



SLG

RENE MATIĆ: UPON THIS ROCK

South London Gallery
23 Sep – 27 Nov 2022

Rene Matić, VE Day, Skegness, III, 2020

ENTRANCE

upon this rock, I will build my church,

2022

Flag, polyester and hand stitched

taffeta, 91.44 × 152.4cm

work frequently references the

faith and family as well as

continuing the artist's longstanding

interest in notions of 'Britishness',

This exhibition explores how

family histories reverberate

through the generations. It also

places subculture and spiritually

in dialogue. While recognising

the pitfalls of both, it positions

subculture as religion, as saviour or

guide and vice versa. Matić notes:

“it appears there is faith and soul

the church and finding the pub. Or

finding God and finding subculture.

And in the end, I understand it as

the search for something greater

than yourself, something that won't

fail you when you are being failed.”

Unless otherwise stated all works

are courtesy of the artist and

Arcadia Missa.

to 'Britishness';

of this building erected on the front

Matić's flag erected on the front

of this building erected on the front

towards new forms of belonging

and community – beyond a

connection to nation. We all build

our own churches, whether they

are made of bricks and mortar, or

This flag references a passage

from the Bible in which Christ says

to his disciple, Peter: "...upon this

rock, I will build my church; and

the gates of hell shall not prevail

against it." This quote introduces

the themes of faith, family and life

cycles of building and breaking that

recur throughout the exhibition.

The words on this flag are also

included on the coat of arms of

Peterborough, the artist's city

of birth.

Flags recur in Matić's practice,

both as medium in their own right

and depicted through film and

photography. National flags are

'interrupting' or existing 'in between',

place of 'rude(ness)' – a quality of

the search for something greater

fail you when you are being failed.”

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

Rene Matić and Emma Dabiri in conversation

25 Nov 2022, 7–8.30pm
£5/£3 conc., Clore Studio
Broadcaster, author and
academic, Emma Dabiri, will be in
conversation with artist Rene Matić.
Dabiri's work focuses on race as
seen through the prism of class,
capitalism and colonialism.

Visit the SLG website to book your
ticket: www.southlondongallery.org/events/rene-matic-and-emma-dabiri-in-conversation/

SLG

South London Gallery
Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH
Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London SE15 1LQ

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

Freelands
Foundation

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

1. A framed photograph of Paul and Ali, c.1990
2. A framed photograph of Paul with the artist and their brothers Louis and Zac on holiday c.2000's with a framed white feather
3. A framed school photograph of Louis, Zac and Rene, early 2000s
4. A framed photograph of the artist's grandfather Julien and his brother, taken when they arrived in London from St Lucia in the Caribbean in 1958
5. A copy of the birth certificate of the artist's father, Paul, 1962
6. A copy of Paul's birth records, 1962
7. A copy of a lost photograph of Paul, mid 1960s
8. Paul's vinyl copy of Jimmy Cliff, *The Harder They Come*, 1972
9. Photographs borrowed from Julien's photo album
10. A photo of Paul on Skegness beach, 1981
11. A photo of Rene, 2016
12. A Peterborough United football scarf
13. *Skinhead* (1971), *Suedhead* (1971) and *Boot Boys* (1972), all written by Richard Allen
14. *Daily Express*, 9th September, 2022.

VITRINE 2

1. *The Peterborough Effect*, published by Peterborough Development Corporation, 1988
2. A copy of a lost passport photograph of Paul c.1970
3. A framed passport photograph of the artist's mother Ali, c.1980s

VITRINE 1

1. *Peterborough Citizen & Advertiser, Century Story, 1854–1954*, 1954
2. *Evening Telegraph*, 1968
3. *Greater Peterborough*, published by Peterborough Development Corporation, 1970
4. A photograph of the artist's grandfather Julien and his brother, taken when they arrived in London from St Lucia in the Caribbean in 1958
5. A copy of the birth certificate of the artist's father, Paul, 1962
6. A copy of Paul's birth records, 1962
7. A copy of a lost photograph of Paul, mid 1960s
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VITRINE 2

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3. A framed passport photograph of the artist's mother Ali, c.1980s

British body.

metaphor for the exhausted Black

search for meaning, redemption

and salvation and the different ways

people find this, whether spiritual

or otherwise.

The photographs on show are

a portrait of south London and

individual titles

Inkjet prints on paper

bodies that do, (2018 – ongoing)

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