

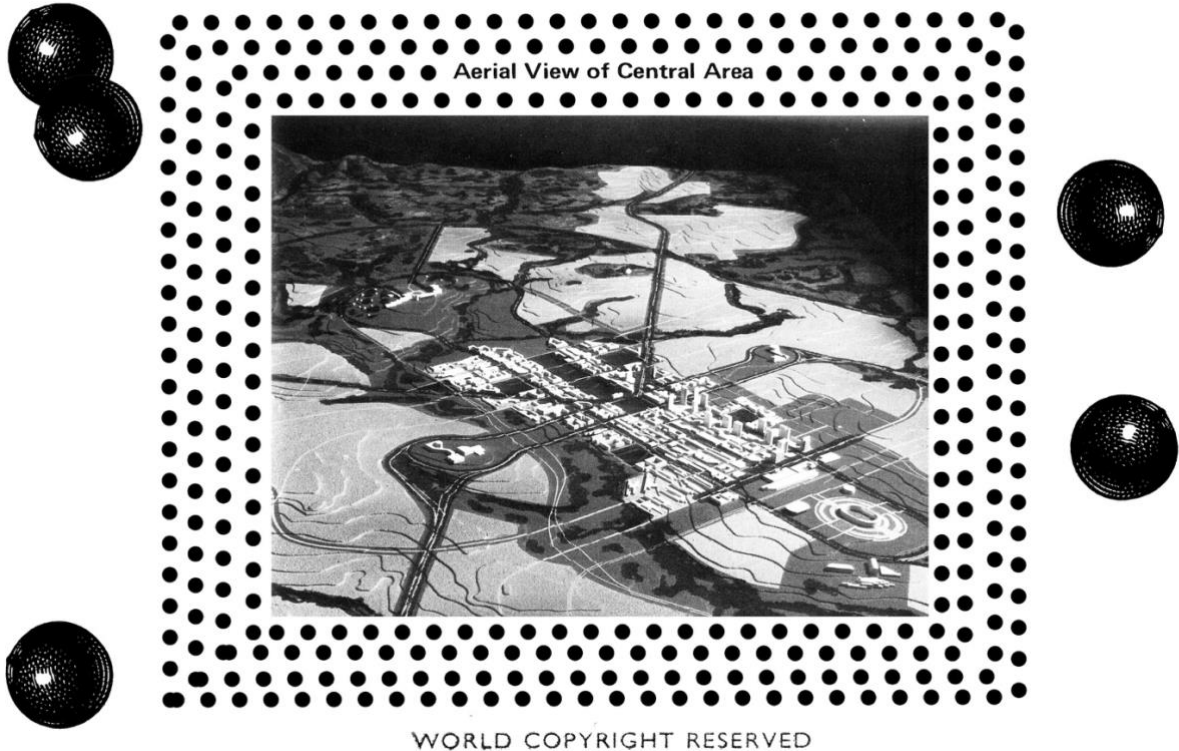
G A S W O R K S

PRESS RELEASE

Rahima Gambo, Alternative Central Area Locations

13 June – 8 September 2024

Preview: Wednesday 12 June, 6:30–8:30pm



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Alternative Central Area Locations brings together new and evolving works by Rahima Gambo that examine her diasporic relationship to Abuja, Nigeria. Using archival records and blueprints as source material, the exhibition is envisaged as a form of cartography, drifting from the past into a present and possible future.

Gambo moved to Abuja as an infant just as the city's identity was forming. A so-called "planned city", Abuja was constructed throughout the 1980s after the Nigerian government sought to build a new capital city that would replace Lagos. A conglomerate of five American firms (collectively known as the International Planning Associates) determined that Abuja would be built on the Gwagwa plains, over 8,000 km away, due to the site's central location and ethnic neutrality.

In her exhibition at Gasworks, Gambo merges these histories with glimpses of her childhood and her present-day migrant life in the form of print, video, sculpture, and sound. Scattered collections of sketches, aerial-views, legislative plans, and corporate language are projected around the gallery onto, and through, screens produced from rough industrial materials. They offer personal speculations on the decision-making processes, the omissions, variations, and unforeseen needs that a city plan evokes.

Stories and lateral connections flow throughout the exhibition. Origami boats constructed from cement bags sit upon mounds of earth. Gambo took inspiration from the so-called "Cement Armada" (1974–1980), a moment when cement-laden ships arrived *en masse* at Lagos's port during the height of the 1970s oil boom, gridlocking the waterways for several years. Stacked steel plenum boxes, once used to control the circulation of air, but now removed from their original context appear as image-making devices; something between a camera and all-seeing eye. Connections are also drawn to ongoing building developments in London, specifically the building works adjacent to Gasworks that will turn a brownfield site, formerly a working yard for the South Gas Network, into homes for thousands of new tenants.

Alternative Central Area Locations reveals the many lines, centres, patterns and textures in a city, exploring a drifting network of ideas held together by Gambo's urban wanderings. Improvisational and open-ended, the exhibition proposes alternative sites and peripheral seeing and thinking as a way of mediating urban life.

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CREDITS

The Lead Supporter for Rahima Gambo's exhibition is [FAS – Forward Art Stories](#).



Gasworks' Exhibitions programme is supported by Catherine Petitgas and Gasworks Exhibitions Supporters.

PRESS CONTACT

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[High res images are available here](#) (log in with email address)

IMAGE

Rahima Gambo, *Aerial view of Central Area*, 2024. Film still from video slideshow. Image courtesy of the artist

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Rahima Gambo

Rahima Gambo is an artist who explores the conceptual and spatial territories around documentary, psycho-geography, sociopolitics, ecology, and autobiography. Her work is process driven with each project map-making and wayfinding through the processes of documentary, storytelling and moving image. Her work is circular, collaborative, and continuous in nature, with repetition and return as essential to her practice. Recent solo and group exhibitions at Liverpool Biennale (2023) Kunsthalle Bern (2022), Stevenson Gallery (2022), Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles (2022), MACAAL, Morocco (2020), Biennale Mercosur, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2020), Yokohama Triennale (2020), and the 11th and 12th editions of Rencontres de Bamako, Mali (2017-2019). She is currently enrolled at the Royal Academy Schools, London.

About Gasworks

For thirty years **Gasworks** has played a unique role in the contemporary visual arts sector by working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. It does this by providing studios for London-based artists; commissioning emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in London; and developing a highly-respected international residencies programme, mainly working with artists based outside Europe and North America. Gasworks also runs a Participation Programme committed to widening access to contemporary art for its local community in South London through interactive projects. All programmes are accompanied by events and participatory workshops that engage local and international audiences with artists and their work.

Gasworks is the hub of Triangle Network, an international network of small-scale arts organisations and projects that support and disseminate the work of emerging artists through artist-led workshops, residencies, exhibitions and outreach events. Gasworks and Triangle Network are registered as a charity in the UK under 'Triangle Arts Trust' and all their activities are free to the public.

Listings Information

Rahima Gambo, Alternative Central Area Locations

13 June – 8 September 2024

Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Open: Weds – Sun 12–6pm. Free admission

www.gasworks.org.uk

@GasworksLondon: [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [X](#) / [Youtube](#)

URL: <https://www.gasworks.org.uk/exhibitions/rahima-gambo/>

Hashtags: #RahimaGambo #AlternativeCentralAreaLocations #GasworksExhibition

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