
For My Only Love, Yours in Body and Soul

Exhibition by Eburn Sodipo

Large Print Exhibition Guide



God's House Tower, Town
Quay Road, Southampton
SO14 2NY

Exhibition on display from
7 October to 8 November
2022



Image of Eburn Sodipo. Credit: Artist's own image.

Eburn Sodipo makes work for those who will come after: the black trans people of the future. Her interdisciplinary practice narrates the construction of a black trans-feminine self after slavery and colonialism. Through a process of fragmentation, collage, and story-telling, she devises softer, other-wise ways of imagining and speaking about the body, desire, archives, and the past.

For My Only Love, Yours in Body and Soul is a new body of work, made specifically for God's House Tower to celebrate Black History Month 2022. It's a continuation of Eburn's research into the birth of modernity and the formation of race and identity. Eburn's interest in the archive isn't in the records, ledgers and legal files, but rather the spaces in between these documents and the lives they trace. Her work tells the stories that are missing; black lives, queer histories, personal correspondence, thoughts and feelings.

The artist has written three stories in the form of love letters, told from the point of view of a woman in Southampton, yearning for her lover who is always at sea. The written works appropriate the language of documents the artist uncovered in the Southampton Archives, they explore the changing attitudes towards Africans and their descendants in the city between the 16th and 20th century.

The letters have been read out-loud and recorded by the artist, so that visitors can immerse themselves in the stories whilst standing in the gallery spaces at God's House Tower. Each story takes place in a different century; the first is set in 1601, the second in 1794 and the third in 1858. Although the letters span centuries, the protagonist is the same woman. Her long life stretches beyond the boundaries of what's possible and invites audiences to imagine a speculative past, blurring the lines between fact and fiction, histories and hearsay.



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The audio recordings are accompanied by three large-scale collages, again appropriating material found in the Southampton Archives. The visual references provide important context, allowing audiences to navigate the narrative and create links between what they hear and what they see.

Scan the QR code below to find out more about the work from the artist herself:



This exhibition is part of a wider programme of exhibitions, events and activities organised by 'a space' arts in partnership with Black History Month South as part of Black History Month 2022.

For more information please visit our website at godshousetower.org.uk/exhibitions