

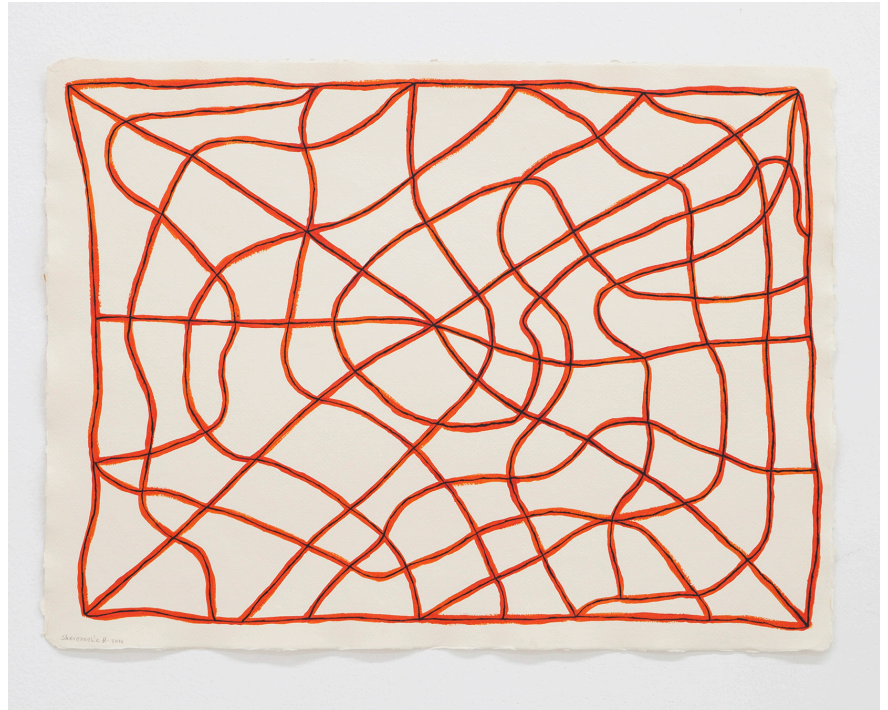
Press Release

Ahete ha yamaki rariprou

[When we are close we all scream together]

Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe

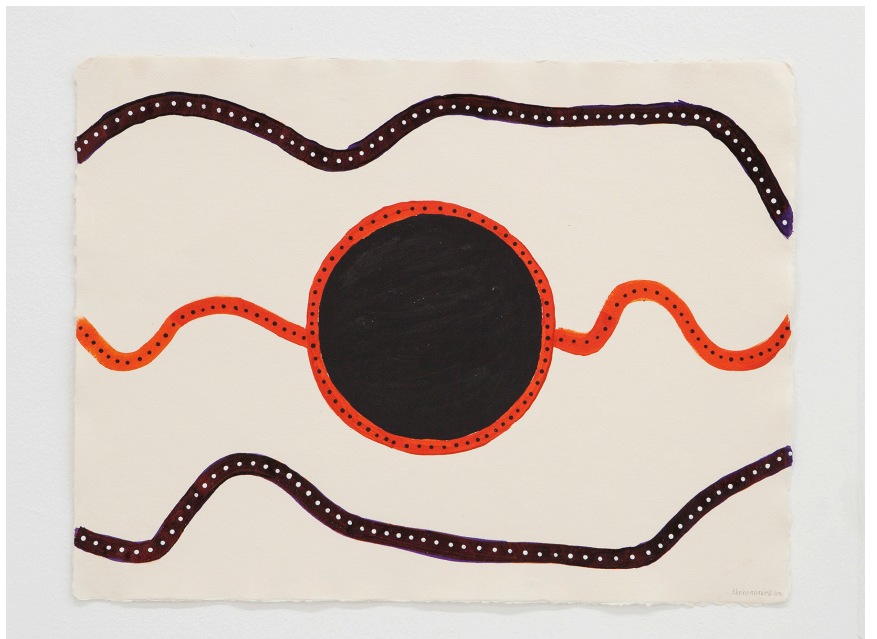
6 Oct–18 November 2022



Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe, *Mashita wake wake kohomohami pei yope ishi (Tierra roja y adentro camino negro / Red earth and inside black road)*, 2021, Acrylic on cotton paper, 51.5 x 69 cm

Cecilia Brunson Projects is delighted to present 'Ahete ha yamaki rariprou' (*when we are close we all scream together*), Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe's first solo exhibition in the UK, in collaboration with ABRA Caracas.

Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe (b.1971) is a Yanomami artist who was born in Sheroana, a community on the Upper Orinoco River in the Venezuelan Amazon. He has come to be internationally recognised for his prints, drawings and paintings that serve as an archive of Yanomami visual culture. Growing up deep in the rainforest, Hakihiiwe acquired the knowledge necessary for survival and life in the community. His practice as an artist began in 1992, when Mexican artist Laura Anderson Barbata travelled to the Amazon to teach workshops on papermaking. Hakihiiwe learned to make paper from natural fibres and this presented him with the chance to make permanent elements of Yanomami visual culture that had heretofore been handed down with no permanent physical record. From its inception, Hakihiiwe's artistic vocabulary was grounded in the symbols, drawings and patterns that existed ephemerally on Yanomami baskets and in ceremonial bodypainting. His idiosyncratic visual language



Sheroanawe Hakihiiwe, *Naki namoma kona kona (Hormiga de dientes afilados /Sharp-toothed ant)*, 2021, Acrylic on cotton paper, 51.2 x 69.2 cm

expresses, explores, and records the collective philosophy, mythology, spirituality and experience of the Yanomami people.

The intense knowledge of the forest that is necessary in Yanomami life is manifest in Hakihiiwe's profound sensitivity to the Amazon's flora and fauna. Through close observation of the forest around him, Hakihiiwe makes sketches in his notebooks. These are then transformed into works that abstract their subject and distil its spirit.

Ahete ha yamaki rariprou builds on the growing international understanding and representation of Hakihiiwe's work and follows on from the presentation of a series of Hakihiiwe's monoprints at the 59th Venice Biennale (2022) and the Cartier Foundation in Paris (2022). Laura Anderson Barbata has described Hakihiiwe's bold, graphic drawings as an intellectual and spiritual challenge presenting us with an invitation. In a reversal of the hegemonic forces that threaten indigenous beliefs, customs and ways of life as well as their geographic frontiers, Hakihiiwe's drawings are an invitation and a challenge to step out of dominantly anthropocentric, cultural and philosophical pedagogies and learn of a culture that is grounded in an intense and harmonious relationship with the ecosystem of the amazon.

In keeping with Hakihiiwe's understanding of the human interdependence with, and respect for, nature he said, 'everything we have is in the forest, if we do not take care of it, we will have nothing'. This statement is proving more and more true as each year the Amazon is plundered for its mineral and material resources.

ABRA Caracas is a gallery founded in 2016 by Melina Fernández Temes and Luis Romero. ABRA presents a varied programme of multidisciplinary contemporary art, working with mid-career, late-career artists as well as emerging Venezuelan artists.

Opening reception: Thursday 6 October | 18:00-20:00

Gallery opening times: Wednesday-Friday | 11:00-18:00

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