

# V.O Curations

**Sandra Poulson**  
Economy of the Dust  
13.05 – 30.06.2022  
Press Release



Installation View, 'Economy of the Dust'.

Developed during her residency at V.O Curations, Sandra Poulson presents a series of new works, which draw from the artist's personal experience of growing up in Luanda, Angola. For this exhibition, presented across two gallery spaces, the artist took the ever-present dust in the city, central to its geographic location, to reflect on Luanda's economic, social and cultural landscape. The works are made in fabric, a material seminal in constructing the way our bodies navigate the world, with each element pattern cut and handsewn.

In Luanda, the dust is a stable and reliable resource, while at the same time many jobs and daily activities are focused on the effort to erase any traces of it. Referencing AbdouMalik Simone in thinking of the dust as an accidental gift for the city, Poulson uses this narrative to think about how something seemingly unwanted is an essential part that shapes the local society. Dust, or more the act of removal of it, is here a source of income, a commodity, a border, and a signifier of economic and social status. It dictates the choreography of urban life through the endless looped activities associated with the impossible task of erasing it.

Structured around moments of meeting and intersecting, Economy of the Dust references the elementary architectural language of Luanda – objects, environments and situations that form the city. Juxtaposing elements of opposite qualities and characteristics, the works share stories of restriction, access, friction and hope.

**Sandra Poulson** (b. 1995, Lisbon) is an Angolan artist who lives and works between London and Luanda. Poulson's work discusses the political, cultural and socio-economic landscape of Angola as a case study to analyse the relationship between history, oral tradition and global political structures. Focusing on her local Luandan experience, history and knowledge to investigate and discover networks between micro political moments and how they reverberate into macro politics. Her practice utilises inherited societal memory from colonial Angola and the civil war to dismantle contemporary narratives through semiotic and archaeological studies of ordinary objects as actors in political and cultural ongoing transformations. Which inherently draws the questions posed by the work to the task of decoloniality.

Poulson graduated from BA Fashion Print at Central Saint Martins in 2020. Among various group shows and art fairs, she has shown at South London Gallery (2021), Liste Art Fair Basel (2021), Arco Madrid (2021) (solo), Lagos Biennial (2019), Abuja Art Week (2020), Art Joburg (2020), Firstsite, Colchester (2021), Lethaby Gallery (2021, 2018), Nunnery Gallery (2019), Copeland Gallery (2018).

Poulson has had screenings at the Guggenheim NY (2021, Salts Basel (2021) and Boda Boda Lounge (2020). Poulson was awarded the Mullen Lowe Nova Award 2020, Your Nova Award 2020, the CSM Deans Award 2020, was selected for New Contemporaries 2021 and the BNC Digital Fellowship 2021.

Poulson's work has been featured in Frieze Magazine, New Currency Magazine, Vogue US, Vogue Itália, Vogue Brasil, I-D, The Face, FAD Magazine, Creative Brief, Where's the frame?, 10 Magazine, Creative Review, Artnet News, Jornal de Angola, AnOther Magazine among others.

**Exhibition:** Economy of the Dust by Sandra Poulson

**Dates:** 13 May – 30 June 2022

**Location:** V.O Curations (1st Floor), 56 Conduit Street, W1S 2YZ

**PV:** Thursday 18 November, 6-8pm

## **V.O Curations**

Located in central London, V.O Curations is an arts organisation dedicated to supporting emerging and lesser represented artists, curators and researchers through an innovative and critically-engaged programme. Founded in 2018 by Zina Vieille and Nnamdi Obiekwe, V.O Curations believes that to curate is to approach all aspects of our programme - residencies, exhibitions, events, publications and studio spaces - with care. V.O Curations promotes diverse voices and narratives across all of our activities and projects. Our programme aims to facilitate artistic exchange, socially-focused discourse, knowledge production and experimentation. We are focused on cultivating a sense of community, promoting collaboration and encouraging active learning rather than passive viewing.

V.O Curations

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[www.vocurations.com](http://www.vocurations.com)

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