

The exhibition is generously supported by  
Anastasia and Igor Bukhman,  
Sadie Coles HQ and Emalin.

All works courtesy of Sadie Coles HQ and Emalin.

1 OCT - 21 NOV 2021

MAIN GALLERY,  
MAIN BUILDING

# ALVARO BARRINGTON: SPIDER THE PIG, PIG THE SPIDER

## 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

## SLG

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](mailto:mail@southlondongallery.org)

[southlondongallery.org](http://southlondongallery.org)

Twitter: [@SLG\\_artupdates](https://twitter.com/SLG_artupdates)

Instagram: [@southlondongallery](https://www.instagram.com/southlondongallery)



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



Freelands  
Foundation

South London Gallery is a registered charity no.312160.  
It is registered as company no.04720002 (SLG Trustee Ltd)

## 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 smeared 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