



GALLERY OF AFRICAN ART
LONDON

Press Release

A Group Exhibition

14th February – 30th March 2019

The Gallery of African Art (GAFRA) is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring the following artists:

CHIEF NIKE DAVIES-OKUNDAYE - Nigeria

Chief Nike Davies-Okundaye was born in 1951 in Ogidi-Ijumu, Kogi State, Nigeria. She was brought up amidst the traditional weaving and dying practice in her native village of Ogidi in Western Nigeria. Chief Nike's artistic skills were nurtured at a young age by her parents and great grandmother who were musicians and craftspeople. She spent the early part of her life in Osogbo, which is recognised as one of the major centres for art and culture in Nigeria. During her stay in Osogbo, indigo dying and Adire production dominated her informal training.

Chief Nike is the founder and director of four art centres which offer free training to young artists in visual, musical and the performing arts. She is the owner of the largest art gallery in West Africa, comprising over 7,000 artworks. The centres also serve as a rich source of knowledge for traditional arts and culture to scholars and institutions. Nike is known all over the world for promoting her designs through exhibitions and workshops in Nigeria, USA, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Chief Nike Davies-Okundaye's reach as a visual artist also extends to her collaborations with fellow Nigerian artist Chief Tola Wewe. A partnership stretching back many years, Chief Tola has described their practice as 'a visual copula; a kind of lyrical romance on canvas'.

Chief Nike lives and works in Lagos, Nigeria.

EVANS MBUGUA - Kenya

Evans Mbugua is an artist and designer born in Nairobi, Kenya. In 1999, he moved to France to continue his art studies. He attended the École Supérieure d'art des Pyrénées to study Graphic Design at Toulouse University, graduating in 2005 having majored in Print Design.

After graduation, he worked as an Artistic Director for advertising companies in Toulouse. In 2011, Mbugua moved to Paris where he currently lives and works. Mbugua's art is a creative medley of colour and print detail captured in portraiture. His bold use of colour and dot metaphors on his prints convey "a way of using art as a link to communicate and to unite people." His focus on urban signs and pictograms transmits his quest to create a universal link through contemporary art. Mbugua's art works are held in foundations and private collections in France, UK, Italy, the United States, Denmark, Nigeria, Morocco, and Kenya.

MOMAR SECK - Senegal

Momar Seck is an award-winning visual artist, painter and sculptor based in Dakar and Geneva. Born in 1969 in Bargny, Senegal, he trained at the National School of Arts in Dakar (1994), before pursuing a fellowship with the Swiss Federal Office for Culture (1996). He then graduated from l'Ecole Normale Supérieure Arts Education in Dakar and the School of Fine Arts in Geneva. He also completed a PhD in Fine Arts from the University of Strasbourg (2012). Since 2003, he has held the position of Professor of Visual Arts at the International School of Geneva.

Momar uses painting and sculpture as his chosen mediums, focusing on recycled elements such as wood, plastic, tin and fabric, which are found on the streets of Dakar. The singular diversity of each creation works as a metaphor for the intrinsic diverseness of the world and humanity. His "pluralistic units", as he calls them, display textures and colours, and the blend of materials symbolizes the fragile interdependent unity between different cultures and cosmologies.

RONALD MUCHATUTA - Zimbabwe

Ronald was born in Zimbabwe in 1984, and he commenced his career at age 16 as a pottery decorator at Ros Byrne Pottery, a noted commercial workshop in Harare. Ronald lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. He primarily works using the media of drawing, painting and mosaics, and often projects his visions through a cross-pollination of these mediums.

Ronald's striking special commissions, focused primarily on mosaics, are displayed at locations in South Africa, including in Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, and Cape Town, and in England. Ronald says that his hybrid forms of art are "a dialogue on matters such as African migration and the turmoil, and indelible triumphs that stand after significant social and political events occur in Africa". He articulates social commentary on these matters with each and every medium that he creates from.

DANIEL SORESA - Ethiopia

Daniel Soresa is an Ethiopian born painter who lives and works in Norway. Born in Addis Ababa in 1978, his talent and passion for art became apparent in his formative years. At the age of 6, Soresa went to live in Barcelona and it was there that he was first introduced to the works of Catalan artists such as Gaudí and Tàpies - whose works have continued to inspire him.

During his time in Barcelona, he attended San Salvador School until the age of 13 when he returned to live in Ethiopia. There, Soresa continued his studies at the Italian Cultural Institute, pursuing his interest in the history of art. During the school holidays, he interacted with craftsmen and painters who worked in commercial properties rented out by his father. His first drawings and paintings produced in his teens were influenced by the Ethiopian artist Maitre Afewerk Tekle. Later in life, Soresa travelled extensively in West Africa acquiring new knowledge and inspiration for his paintings.

Soresa is captivated by the synergy between colour and light. He is constantly in search of colour and the emotions that it brings. His works are infused with vivid pigments and filled with rich textures— presenting a medley of vibrant colours and cultural references.

Admission: FREE

Gallery of African Art (GAFRA)

45 Albemarle Street
London W1S 4JL

Nearest Underground Station: Green Park (Jubilee, Piccadilly and Victoria lines)

Media:

For further information/materials please contact:

Gallery of African Art

Tel: 020 7287 7400

Email: info@gafraart.com

www.gafraart.com

