

Tender rip

14th April - 16th June 2019

Auto Italia | London

“Spilling, spitting is a recurrent concept in our thought. Images ripple our minds such as a bathtub in an earthquake; a swathe of fabrics off a balcony, strewn upon the translucent lower canopy of a new building; some titanic sequence that “everyone” is party to. The darker mark seeps as bed wetting, one side of the springy mattress, discharge. Spilling and spitting are forms of expulsion that are both incidental and violent. Sneezing is like spitting, to find the goob on the wall a few days later, caked over. Not a stain exactly, not like old blu-tack. Tender rip. Rear guard. Glass must be hot to stain, it is not water. And then the question of sediment. And then the question of whales. A shooting vertical breath. This ejaculation which is not one. Skin moves up and then down again, as if by design.” - Text by Vincent Silk and Ainslie Templeton

Tender rip is a collaborative project developed by Anna McMahon and Spence Messih which explores transformations of bodies by and with language, and the slippery processes of coding and classifying both. Asking what it means to wilfully occupy the site around inclusion and exclusion - ideas of absorption and proliferation, opacity and readability are surfaced. Taking the form of a site-specific installation, McMahon and Messih's new bodies of sculpture additionally function as tools for containing readings from others, with works and words from Jos Charles, Brian Fuata, Real Madrid, Vincent Silk and Ainslie Templeton.

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This exhibition was developed on the stolen Lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation (Sydney). We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture. Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded. Australia always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

With a focus on collaboration and interdisciplinary practice **Anna McMahon** works across site specific sculptural installation, video and performance to explore a personal queer narrative. She recently completed residencies at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, and Studio Voltaire, London, 2017 and at Wysing Arts Centre, 2018. McMahon completed a mentorship with Camille Henrot during her *Carte Blanche* exhibition at the Palais de Tokyo in 2017.

Through sculpture, installation, image and text **Spence Messih** speaks broadly to sites of pressure, power structures, materiality and language and more specifically about these things in relation to their own trans experience. Messih's work centres on abstraction as a site to explore a trans materiality. They have recently exhibited at: Artspace, COMA, Firstdraft Gallery, and The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, and ACCA, Melbourne.

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Visiting information:

Auto Italia
44 Bonner Road
London E2 9JS

Opening hours: Thursday to Sunday, 12-5pm

Special thanks to: Salote Tawale, Daisy Catterall, Ben Messih, Jane Scarth, Liz & Magdi Messih, Colleen & Jim McMahon, Isaac Clarke, EO Gill, Tom Polo, Frances Barrett, Lawrence Prebble, Andrea Toro, Bianca Trombi and Clinton Bradley.

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firstdraft



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LIST OF WORKS

Tender rip

Jos Charles
Brian Fuata
Real Madrid
Anna McMahon
Spence Messih
Vincent Silk
Ainslie Templeton

Front gallery:

1 Jos Charles

VII from feeld
2018
Vinyl

**2 Ainslie Templeton
and Vincent Silk**

See-Through
2019
Text

3 Brian Fuata

*Care disfigurements (all
arms)*
2014
Embroidered
polyester cotton blend
bed sheet, black resin
Tinksky jewelry holder,
gold ring

4 Spence Messih

*Wet things dry, dry things
get wet*
2019
700 x 550 mm
Stained glass

5 Spence Messih

*Hard things soften, soft
things get hard*
2019
Dimensions variable
Steel

Back gallery:

6 Real Madrid

*Some Days are
Diamonds, Some Days are
Stoned*
2018
Dimensions variable
Glass

7 Anna McMahon

Of doubts and dreams
2019
Dimensions variable
Electric hoists,
leather, cocktail
fountain, baby's breath
(gypsophila), powdered
milk, chain, cotton
t-shirt, finger condoms,
cock rings, bespoke
handkerchief, nipple
clamp with chain,
weight, crystal bowl,
English soft set honey,
chair, trainers, human
hair

