**FINDING FANON SEQUENCE**

**LARRY ACHIAMPONG & DAVID BLANDY**

**7 July–2 September**

*Finding Fanon Sequence* is the exhibition premiere of Larry Achiampong and David Blandy’s film trilogy *Finding Fanon* (2015-17). It is a moving and multi-layered exploration of race, identity and globalisation. The films move between past, present and future, blending personal histories and pop culture with science fiction and post-colonial theory. Footage of the artists shot in empty coastal and rural locations is collaged with their avatars wandering the deserted scenarios of Grand Theft Auto.

Inspired by the lost plays of radical thinker Frantz Fanon (1925–1961) and his 1952 book Black Skins White Masks, the two artists negotiate Fanon’s ideas, examining the politics of race, racism and the post-colonial, and how these societal issues affect their relationship. This is played out through a script that melds found texts and personal testimony, transposing their drama to an unspecified time in the future, jumping between a junkyard houseboat, concrete bunkers while mixing pastoral and CGI landscapes. Navigating the past, present and future, Achiampong and Blandy question the promise of globalisation, recognising its impact on their respective heritage and cultural backgrounds.

Two of the artist’s five *FF Gaiden* films will be shown on monitors alongside the trilogy. This is a parallel project produced through the artists’ long term engagement with communities. They narrate the experiences of participants, from female refugees and asylum seekers to imprisoned veterans. Here we are showing *FF Gaiden: Delete* (2016) made with paperless migrants in Oslo, and *FF Gaiden: Black Death* (2017), a collaboration with Kamile Ofoeme reflecting on empire, Thatcherite legacies, and Brexit.

The artists also present work from their individual practices related to portraiture. Achiampong’s Glyth prints modify photographs from his family photo albums. Each shows a private moment within the family or community within the privacy of domestic interiors. Heads are covered by an oversized black circle with large red lips, censoring any individuality and emotion with generic symbols of racist stereotypes. Blandy’s paintings are based on photographs of gamers that have become iconic memes on twitch.tv. These emoticons denote sarcasm (Kappa), intense pleasure (*Kreygasm)*, boredom (Resident Sleeper), failure (Failfish), and the nebulous and contentious Trihard which at face value represents a black person but has become associated with racism.

Plymouth Arts Centre will be screening David Blandy’s short film Tutorial before cinema screenings for the first week of the exhibition (from Friday 7 to Thursday 13 July), courtesy of Random Acts.

**Larry Achiampong** (b. 1984) is a British-Ghanaian artist who has exhibited at the Diaspora Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2017; Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago; Tate, Iniva, and the ICA, London.

**David Blandy** (b. 1976) has exhibited internationally including Bloomberg Space, London; The Exchange, Newlyn Art Gallery; MoMA PS1, New York; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai. He is represented by Seventeen Gallery and his films are distributed by LUX.

Achiampong (b. 1984) and Blandy (b.1976) have been collaborating as Biters and on the Finding Fanon series since 2013.

## Lunchtime Talks (Free and open to all, no booking required)

## Wednesday 12 July, 1pmJoin us for a talk by the exhibition’s curators.

**Wednesday 2 August, 1pm**
PAC To The Future! We give the floor to young artists and curators of the future. By young people and for everyone (adults also welcome), this family friendly talk will be presented by a budding art aficionado, who will share their thoughts and opinions about the exhibition. Ages 8 and above.

**Wednesday 9 August, 1pm**
Hannah Wood, founder of Story Juice and creator of 2014’s interactive theatre game *Resurgam* will discuss ‘Between Self and Other’: Player-characters, narrative, agency and identity in video games.

**Family Art Workshop: Ava-go, Avatar**

Saturday 29 July, 1.30–4.30pm, £5 per family
In this family workshop for all ages, shapes and sizes we will make wearable charms and ornamental accessories for an imaginary game landscape. Your life is your very own action adventure: dream big!

**Bringing In Baby: To The Gallery**

Tuesday 8 August, 11am–12 noon

Adults and under 1s. £2 includes a hot drink.
Drop in for a guided tour of the exhibition with our visual arts team and your little ones. After exploring the artwork in the galleries all are welcome to relax in the comfort of the cafe and meet other parents with a passion for culture over a coffee.

