

GOD-POCKET

Trixiabella Suen, Tesha Murrain-Hernandez, Neoliberalizard, Yusuf Dongo
Curated by Jaz Morrison

You are invited to enter the GOD-POCKET, an Afrospeculative firmament situated between time and space, a crossroads between the seen past and unseen future.

The landscape of neoliberal British society prioritises individualism at the expense of cultural and local communities. But what if the journey to self-actualisation requires connections to the past, to each other, and to the future? GOD-POCKET explores this terrain through newly commissioned artworks by four Birmingham-based artists which incorporate influences and perspectives ranging from Abrahamic religions, traditional African belief systems, and Taoism, to pocket universes, questions of value, and rites of passage.

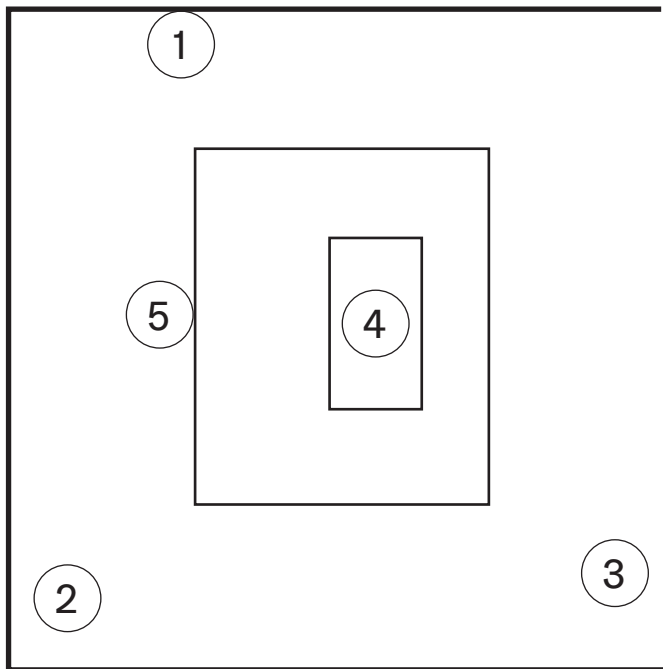
GOD-POCKET conjures a new world through an immersive installation at Eastside Projects, bringing together large scale wall paintings of psychedelic aureolas that come alive under UV light; sculptures referencing Opon Ifá divination boards; a temporary shelter inspired by the Abrahamic firmament and Afro-spiritual 'crossroads' in

Yorùbá tradition and Santeria; a sensory altar and film work which encourages audiences to release past experiences they wish to move on from; and a guided meditation exploring darkness, rebirth and safe space.

Through this exhibition and a previous screening programme *Liminal People*, Artist Curator Jaz Morrison explores the ongoing topic of Identity in Black British discourse, where themes of displacement and belonging fuel concerns around self-actualisation. Viewing personhood as a relational process rather than something inherent can reveal how broken connections to the past can leave people unequipped and unsupported to tackle the present. GOD-POCKET acknowledges that the state of being 'other' is palpable in displacement and is compounded by other factors where refusal of space and lack of access continues to violently dis-able community ties and harm community inclusion.

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These Afro-Diasporic musings have highlighted a need to create new worlds, build new cultures, imagine new futures and hijack 'liminal spaces' within the public sphere for social practice. In GOD-POCKET otherness is freed from the policing societal gaze and develops morphological potential.



List of works

1

Tesha Murrain-Hernandez
'The Path of Sankofa', 2023
Audio

2

Neoliberalizard
'Anahata', 2023
UV ink, metal

3

Yusuf Dongo
'Inscription Mirror', 2023
Painted metal, wood, cowrie
shells

4

Trixiabella Suen
'Unleashed', 2023
Wood, paper, video, essential
oils

5

Jaz Morrison
'The House of God', 2023
Netting, painted metal, UV ink