

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE WORLDS OF DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY & JOSÈFA NTJAM COLLIDE IN A NEW IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION



From 2 December 2022, FACT presents a new exhibition by artists Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley & Josèfa Ntjam. Working across archives, maps and video games, the artists consider how acts of resistance, rebuilding and reimagining can lead to transformative new worlds. The exhibition will run until spring 2023 and is the final instalment of [Radical Ancestry](#), FACT's exploration into the sense of belonging.

**Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley** creates artworks that archive the experiences of Black Trans people and communities who can be otherwise underserved. Through worldbuilding and gaming, her work intertwines reality and fiction to encourage us to explore alternative narratives within interactive digital environments.

Since February 2022, Brathwaite-Shirley has worked with a group of young people from Liverpool, self titled 'The Bandidos'. Together, they have created a video game that shares their experiences of Liverpool and presents their new, imaginative world. Visitors are invited to experience the world online, and inside the gallery within a large-scale immersive



environment. Passing through a bus shelter, visitors emerge onto remnants of a suburban street. A pond, a living room, a playground and a derelict shopfront offer four portals into the experimental video game. Players are encouraged to explore and learn in these alternative dimensions that reshape the rules and systems that frame our lives.

Artist, writer and performer **Josèfa Ntjam** works across a wide range of mediums, combining sculpture, photomontage, film and sound. For this exhibition, Ntjam presents an immersive installation centred around her film, *Dislocation* (2022), alongside new sculptures as part of her *Metamorphosis* (2019-present) series.

The installation submerges visitors into an aqueous, interstellar cave. Strewn with jellyfish, plankton and mushrooms, the gallery is transformed by mythological icons and symbols of resistance, solidarity and care. Through her practice, Ntjam looks at ways to reject widely accepted Western narratives around origin, identity and systems of classification by intertwining research of archives, African mythologies and counter-culture.

Ntjam's work promotes alternate readings of history, with references spanning the mythic futures of jazz composer Sun Ra, the siren goddess Mami Wata and the speculative underwater civilisations popularised by Detroit techno duo Drexlyia. For Ntjam, these tales of resilience offer ways to rethink the aftermath of colonialism and the Transatlantic slave trade, through new forms of knowledge and connections. Presenting this work in Liverpool, a port city that prospered from the slave trade, only heightens its resonance and urgency.

**Maitreyi Maheshwari, Head of Programme at FACT, said:** *"The final chapter in our Radical Ancestry programme presents two new works that imagine spaces for our future selves. Grounded in ideas of resilience and change, they share worlds in which the archives of the past and present include the stories and experiences of those most often overlooked, to create fantastical hybrid lifeforms and architectures that flow in and out of our linear perception of time."*

The free exhibition will be accompanied by a public programme of events including artist talks, curator tours and family workshops.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**For further information, please contact:**

**Email:** [press@fact.co.uk](mailto:press@fact.co.uk) | **Phone:** +44 (0)151 707 4473



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**Press previews will take place on Thursday 1 December between 13:00 - 16:00.**  
**Please RSVP to [press@fact.co.uk](mailto:press@fact.co.uk)**

FACT is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and is funded by Liverpool City Council. This exhibition is supported by Fluxus Art Projects, The Ragdoll Foundation, PH Holt Foundation, DWF Foundation and the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust.

### **DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY & JOSÈFA NTJAM**

Josèfa Ntjam closes Sunday 9 April 2023. Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley closes Sunday 14 May 2023.

FACT Liverpool, 88 Wood Street, Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Exhibition Opening Times: Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 - 18:00.

Price: Free entry

### **ABOUT FACT**

FACT is the UK's leading centre for art, film and the creative use of technology. Located in the heart of Liverpool city centre, FACT creates transformative experiences that spark the imagination and enrich lives. Home to three art galleries, four cinema screens and a Studio/Lab for artists, the centre provides platforms and opportunities for people to create, learn, experience and make sense of the world today. In 2023, FACT celebrates 20 years of groundbreaking moments and unforgettable memories shaped by over 500 artists and more than 5 million visitors. [fact.co.uk](http://fact.co.uk)

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**IMAGE CREDIT:** Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, *'WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THOSE THAT ARE NOT'* (2020). Installation view as part of *GENDERS: Shaping and Breaking the Binary* exhibition, Science Gallery London. Photo by David Tett. Courtesy, Science Gallery London.



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