

Historical spiritual vibration -A space travel program for healing

Year: 2022 - Ongoing

Materials: Video documentations of live actions

Historical spiritual vibration- a space travel program for healing was funded by the artistic duo [Whyte&Zettergren](#) in 2022. Within the project, Whyte&Zettergren visit places in Iceland that have been used as training grounds for space missions.

Iceland has historically been used as a training site for the Apollo 11 astronauts before the moon landing and as a filming location for various space films. In the work we used methods from live action role-playing game (LARP) to interact and investigate this locations as characters. Like how the Apollo astronauts had an Icelandic journalist with them during their training, we had the Icelandic artist Bryndís Björnsdóttir with us, following us with a video camera in our work with the launch to prepare us for space.

Within the work we are interested in space as it is a place where future colonial projects are planned. But also as a fictional place to day dream of alternative worlds following traditions within feminist speculative fiction, and Afrofuturism.

Geological training in the area of Húsavík:

<https://youtu.be/a7uJLNrEKw>

Live action at sulfure mine near Húsavík:

<https://youtu.be/uFcS89O9iqo>

Documentation of the exhibition Ljuset:

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2974488/2974505?c=1>

Whyte&Zettergren training in the area where the Apollo astronauts trained near Húsavík (2022)



Whyte&Zettergren doing a ritual at an old sulfur mine in the area where the Apollo astronauts trained near Húsavík (2022)



Historical Spiritual Vibrations- A space traveling program at the exhibition Ljuset at Konsthall C (2024)



Historical Spiritual Vibrations- A space traveling program at the exhibition Ljuset at Konsthall C (2024)



Historical Spiritual Vibrations- A space traveling program at Museum of Impossible Forms in Helsinki (2024)



Launching Ceremony of Historical spiritual vibration - A space traveling program

Year: 2022

Materials: Performance in three acts with a replica of a merchant ship from the 18th century that is rebuilt into a spaceship. Salt, cane sugar, cracked cane sugar and salt fish, fueling merchant ships/spaceships with rum, conch shell trumpet, the sea. Two performance artists dressed in their space training cloths.

The performance *Historical spiritual vibration- a space travel program for healing* was performed as part of the exhibition Immune at the Living art museum in April 2022. The performance consists of three acts to launch our space travel program. In the first act, a model of a transatlantic merchant ship from the 18th century is rebuilt into a spaceship. Part two consists of a ceremony with salted fish and melted sugar. The third act takes place in the harbor of Reykjavik next to fishing boats and a salt fish factory.

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Video documentation

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2642053/2951586>





Ackee and Saltfish - Transatlantic Memories

Year: 2022-2024

Medium: Live actions and installation with video documentation.

Material: Sugar, salt ackee and saltfish

In *Ackee and Saltfish - Transatlantic Memories* Whyte&Zettergren investigate the colonial history behind Jamaica's national dish. In the four videos, we follow them as they visit different places that depict parts of this entangled transatlantic history.

Visit to Saltfish Factory

The duo visit the Vísir saltfish factory. Dried and salted fish have been exported from countries in the northern Atlantic to the Caribbean since the triangular trade. It was then used as a cheap source of food for the enslaved at sugar plantations and remains crucial in Caribbean cuisine, including Jamaica's national dish, Ackee and Saltfish.

Bath Botanical Garden

Whyte&Zettergren documents Bath Botanical Gardens in Jamaica that was established in 1779 as part of the British Empire's network for moving species around the world. In Jamaica, the garden served as the island's plant bank, with one of its main goals to spread easy to grow and labor-saving trees and plants to the plantations, where they provided sustenance to the enslaved population. The garden introduced many important food plants, including breadfruit and ackee, to Jamaica.

Ritual at Fish Drying Spot

At a fish drying spot in Grindavík, Iceland, where fish parts are dried to become stockfish for the West African market, Whyte orchestrates a ritual honoring the role of dried and salted fish in the survival of Africans affected by slavery. The trade of dried stockfish dates back to the 16th century and continues today, with stockfish remaining significant in West African cuisine.

Ackee and Saltfish Cooking

At his home on the former Molynes Estate sugar plantation, Whyte picks ackee fruit and prepares Jamaica's national dish, Ackee and Saltfish with fried breadfruit. The West African Ackee tree, introduced to Jamaica in the late 18th century, became a vital food source for the enslaved population and is now celebrated as Jamaica's national fruit.

Filmed in 2022, video credits Bryndís Björnsdóttir and Whyte&Zettergren

See the videos:

www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2642053/2909216



Whyte&Zettergren performing a live action at a site where fish heads and skeletons are dried for the West African market in Grindavík (2022)



Bath Botanical Garden, Jamaica (2022)



Installation view of *Ackee Saltfish- Transatlantic Memories*