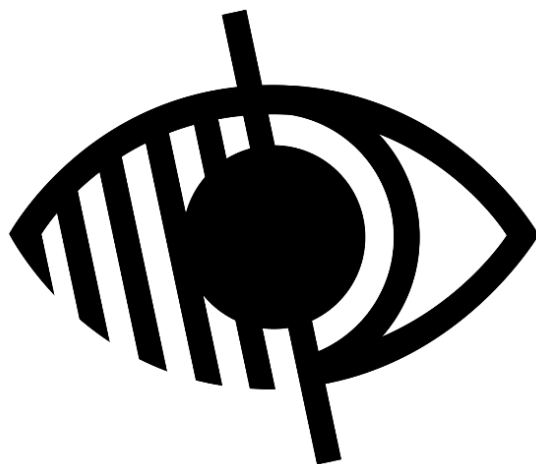


**ALVARO  
BARRINGTON:  
SPIDER THE PIG,  
PIG THE SPIDER**

**1 OCT – 21 NOV 2021**

**MAIN GALLERY**

Large Print Exhibition Guide



## Alvaro Barrington: Spider the Pig, Pig the Spider

Alvaro Barrington (b. 1983 Caracas, Venezuela)

is the child of Grenadian and Haitian migrant workers and was raised between the Caribbean and New York. Barrington's practice explores interconnected histories of cultural production.

Considering himself primarily a painter, his multimedia approach to image-making employs burlap (hessian), textiles, postcards, clothing and cast concrete, exploring how such diverse materials can function as visual tools while referencing personal, political and commercial histories. Through this confluence of materials

and subject, Barrington engages histories of music and painting associated with the Caribbean, the socio-political context of his childhood in 1980s New York, and London where he is currently based. Barrington's South London Gallery exhibition is his first solo presentation in a UK institution. Extending his exploration into blending multiple cultural and visual references, he presents new works characterised by his adept use of a broad range of techniques and materials. In a bespoke installation for the SLG's main exhibition space, the wall colours are inspired by an abstracted idea of the sun rising and setting, with the left and right-hand walls of the gallery representing the global North and South respectively. Paintings made of concrete

smearred onto exquisitely dyed Hermès blankets in the 'North' and on burlap in the 'South', are hung high on the walls to prompt associations with cloud paintings. These notional concrete clouds become increasingly dense in the transition from 'North' to 'South', a reference to countries in the global North offloading waste on their southern neighbours. On the lower walls, a new body of work pivots around the idea of a relatively near future in which augmented and virtual reality have evolved to the point that people routinely choose which identity or character to adopt in different social and other situations, with digital and real life becoming completely intertwined. Works with distinctive frames made from concrete and aluminium in the

'North', contrasting with corrugated iron, painted and natural wood in the 'South', contain layers of painted, stitched, printed and digitally rendered elements. Trotters referencing the children's cartoon character Peppa Pig, Napoleon and other pigs featured in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, merge with spiders' legs inspired by the African folktale Anansi the Spider and Louise Bourgeois' bronze spider sculptures. These in turn are superimposed against backdrops ranging from the Brooklyn Bridge to a game map from *Super Mario World*. The threat and impact of climate change looms large throughout, with drawings made from charcoal – effectively burnt wood – punctuating the 'North' with the repetition of the letters ICU, short-hand for both 'I See You' and

Intensive Care Unit. Recent exhibitions include MoMA PS1, Queens (2017); A Taste of Chocolate at Thaddaeus Ropac, London (2018); an ongoing Tt x AB collaboration with the painter Teresa Farrell; co-curation with Julia Peyton-Jones of the exhibition Artists I Steal From at Thaddaeus Ropac, London (2019); Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Paris (2021 and 2018); Corvi-Mora, London (2020); Sadie Coles HQ, London (2021 and 2019); Emalin, London (2021, 2019 and 2018).

## List of Works

### Clockwise from left of entrance

Raindrops, Grey Hermès,

September 2021

Concrete on yak woollen

Hermès blanket in steel

artist's frame

217 × 247 × 10cm

City Life Series, DT Yellow

Hibiscus, Pig Spider,

September 2021

Acrylic on carpet behind

printed photograph and

spray-painted acrylic sheet

in concrete and aluminium  
frame with four works by  
Dorus Tossijn attached,  
one entitled Rihanna in  
Giambattista Valli, 2017,  
2020, oil on linen, and  
the three others entitled  
Casting Sexy Twinky Guy,  
2020, pencil on paper  
170 × 170 × 25cm

Raindrops, Light Grey  
Hermès, September 2021  
Concrete on yak woollen  
Hermès blanket in steel  
artist's frame



