry)

Press Preview: Friday 4 May, 4–6pm (public preview: 6–9pm, party till late)

Open Studios continues 5 to 7 May, 11am to 5pm



A perfect weekend for the curious, Spike Island Open Studios is your annual opportunity to go behind the scenes and meet a community of artists and creative businesses based in this 80,000 sq. ft. former Brooke Bond tea packing factory.

Meet artists who work in sculpture, drawing, film, painting, installation, performance and more, alongside tenants ranging from architects to film producers, as they throw open their doors for you to explore their working environments and learn more about what they do.

A packed programme of exhibitions, family friendly activities, talks, performances and tours are scheduled throughout Open Studios, including:

- Make, fire and drink from your own tea cup as part of a Raku ceramic workshop with artists Sarah Wilton and David Alesworth.
- Ask questions of a strange mirrored cube structure 'The Curious Cube', such as 'Where do artists' ideas come from?' and 'Can I make a sculpture without using my hands?'
- Meet Wise Children, Bristol's newest theatre company in their new studio at Spike Island.
- Make and display your own plasticine sculptures for the *Skulptur Parc* exhibition in Spike Island's Test Space.
- Tread carefully or dance around an interactive installation that responds to your footsteps by SHOP motion design studio.
- Explore a monumental, architectural installation *Up Along Down* by Steve Joyce constructed from cardboard and hosted in Spike Island's expansive commissioning bay.
- Join artist Sarah Crew on board for *#HILANG Airways*, a playful performance exploring land reclamation, getting lost, and the potential for chaos.
- Experience the artwork *Passengers* by Poebright & Eagle on-board Bristol Ferry Boat 'Matilda'.

- Produce and take home your own small dry point etchings in a workshop with Spike Print Studio.
- Eskimo reveal the forms and finishes used in their work including a rare 600 year old lacquerware technique called Tsugaru Nuri.
- See a documentary film of *PRODUCTIONPRODUCTIONPRODUCTION*, a recent project by Spike Associates presented at Tate Modern as part of Tate Exchange 2018.
- Inspired by the centenary of women's suffrage, Anna Haydock-Wilson invites visitors to take part in *Entitled*, a programme of work by and about women artists of the past 100 years.
- Take part in 'Poem Brut', a pop-up literary event exploring artistic creative writing featuring performances, readings and interactions.
- Exhibitions and performances by UWE Fine Arts students run throughout the weekend including the film collaboration Chelsea/UWE Exchange.

Alongside Open Studios, three new exhibitions open at Spike Island by artists Zoë Paul, Alex Cecchetti and Andrew Mania:

- Zoë Paul's exhibition evolves around the work *La Perma-Perla Kraal Emporium*, a collaborative work that invites visitors to sit around a long table and make clay beads, thereby becoming the work at the same time as creating it.
- *At the Gates of the Music Palace* by Alex Cecchetti includes a mysterious musical instrument that responds to visitors' movements, producing sound as they pass through the space.
- Andrew Mania's *Snapshot of a Collection* creates a dialogue between a series of early vintage photographs and his own drawings that capture a state of mischief and yearning.

Family friendly activities across the weekend include: *What Would You March For?*, a banner making workshop celebrating 100 years since the Women's Suffrage movement, led by Rising artists for 11 to 16 year olds; and Dream & Make invite 5 to 11 year olds to create 3D collages and installations in a day of immersive art.

Some of Bristol's best street food traders host pop-ups including Wood Chop Pizza, Sri-Licious, Dawsons Pasties and Buckland Burgers, while our very own Spike Island Café offer a colourful organic menu.

To celebrate the launch of Open Studios, a party in the sculpture yard takes place from 9pm until 2am with Casa Delirium DJ's.

Image credit: Spike Island Open Studios (2017) Photograph by Lisa Whiting

– Ends –

For further information and high resolution images please contact Jane Faram, Communications Manager on 0117 929 2266 or jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk

Notes for editors:

- Open Studios is free to enter and begins on Friday 4 May 2018, 6–9pm. It continues Saturday 5 May 2018, 11am–5pm; Sunday 6 May 2018, 11am–5pm and Monday 7 May 2018, 11am–5pm.
- Some events/activities require advance booking, details coming soon to www.spikeisland.org.uk.
- Zoë Paul, Alex Cecchetti and Andrew Mania exhibitions continue to 8 July 2018.

- Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.
- A full listing of Spike Island studio holders and tenants can be found at www.spikeisland.org.uk/people/.
- UWE Fine Art studios and facilities are located on the ground floor at Spike Island, part of UWE City Campus. www.courses.uwe.ac.uk/W101/fine-art
- 'The Curious Cube' is a project by Bristol-based science centre We The Curious as part of their initiative to collect 10,000 questions from curious Bristolians.
- Spike Associates is Spike Island's membership network of artists, writers, curators, designers and other creative practitioners.
- Test Space is programmed by studio holders based at Spike Island and offers artists a chance to exhibit new works and test ideas. Artists from within the Spike Island community and beyond are included. Please ask at reception for access.
- Bristol Ferry Boat timetables can be found at www.bristolferry.com
- Spike Island is a partner of Tate as part of the Plus Tate network.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.

www.spikeisland.org.uk

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