

V.O Curations

By Any Means

Curated by Gray Wielebinski

23.07 - 26.08.2021

Press Release

By Any Means is a group exhibition curated by former V.O artist in residence, Gray Wielebinski. Considering an expanded and contextualised exploration of revenge, the show includes new pieces by Dala Nasser and Zadie Xa, alongside work by Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, Sunil Gupta Umar Rashid (Frohawk Two Feathers) and Gray Wielebinski. By Any Means acknowledges that revenge - how it is achieved and narrativised - is deeply rooted and inextricable from social, political and historical contexts, and the power structures that shape them.

By Any Means sheds light on the ways in which power is maintained through a myopic, individualised, simplified, and often racialized and gendered interpretation or portrayal of revenge, which is detached from broader associations. By Any Means considers how, against this contrived dichotomy, avengers can often both be limited in their options due to their positionality, and also faced with additional scrutiny and condemnation by society, no matter the choices they make.

When we zoom out and take our varying and interconnected frameworks into consideration, what can and does revenge actually look like? What does it feel like? How and when can it 'succeed', and who decides? Is revenge a moral issue, and if so, as determined by whose sense of morality? How can one get revenge, or justice, in an inherently unjust system? And furthermore, what new possibilities arise if we take a moment to reconsider our relationship to revenge; shifting it away from the myopic and the individual, and instead, towards collectivity, and as a way to transfer responsibility onto the systems, power structures and individuals from which the initial and often ongoing violence originates?

While experiences of revenge can often be oversimplified or overlooked, or the narrative stolen or co-opted by those who control mainstream narratives, through a conscious reframing, the works in the exhibition begin to explore how revenge can function as a supremely powerful motivator.

By Any Means demonstrates revenge as a potential path towards: collectivity, solidarity, hopefulness, refusal, world-building, illegibility, translation, community, duty, catharsis, humour, identity, immortality, survival, friendship, love, violence, acceptance, and resistance, to name a few.

By Gray Wielebinski

Gray Wielebinski (b. 1991 Dallas, TX, USA) received a BA from Pomona College, Claremont CA, USA in 2014 before completing an MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK in 2018. He lives and works in London and LA. In Wielebinski's expansive practice, which incorporates video, performance, collage, installation and sculpture. They explore the intersections of mythology, identity, gender, nationhood and memory. Reconfiguring and transforming iconography and visual codes, their work seeks to navigate society's frameworks and belief systems. Engaging directly with the contexts in which we live, Wielebinski reveals how narratives reflect and shape our identities. His work opens up the possibilities for a more inclusive storytelling, by reimagining dominant societal mythology. Recent exhibitions include *Two Snakes*, a solo show at 12.26 Gallery in Dallas, Texas (2020), *Our Ashes Make Great Fertilizer* at Public Gallery, London, (2020) *Repurposed Textiles* at Krefelder Kunstverein in Krefeld, DE (2020) and at Frieze London with Hales Gallery, London, where he currently has a solo show.

Exhibition: By Any Means curated by Gray Wielebinski

Location: V.O Curations - 1st and 2nd Floors, 56 Conduit Street, London W1S 2YZ

Opening Times: 23 July - 26 August, Tuesday - Saturday 11am to 6pm

Press Preview: Thursday 22 July, 10am to 4pm

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 activities and projects. The programme aims to facilitate artistic exchange, socially-focused discourse, knowledge production and experimentation. The focus remains on cultivating a sense of community, promoting collaboration and encouraging active learning rather than passive viewing.

Launching in January 2021 and spanning three floors at 56 Conduit Street, the new location in Mayfair is the site for V.O Residencies, a new gallery, an experimental project space and artist studios. This new location in central London reinforces their commitment to connecting emerging and underrepresented artists to wide-ranging and distinctive networks and resources.

V.O Curations
56 Conduit Street
London, W1S 2YZ
www.vocurations.com

For press inquiries please contact info@vocurations.com

By Any Means: Screening Programme

Wielebinski and curator/writer, Cairo Clarke, have programmed a series of film screenings that will be shown in tandem with the exhibition. These will take place in the fifth floor project space at V.O Curations on 24 and 31 July, and 7 and 14 August.

The conception of a screening programme nods to the legacy of the underground and adult film cultures in the neighbouring London area of Soho, allowing for the thinking through of opacity as a tool to maintain the existence of spaces and communities that are constantly being pushed out and destroyed by institutional, commercial and capital-orientated power structures, whilst also recognising the danger of opacity when used by those structures themselves.

Schedule

Saturday 24 July

Welcome Il the Terrordome by Ngozi Onwurah

Running time, 98 min

1pm | 4pm

Saturday 31 July

Terror Nullius by Soda Jerk

Running time, 54 min

1pm | 4pm

Saturday 7 August

Metamorphosis, Episode 3: Emergence

Produced by The Institute of Queer Ecology, commissioned by DIS

Running time, 15 min

Film will run on loop throughout the day

Saturday 14 August

Duilian by Wu Tsang

Running time, 26 min

1pm | 4pm

Screenings must be pre-booked, please visit www.vocurations.com for more information.