


The Luxury of Amnesia

ALBERTA WHITTLE

MY PRACTICE IS INFORMED BY THE ABILITY to 'forget' unpalatable histories, specifically contested historic and contemporary relationships between the Caribbean and UK, a condition I have termed 'the luxury of amnesia'. Concerned with the ability of counter-narratives to facilitate protest, I also analyse relationships between decolonisation and radical self-love.

Recently exhibiting and performing at the Rum Retort event in Barbados, I presented a commissioned performance, *A Recipe for Planters Punch*,¹ and a video, *Mammmmmmyyywata Presents Life Solutions International*.² The avatar of Mammmmmmyyywata³ has catalysed new mechanisms for discussing decolonisation and memory through collage, including videos, prints and performance. My practice provides an important space for negotiating decolonisation through insisting on reciprocity, coercing and demanding that audiences participate in their own discomfort when race or gender is discussed. 

NOTES

1. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2V1BT_sbfo.
2. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNiDUpa-xmw>.
3. My avatar of Mammmmmmyyywata is based on the creolised, mythological figure of Mami Wata. Rooted in belief systems from West Africa, carried over the Middle Passage in the memories of the enslaved, she arrived in the Americas ready to transform again in various presentations in creolised spaces throughout the Caribbean and the Global South, including Yemanjá in Brazil, Mamlambo in South Africa and Maman de l'Eau in Trinidad.



Recipe for Planters Punch, 2016
Performance still

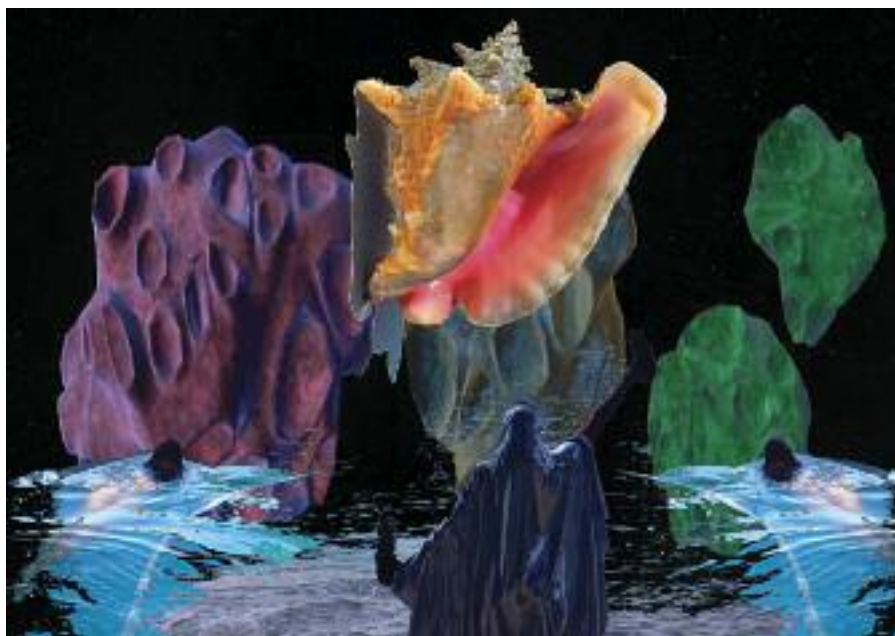


Recipe for Planters Punch, 2016
Performance still



Studies of Welcome I, 2016

Digital collage, 841mm x 1189mm



Celestial Meditations, 2016

Digital collage, 841mm x 1189mm



Mammmmyyywata Presents Life Solutions International, 2016
Video still



Dem A Pressure We Hard Hard Hard, 2015
Digital collage, 841mm x 1189mm