

# Ashanti Hare, born 1992

## River that never rests, 2024

### Video of performance

The museum's collections and displays provide inspiration for artists to create new work. RAMM commissioned Ashanti Hare to create a performance inspired by *minkisi* or 'power bundles' from the Congo in the World Cultures collection.

This video documents a public performance at the museum in February 2024 in which Hare explored, with ritual performer and musician Ralph Nel, the River Exe as a sentient being. Hare's research into both the African origins of Vodou and Vodon practices and water gods in a range of African and Norse mythologies reveal water as a bridge between worlds. In these narratives, water represents for them the cyclical nature of grief; death and rebirth; joy and celebration.

Explaining their approach to creating the performance Hare says:

'I have been exploring the idea of a sentient River Exe which reveals itself as the watcher connecting physical and documented histories of Exeter with the wider South West through the oral histories of global majority people and wildlife that travel to it'.

This commission is part of RAMM's Contemporary Art Programme funded by Arts Council England

## About the artist

Ashanti Hare grew up in south London before moving to study art in Plymouth in 2022. They are a multidisciplinary artist who explore their spiritual being through performances informed by traditional folk practices.

Hare's practice includes research into British, Caribbean & West African folklore, occult practices and history with references to pop culture, film and literature. Recent exhibitions include *Against Apartheid* at KARST in Plymouth and *Joto Se* at Arts University Plymouth.

Hear about Ashanti Hare's inspiration from RAMM's collection for the new artwork in this interview with Curator of Ethnography, Tony Eccles.

Link: <http://www.ramm.uk/AshantiHareInConversation>

Hear Ashanti Hare talk about their practice and wider inspiration for the RAMM commission in this film based at Southcombe on Dartmoor and at RAMM.

Link: <http://www.ramm.uk/AshantiHareSouthcombe>

# Nkisi, collected before 1889

BaKongo people, Lower Congo River,  
Democratic Republic of Congo

RAMM commissioned artist Ashanti Hare to create a performance inspired by *minkisi* or 'power bundles' from the Congo in the World Cultures collection. Hare's public performance took place at the museum in February 2024 in which Hare explored, with ritual performer and musician Ralph Nel, the River Exe as a sentient being.

This group of objects was used in the performance. They are displayed alongside a *nkisi* from RAMM's collection which inspired Hare's new work.