

Titaness  
*Love is a state of mind*  
8 Sep–4 Nov 2023  
PV: Thu 7 Sep, 6.30–8.30pm



Image credit:  
Titaness, production image, 2023.  
Courtesy of the artists.

San Mei Gallery presents the inaugural exhibition by London-based artist duo Titaness, including a new installation featuring sculpture, sound and performance.

Titaness is an artist duo comprised of Maria Joranko and Tiffany Wellington. Their collective interdisciplinary practice is shaped by their dual interests in memory, opacity, and love, explored through storytelling, sculpture, sound, and performance. Infusing their personal experiences and lineages with localised and diasporic viewpoints, they explore the potentialities of storytelling to weave alternate worlds.

At San Mei Gallery, Titaness presents a new sound and sculptural installation based on the legendary ballad of Tam Lin from the Scottish Borders, where the character of Tam Lin is rescued by their true love from the Queen of the Faeries. Drawing on traditions of folklore, oral history and nightclub performance, Titaness offer a queering on this very British tale in a mythic reimaging of the story of Tam Lin through a diasporic lens.

At the centre of the exhibition, a co-authored story emanates, in a five-channel sound installation, from a series of five sword-like sculptures, with each sword representing a character within Titaness' narrative. The artists turn to the sword as symbolic objects of protection, which in the heraldic world of the mediaeval period were often treated as iconographic extensions of their bearer. Exploring the possibilities of queer collaboration, the installation imagines the means of protection and gathering through which queer lives might be spoken.

*Love is a state of mind* opens with a performance at the opening preview, starting at dusk (7.36pm BST) on Thursday 7 September. Free, booking recommended.

Notes to Editors

For further information and images please contact Eden Szymura:  
[eden@sanmeigallery.co.uk](mailto:eden@sanmeigallery.co.uk), +44 (0) 20 7095 9771.

About San Mei Gallery

San Mei Gallery is an independent non-profit space for contemporary art in South London, committed to research-led, educational and collaborative exchanges. Operating with an artist-led approach, we support artists and curators to experiment with new ideas.