

# Davis' display in the UK

Barbados-based artist Annalee Davis has launched re-wilding, her first solo exhibition in the United Kingdom at Haarlem Artspace in Derbyshire, which opened on September 12.

Presenting a new installation commissioned by Haarlem alongside recent drawings and a large-scale photograph, the works reflect on the rural, reconstructing meaning and connections.

The exhibition is also part of re: rural - four contemporary artists un-learn and re-imagine the rural, which also presents the work of women artists Feral Practice, Deirdre O'Mahony and Pauline Woolley on the gallery's new online platform Haarlem Periodical. Haarlem Artspace is in Wirksworth, a town with a radical political and industrial history in Derbyshire.

In Haarlem's interior and exterior spaces, Davis presents drawings, photographs and a sculpture inspired by the multi-layered history of the site where her studio is located, on a former sugarcane plantation.

The Wild Plants (2015) and F is for Frances (2015-16) series of coloured drawings function as graphic interventions into 1970s plantation ledger pages, where entries were primarily economic: registering wages, field activity and rent rolls, measuring rainfall and signing out agricultural implements to plantation labourers. The detailed drawings of wild plants with their root systems, and a former slave girl's name drawn in found pottery sherds, counter the daily logging of plantation activity to offer alternate ways of reading the site.

Outside the gallery is Davis' new sculptural work, (Bush) Tea Plot - A Decolonial Patch for Mill Workers, which is a re-versioning of an earlier (Bush) Tea Plot work, linking the industrial and colonial on both sides of the Atlantic, and exploring environmental resilience, regeneration and healing.

A one-metre tall glass vitrine on a plinth is filled with limestone soil, 18th and 19th century clay and porcelain sherds, and plants that travelled to the Caribbean from the UK through colonisation and those indigenous to both places. Traditionally held to have medicinal properties, the plants were used in the brewing of bush tea, a now almost-extinct practice.

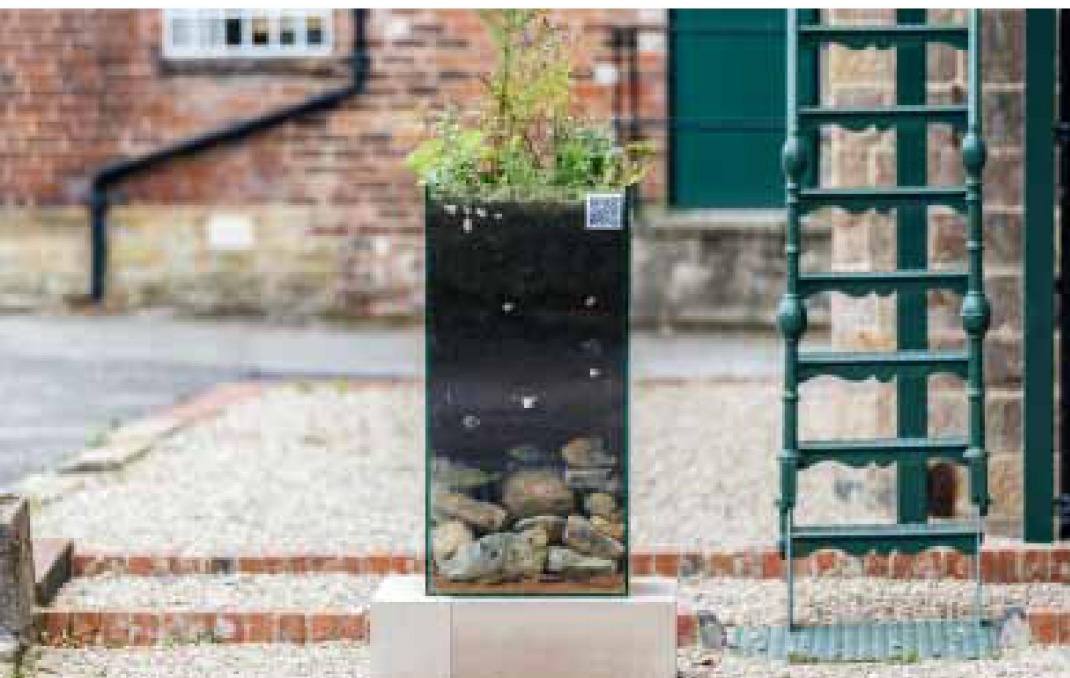
Curator of the exhibition, Liv Penrose Punnett said: "It's been fantastic working with Annalee and her drawings and new sculpture. It feels like it has really highlighted the cross Atlantic historical connections and shown audiences here the importance of the plantation in terms of our collective rural economy, the history of this and our relationship to it now."

The ideas in Davis' works are further explored at Haarlem Online as part of re:rural- four contemporary artists un-learn and re-imagine the rural. The Haarlem Periodical includes: Annalee Davis Wild Plant Series, Sweeping the Fields, (Bush) Tea Plot - A Decolonial Patch for Mill Workers: Feral Practice Mycorrhizal Meditation & Homo Mycelium: Deirdre O'Mahony, SPUD, A Village Plot: Pauline Woolley, The Sky Calls to Me & Beyond the Celestial Sphere.

Davis is a visual artist, cultural instigator, educator and writer, with a hybrid practice. She works at the intersection of biography and history, focusing on post-plantation economies by engaging with a particular landscape on Barbados.

Her studio, located on a working dairy farm, operated historically as a 17th century sugarcane plantation, offering a critical context for her practice by engaging with the residue of the plantation.

Haarlem is an artist-led studio and gallery space encouraging practice and research into contemporary art created in rural environments through residences, exhibitions and events. (PR)



## Stars in virtual walk for cancer

Caribbean Queen of Soca Alison Hinds, Edwin **The General** Yearwood, Adrian **AC** Clarke and **Hypa Dawg Lil Rick** are the local soca stars who will be a part of the lineup for the first ever **Virtual Walk for the Cure and Concert of Hope**.

For the first time in the nine-year history of the largest walk for a cause in the Caribbean, there will be no gathering of thousands in pink to raise awareness for the cause of Breast Cancer in Barbados and across the region, as COVID-19 has forced regional bank CIBC FirstCaribbean, to take its flagship fundraiser online.

The bank, through promoter 4D Entertainment, will be producing the regional event on Sunday, October 4th that will bring together some thirteen popular regional performers and two DJs for a full three hours of entertainment that will also include energetic workout sessions from a number of top fitness coaches.

Regional performers include **Mr. Vegas** from Jamaica, **Mr. Killa** from Grenada, Ricardo Drue hailing from Antigua, Teddyson John from St. Lucia and from the Bahamas Julian Believe.

Two performers bringing a different feel to the show will be King James from St. Maarten and Reinir Lijfrock from the island of Aruba.

Viewers will also get to see two very popular regional soca stars namely past Road March winner Patrice Roberts out of Trinidad and 2019 St. Vincent Soca Monarch **Skinny Fabulous**. Donations can still be made to assist with the cause through TicketLinkz.com.

The Breast Screening Programme of the Barbados Cancer Society will also be selling their pink T-shirts this year to raise awareness and will be encouraging Barbadians to wear their shirts on Fridays and on National Pink Day designated as Friday, October 2.

The online programme commences at 4 p.m. and can be viewed by logging on to Facebook.com/CIBCFIB; Instagram.com/cibcfirstcaribbean; YouTube.com/user/CIBCFirstCaribbean; Caribbean and Zoom. (PR)