217 × 247 × 10cm

City Life Series, Dumbo,

Spider Pig, September 2021

Acrylic on carpet behind

printed photograph and

spray-painted acrylic sheet

on acrylic in concrete and

aluminium frame

170 × 170 × 25cm

ICU, September 2021

Acrylic and concrete on

canvas in steel artist's frame

182 × 182 × 8cm

City Life Series, X Freedom

Tower, Spider Pig,

September 2021

Acrylic on carpet behind

printed photograph and

spray-painted acrylic sheet

in concrete and aluminium

frame, photograph on paper

170 × 170 × 25cm

Raindrops, Orange Hermès,

September 2021

Concrete on yak woollen

Hermès blanket in steel

artist's frame

217 × 247 × 10cm

City Life Series, I Bless the

Rains, GTA Pig Pig,

September 2021

Acrylic on carpet behind

printed photograph and

spray-painted acrylic

sheet in concrete and

aluminium frame

170 × 170 × 25cm

ICU 3, September 2021 to

ICU 12, September 2021

inclusive

Charcoal, pencil on paper

in steel artist's frame

84 × 65 × 5cm

Raindrops, Red Hermès,

September 2021

Concrete on yak woollen

Hermès blanket in steel

artist's frame

217 × 247 × 10cm

City Life Series, Amalfi Coast

A and L, Spider Pig,

September 2021

Acrylic on carpet behind

printed photograph and

spray-painted acrylic

sheet in concrete and

aluminium frame

170 × 170 × 25cm

Beach Bodies, James Rollo

Edition, September 2021

Acrylic, concrete and sand

on carpet on wood and work

by James Rollo entitled Only

Fans, fan with sheet acrylic

210 × 160 × 70cm

Raindrops, Blue Hermès,

September 2021

Concrete on yak woollen

Hermès blanket in steel

artist's frame

217 × 247 × 10cm

Raindrops, Light Blue Burlap,

September 2021

Acrylic and concrete

on burlap in wooden

artist's frame

231 × 261 × 8cm

Carib Series, Ghetto Life/

Nancy, Pig Spider,

September 2021

Acrylic and yarn on burlap

behind printed photograph

and acrylic spray-paint

on an acrylic sheet, in

corrugated steel, wood

and acrylic artist's frame

172 × 172 × 26cm

Banana Fall on You,

Light Blue, September 2021

Oil and acrylic on burlap in

artist's wooden frame

211 × 143 × 8cm

Raindrops, Peach Purple

Yellow Burlap,

September 2021

Acrylic and concrete on

burlap in wooden artist's

frame

231 × 261 × 8cm

Carib Series, Positano, Pig

Spider, September 2021

Acrylic and yarn on burlap

behind printed photograph

and acrylic spray-paint

on an acrylic sheet, in

corrugated steel, wood

and acrylic artist's frame

172 × 172 × 26cm

Carib Series, Marioworld 2,

Spider Pig, September 2021

Acrylic and yarn on burlap

behind printed photograph

and acrylic spray paint on



an acrylic sheet, in wood  
and acrylic artist's frame

172 × 172 × 26cm

Raindrops, Purple Orange

Pink Yellow Burlap,

September 2021

Acrylic and concrete

on burlap in wooden

artist's frame

231 × 261 × 8cm

Banana Fall on You, Green,

September 2021

Oil and acrylic on burlap

in artist's wooden frame

211 × 143 × 8cm

Carib Series, Airplane Sky,  
Pig Spider, September 2021

Acrylic and yarn on burlap  
behind printed photograph  
and acrylic spray-paint  
on an acrylic sheet, in  
corrugated steel, wood  
and acrylic artist's frame

172 × 172 × 26cm

Banana Fall on You, Brown,  
September 2021

Oil and acrylic on burlap in  
artist's wooden frame

216 × 143 × 8cm

Raindrops, Light Blue Purple

Burlap, September 2021

Acrylic and concrete on

burlap in wooden artist's

frame

231 × 261 × 8cm

Carib Series, Brooklyn Bridge,

Pig Spider, September 2021

Acrylic and yarn on burlap

behind printed photograph

and acrylic spray paint on an

acrylic sheet, in corrugated

steel, wood and acrylic

artist's frame

172 × 172 × 26cm

Raindrops, Purple Purple

Burlap, September 2021

Acrylic and concrete

on burlap in wooden

artist's frame

231 × 261 × 8cm

The exhibition is generously supported by

Anastasia and Igor Bukhman, Sadie Coles HQ

and Emalin. All works courtesy of Sadie Coles HQ  
and Emalin.

**ALSO ON AT THE SLG**

**RITA KEEGAN SOMEWHERE**

**BETWEEN THERE AND HERE**

7 September – 28 November 2021

Galleries 1, 2 & 3, Fire Station, Free

**SHUT THE CLUB DOWN**

1 October 2021 – 27 February 2022

Archive Room, Fire Station, Free

South London Gallery Main Building: 65–67

Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH

Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London SE15

5LQ T.

020 7703 6120

E. mail@southlondongallery.org

southlondongallery.org

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South London Gallery is a registered charity

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Gallery 120

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