

Stephen Palmer Bursary - Final report 2024  
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At the beginning of July, I travelled to the uninhabited island of Staffa to explore the geological formations of volcanic rock columns and its yawning sea cave. Staffa gives a reminder that we are mere specks of dust when surrounded by these majestic, looming pillars of basalt.



*sky from the cave's mouth*

Their elemental powers, solid anatomy, acoustic phenomena, all physically and conceptually take over my being. I took video and sound recordings to try and remember tiny parts of these feelings and seeings. Water bursting against the hard black rock, the cavernous bouncing echos, fluffs of puffins making home, bobbing jellies, drifting wee beasts in momentary pools ~ all these electronic sounds and vibrations perhaps feeling out some sort of human-non-human memory and forthcoming play.



*beasties in the rock pool*

Then came Autumn, where I made a couple of trips to London. I looked at ancient things at the V&A museum. Ancestral tools, clothes, intimate material items of personhood trapped behind alien glass and lasers. These matters offered a tangible and spiritual connection to distant familial pasts, giving visions towards ways I want to make family artefacts for other futures, other natures.



*ALTAR TABLE WITH FOOD DISHES  
1550-1650, Ming dynasty  
Earthenware with coloured lead glazes*

Time here and there was also spent being with other exhibitions, artists, artworkers ~ giving thought and sharing knowledges, foods, ideas. These intangible connections that continue to linger in my brain may grow into deeper relationships and exciting ventures soon to come.



*volcanic rock island*