

Paradise Fallen Blaxis: Film screening

Zen Marie

This film screening is intended to open up questions about practice based research, in service of expanding on the conditions of creative or practice based research as proposing forms of critical engagement with complex and seemingly insurmountable issues.

Paradise Fallen, is the working title of the practical work that is a fundamental part of my PhD research. It explores how film, video installation and performance can be figured as sites of praxis in exploring questions of how imaginations of landscapes can be thought of in relation to historical and contemporary violence.

The video documentations of the performances, staged in the installation of the video work at the WITS art Museum (2021) works with two bands, the *BLKJKS* and *The Wretched*. These sonic interventions, as well as the video itself open up as examples of or include issues relating to: *Curation as artistic research, Dissemination and archiving of artistic research, Performance as research.*

Links to the films:

<https://vimeo.com/650937652>
<https://vimeo.com/650937179>

Bio

Zen Marie is an artist and educator working at the intersection of lens-based media, social practice and installation. Zen holds an MA in Cultural Analysis from the University of Amsterdam and is a graduate of the two year residency program at De Ateliers in Amsterdam. Through a practice which spans film, photography, performance, drawing and writing, he investigates the relationships between power and place, and medium and meaning. His current and recent projects propose decolonial rereadings of the narratives that become entangled with nature via conquest and representation. The ocean recurs in his work as a site where the personal, the political and the social are refracted through the experience of the sublime. His current research extends this interest in the politics of the sublime to landscape. Zen's studio practice is complemented by his position as a lecturer in Fine Art at the Wits School of Arts in Johannesburg, where he is also engaged in research towards a practice-led PhD.