

Hugo Brazão: Cat did it!

24 July – 11 Sept 2021

Commonage is excited to present our second exhibition ***Cat did it!***, a solo presentation by **Hugo Brazão**. The site-specific installation for Commonage is an investigation into themes of concealment, deception and escapism to explore the similarities between zoological and human behaviours. Brazão explores various forms of communication through signifiers and symbols, abstract and familiar.

The exhibition draws on research around Hanabiko or Koko, a female Gorilla who allegedly communicated through a form of sign language and could mimic her human counterparts. Specifically referenced is one instance where Koko breaks a sink and is said to have blamed her cat. With sculptures and a large-scale textile work, that suggests maps of both landscapes and bodies, Brazão plays with open narratives through anthropological inquiry, symbolism and humour. The installation becomes a metaphor for how we may attempt to absolve ourselves physically and metaphysically.

The artist will lead a participatory workshop exploring some of the materials utilised in his new installation on Thursday 5th August details and booking to follow on our website.

Hugo Brazão (b. 1989, Madeira) lives and works in London. His artistic practice covers painting, sculpture and textile and develops around the fiction/reality paradox, reimagining the material found within his research and finding its technical possibilities and different narratives that can be created around it. Brazão was awarded the VIA Arts Prize in 2018 in London, the Helen Scott Lidgett Studio Award in 2015 and participates regularly in international art residencies. He completed an MA in Fine Arts at Central Saint Martins (London, 2015) and a BA in Painting at Faculdade de Belas-Artes de Lisboa (2013). Recent solo exhibitions include *Out of sight, out of mind* (2020) at Balcony Gallery in Lisbon, *Best foot backwards* (2019) at Sala Brasil in London and *TAKE TEN* (2019) at the Las Palmas project space. He has also been exhibiting in-group exhibitions in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Spain and Italy.

Commonage is a space for testing new ideas that encourage commonality, experimentation and dialogue, through online projects, events and exhibitions. Exhibitions are presented in our project space gallery, which sits alongside a café, architecture design studio to create cross-pollination, collaboration and integration into this hybrid environment by facilitating conversations between individual and collective creative processes. Online projects are another way to test work through screenings, writing and other digital outputs. Commonage is programmed by Séamus McCormack and shares the site with The Common E2 and Common Ground Workshop and operates with their support.

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