

EXHIBITION GUIDE

EPISODE 6: KOBBY ADI

pending upending

21 May–04 July 2021

A construction site hoarding cuts the double-height space in two. It is illuminated by glowing bulkhead lights, the only light source in the otherwise dim space. Tipped-up, functional wooden benches, made from Iroko wood, reveal a decorative surface dotted with chewing gum; traces of their use as school table-tops here in the UK. Iroko is an African sacred hardwood and without permission its felling is said to invoke a curse, an additional presence in the exhibition.

In the secondary space, a pair of firefighter boots wrapped and cast in orthopaedic fibreglass stand on the floor. A 16mm film of an infection-damaged toe loops ad infinitum, and up above, a panel of wired flame-resistant glass has been inserted into one balcony. It spectrally diffracts the image of anyone who stands behind it.

Beyond the spatial dynamics created by the exhibition, each additional work is dense with latent histories, or personal meditations, that shuttle between the material and immaterial, presence and absence.

As an extension to the works in the space, Adi has commissioned a text by friend Anna R. Japaridze which has evolved through their correspondence over the past year.

The exhibition was preceded by a public programme hosted by EAST (Eating at the Same Table), which invited participants to slow down and reflect on what it means to be human in this climate, exploring breathwork and guided imagery workshops with Reiki Master and practitioner Devon Burke, along with discussions and readings.

BIOGRAPHY

Kobby Adi was born, lives and works in London.

EPISODES

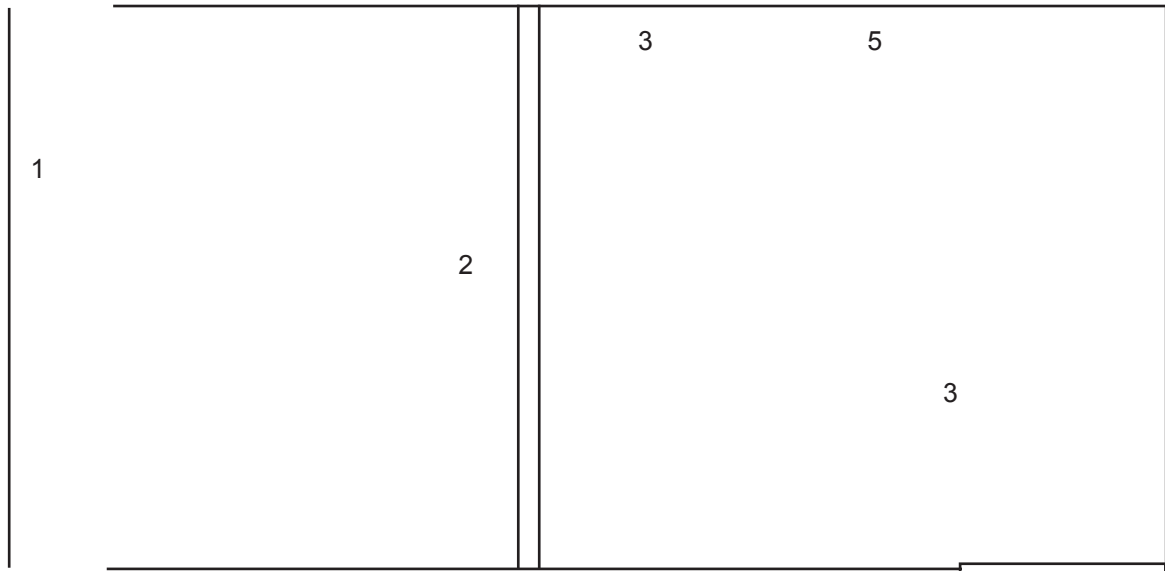
Episodes is an ongoing series of solo presentations that span installations, screenings, discursive events and new commissions. The focus of this programme is to provide an experimental platform for emergent practices. The series has featured work by: Oisín Byrne (14 Dec 2018–3 Feb 2019), Adam Christensen (27 April–27 May 2019), Corey Hayman (17 July–11 Aug 2019), Roland Carline (16 Nov 2019–12 Jan 2020), and Sophie Barber (18 Sept–25 Oct 2020). Episodes is supported by the Oak Foundation and Arts Council England.

SUPPORTED BY



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OAK GALLERY

1. *for now, 2020*

Reclaimed Iroko worktops, folding bench brackets

2. *Last Cypher, 2020*

Construction site hoarding, polycarbonate bulkheads,
flame effect light bulbs

3. *for now, 2020*

16mm film transferred to HD
Endless loop

4. *for now, 2020*

Firefighter Wellington boots, fibreglass orthopaedic
casting tape, stockinette

UPPER BALCONY

5. *NW9, 2020*

Obscured Georgian Wired flame resistant glass