



Image: Rhea Storr, *Subjects of State, Labours of Love*, 2025. Film still.

PRESS RELEASE

Rhea Storr

Subjects of State, Labours of Love

Site Gallery, Sheffield, 14 February - 25 May 2025

Press Preview: 13 February 2025, 4-5pm

- *Subjects of State, Labours of Love* is a major new multi-channel installation by artist Rhea Storr presented at Site Gallery; her first institutional solo-exhibition.
- Shot on 16mm film and presented in two chapters, the work forms an intimate portrait of Caribbean Associations in Wolverhampton from the 1980s onwards, and present-day Sheffield African and Caribbean Community Association SADACCA.
- Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Site Gallery and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. The commission and its acquisition by Wolverhampton Art Gallery are made possible with Art Fund support. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

Press are invited to Site Gallery for an exhibition preview between 4 - 5pm, with the opportunity to find out more about the exhibition and speak to the artist and curatorial team. Tea and coffee will be available. If you would like to attend, please contact:

Rosie Thompson (rosie.thompson@sitegallery.org)

For any and all enquiries relating to Film and Video Umbrella, please contact:

Edward Longville (edward@fvu.co.uk)

Opening Event: Thursday 13 February, 5 - 8pm

Subjects of State, Labours of Love exhibition opening will take place on Thursday 13 February at Site Gallery. Join us to celebrate the opening of this major new exhibition. Collective Kitchen will be open for drinks.

Notes for Editors

SUBJECTS OF STATE, LABOURS OF LOVE

Subjects of State, Labours of Love is a two-chapter film by acclaimed artist Rhea Storr. Shot on 16mm film, the work is presented as an immersive multi-channel video installation and exhibition that captures the shared joys, celebrations, struggles, oppressions and complexities experienced by Caribbean heritage communities.

The first chapter captures a present-day discussion among key people involved in Black/Caribbean community organising during the 1980s through to the present day in Wolverhampton. This was a turbulent time marked by race riots in major British cities, the brutal policing of Black communities and the rise of far-right groups like the National Front. Against this backdrop, Black/Caribbean organisers provided vital community spaces at a time when Black people faced widespread discrimination and inequality in education, housing, and the job market. In the conversation, the members share their experiences of organising, the challenges they encountered (particularly related to British politician Enoch Powell's lasting racist rhetoric), and the joys of solidarity and community.

The second chapter of the film is an observational portrait of present-day Sheffield and District African Caribbean Community Association, SADACCA. The work highlights how SADACCA, which used to be a manufacturing site, now serves as a valuable resource for the community and a central part of the social fabric of the city. This chapter also looks at the importance of archiving from the perspective of what future generations of Black people living in the UK might need, and how their changing position in UK society influences the viability of the space.

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About Rhea Storr

Rhea Storr explores Black and mixed-race cultural representation with an interest in the in-between, the culturally ineffable, translation, format and aesthetics. Her work is often concerned with Caribbean diaspora in the UK. This includes an interest in representing Black subjects in rural spaces and the politics of masquerade. Frequently working in photochemical film practices, Rhea Storr considers counter-cultural ways of producing moving-image. She is currently a PhD researcher at Goldsmiths focusing on Black experimental filmmakers and the use of 16mm film and is a former co-director of a filmmaker's co-operative 'not nowhere'.

Selected exhibitions/screenings include: BFI London Film Festival, New York Film Festival, CPH:DOX, Blackstar Festival, Hamburg International Short Film Festival, European Media Art Festival, Museum of African American History and Culture, Somerset House, Whitechapel Gallery and Lisson Gallery. She is the winner of the Aesthetica Art Prize 2020, Louis Le Prince Experimental Film Prize and won the Royal Photographic Society's Award for Creative Contribution to Art in Moving Image 2023.

About Film and Video Umbrella

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, produces and curates artists' moving-image works, and presents them in collaboration with galleries and cultural partners throughout the UK and internationally. We enable artists to make challenging and ambitious projects, promoting innovation through our support of new and significant voices working across the visual arts. FVU has supported more than 200 different artists' projects, from multi-screen installations to online commissions.

To find out more visit www.fvu.co.uk

About Site Gallery

Sheffield's contemporary art space Site Gallery specialises in new media, moving image and performance. Pioneering emerging art practices and ideas, Site works in partnership with local, regional and international collaborators to nurture artistic talent and support the development of contemporary art. Site is supported by Arts Council England's NPO Investment Programme and Sheffield City Council.

Site Gallery works with early-career to established artists to commission new work, produce solo and group shows, deliver residencies, performances, events and community programmes. In recent years it has worked with artists such as Elizabeth Price (UK), Phoebe Davies (UK), Sophia Al-Maria (US/Qatar), Susan Hiller (US), Mercedes Azpilicueta (AR/NL), Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom (UK), Freya Dooley (UK). From 2018-2023, Site ran a major residency programme: Platform, supported by the Freelands Artists Programme, investing in 20 artists from the Sheffield City Region. Site Gallery runs Society of Explorers throughout the year, a peer-led young people's group which makes unique connections with artists and gains new skills and learning.

To find out more visit sitegallery.org

About Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Wolverhampton Art Gallery opened to the public in 1884. The two-storey building was designed by the Birmingham architect Julius Chatwin (1829–1907), and originally also housed the Wolverhampton School of Art. The building was funded and constructed by local contractor Philip Horsman (1825–1890) and built on land provided by the municipal authority.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery is a creative cultural hub for Wolverhampton residents and visitors, with a varied programme of exhibitions, events and activities throughout the year. In addition to the permanent and temporary exhibition galleries, there are several spaces for creativity, community and contemplation with accessible facilities across the venue.

A significant part of the gallery's collection came from bequests and gifts given by local industrialists. Since the post-war decades, the collection has grown in scope and importance due to its visionary collecting policies and the generosity of funders. Today the gallery is known for its collection of Pop Art as well as a major collection of artworks relating to the Northern Ireland conflict and one of the most significant collections of Black British Art. The gallery also holds objects reflecting the Black Country's manufacturing industries. The gallery is funded by the City of Wolverhampton Council and Arts Council England.

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the UK's independent charity for art, helping museums and people to share in great art and culture for 120 years. Art Fund raises millions of pounds every year to help the UK's museums, galleries and historic houses. The charity funds art, enabling the UK's museums to buy and share exciting works, connect with their communities, and inspire the next generation. It builds audiences with its National Art Pass opening doors to great culture; and it amplifies the museum sector through the world's largest museum prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year, and creative events that bring the UK's museums together. Art Fund is people-powered by 135,000 members who buy a National Art Pass, and the donors, trusts and foundations who support the charity.

The National Art Pass provides free or discounted entry to over 400 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and Art Quarterly magazine.

To find out more visit www.artfund.org



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