

3 May 2023

## New contemporary art installation at London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE.

*The Pavilion* (2023) by Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum will house an archive of animations on the historic site of the Roman Temple of Mithras.

27 July 2023 - 13 January 2024  
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE  
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA  
[www.londonmithraeum.com](http://www.londonmithraeum.com)

Opening this summer, London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE will present *The Pavilion*, the first UK solo exhibition at a public institution by Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum. Central to the installation will be a wooden pavilion-like structure designed in collaboration with Remco Osório Lobato, comprising a promenade of interrelated viewing booths reminiscent of Victorian 'cabinets of curiosities', often considered as precursors to museums. The structure will house an archive of Sunstrum's animations dating from 2007–2016, that draw on the artist's own fascination with ancient mythologies, scientific theories, mythological archetypes and the cosmos.

*The Pavilion* will encourage visitors to experience the installation in numerous ways, considering how the public engages with artefacts and historical items in museum spaces. On one side of the structure, each animation will be presented in a way tailored to the specific work, featuring silent analogue screens, recessed views, and projected portals. When exploring the reverse side of the pavilion, viewers will discover an area of contemplation adorned with multifaceted furnishings hand-painted and embellished by Sunstrum.

Works on display will include *Spin* (2013), which brings together drawing and appropriated images from Eadweard Muybridge's motion study photographs in a fantastical telling of a celestial and earthly origin story, demonstrating a visual language of collage often employed by Sunstrum. The exhibition will also feature one of Sunstrum's earliest animation works *A Short History: Starring Asme as Herself* (2007), in which the artist first deployed her alter ego Asme. Asme embodies the idea of the multipliable self, a character who Sunstrum uses throughout her practice to reflect on aspects of modern society as well as her own life.

Sunstrum said: *"The mysterious unknowns of the myth of Mithras, central to the history of the London Mithraeum, resonated with my own fascination with ancient mythologies. I'm interested in interpreting - and often deliberately misinterpreting - theories on the structure and origins of the universe. Read as a whole, the animations and furnishings of 'The Pavilion' will offer a poetic cosmogony and personal interpretation of the order of things: stars, earth forms, the insides, the outsides, and the beyond-what-we-can-see"*.

LONDON  
MITHRAEUM  
Bloomberg  
SPACE

Sunstrum's multidisciplinary practice encompasses painting, drawing, installation and animation, and reflects her ongoing research into mythology, geology and theories of the nature of the universe. This year, Sunstrum is participating in Sharjah Biennial 15 and the Liverpool Biennial. She will also have a solo exhibition at Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg.

Visitors will be able to further engage with the exhibition using the Bloomberg Connects app, the free digital guide to cultural organizations around the world that makes it easy to access and engage with arts and culture from mobile devices, anytime, anywhere.

The Bloomberg Connects app is available for download from Google Play or the App Store or by scanning the QR code.



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#### Listings information

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum: *The Pavilion*  
27 July 2023 – 13 January 2024  
London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE,  
12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA  
[www.londonmithraeum.com](http://www.londonmithraeum.com)

#### Opening hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 10 am – 6 pm  
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 12 pm – 5 pm  
First Thursday of the month: 10 am – 8 pm  
Closed Mondays, Christmas &  
New Year Bank Holidays

#### Press information

Yasmin Hyder  
Rees & Co  
+44 (0)7791 979 839  
[yasmin@reesandco.com](mailto:yasmin@reesandco.com)

#### About the artist

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum's (b. 1980, Mochudi, Botswana) multidisciplinary practice encompasses drawing, painting, installation and animation. The imagery in Sunstrum's work reflects the diverse genealogies of her experience living in different parts of Africa, Southeast Asia, and the U.S. as well as her ongoing research into mythology, geology, and theories on the nature of the universe. Sunstrum's drawings take the form of narrative landscapes that appear simultaneously futuristic and ancient, shifting between representational and fantastical depictions of volcanic, subterranean, cosmological and precipitous landscapes.

Key exhibitions and performances include:

*I have withheld much more than I have written*, Galerie Lelong, NYC, USA (2022), *All my seven faces*, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA (2019); Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa; The Wiels, Brussels, Belgium (2019); Kunsthaus Zürich (2019); The Nest, The Hague (2019); Michaelis School for the Arts at the University of Cape Town (2018); *The Showroom*, London (2018) Artpace, San Antonio, TX, USA (2018); The Phillips Museum of Arts, Lancaster (2018); Interlochen Centre for the Arts, Interlochen (2016); NMMU Bird Street Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth (2016); Tiwani Contemporary, London (2016); VANSAs, Johannesburg (2015); Brundyn Gallery, Cape Town (2014); FRAC Pays de Loire, France (2013); the Havana Biennial (2012); and MoCADA, New York (2011).

#### About London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE

Situated on the site of Bloomberg's European headquarters, London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE returns the Roman Temple of Mithras to the location of its discovery in the heart of the City and offers visitors an immersive experience of the ancient temple as well as a chance to see a collection of the Roman artefacts found during the building excavations. Expanding on Bloomberg's legacy of support for new commissions by international artists, the ground floor Bloomberg SPACE gallery aims to present lively and thoughtful works by contemporary artists whilst bringing fresh perspectives to the many-layered history of the site.

London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE is free to visit and open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 12 pm to 5 pm. Pre-booking is advised through [www.londonmithraeum.com](http://www.londonmithraeum.com)

#### About Bloomberg

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