Terrestrial Act III

Thames-Side Studios Gallery
Unit 4 Harrington Way, Warspite Rd, London SE18 5NR

PV: Friday 3 December, 6-9pm Saturday 4 Dec - Sunday 19 Dec Opening hours Thursday-Sunday, 12-5pm

Staged by Hot Desque

Sam Carvosso, Anna Reading, Davinia-Ann Robinson, Hannah Rowan, Harry Smithson, Giorgio van Meerwijk

Terrestrial Act III follows on from a series of evolving immersive exhibitions as part of the project Terrestrial Act. Brought to Thames-Side Studios Gallery, Hot Desque creates a future-past landscape through the theatrical presentation of six artists' sculptures within a set. Initially presented on stage at the Theatre Royal Newcastle within an ornate yet empty theatre, now, dislodged in a new spacetime, the set has transformed and weathered. The grand auditorium has collapsed and disintegrated, replaced by a vast empty factory space in an industrial complex in Woolwich.

Also showing is a collaborative artist film of the same name, shot on the Theatre Royal stage, in which the microscopic lives of organic matter perform their own stories under the spotlight. From 3-D printed biodegradable saplings, through to mic'd up clay bubbling, the focus shifts between past and present, staged and un-staged, organic and fabricated.

The film explores the impact of extractive capitalism, and the need to dissolve hierarchical classifications of living matter, at a critical time in the lead up to the COP26 UN Climate Talks in Glasgow, this November.

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Founded in 2018, Hot Desque is a curatorial partnership by artists Lizzy Drury and Neena Percy, showing emerging and established artists within site-specific exhibitions including a former nightclub. The exhibitions bring artworks together as part of a theatrical mise-en-scène, providing a platform for experimentation and interdependence.

This project has been made possible with the support from Arts Council England, Theatre Royal Newcastle and The NewBridge Project.

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