

LOVE YOUR FAMILY



Love on front street, 2023
Adolphus Washington

**LOVE
YOUR
FAMILY**

Wunika Mukan Gallery is pleased to present *Love Your Family*. This exhibition features work by twelve contemporary artists who share their personal interpretation of love.

What does a family entail? If we use convention as a measure, we can define family as society's apex of love and commitment. Hegel, the German philosophical idealist, tells us that love is the key component of a family. African proverb reinforce this belief, teaching us that a family is like a tree with multiple branches, that may at times bend but resilient enough that it will never break. In all of these, we are taught to aspire to this sort of love. One that Hegel defines as us exchanging our self-sufficiency for dependence.

Who we love ultimately becomes an extension of who and what we are. Family goes far beyond the traditional structure. Every individual has their own personal concept of family, the people who bear witness to us in profound ways and are allowed to harm us and are permitted redemption whereas others are not.

This exhibition attempts to untangle the mysteries of family while simultaneously casting a light on the societal notions of love. Too often we are quick to airbrush love, clinging to poetic and idealistic notions of family. The collected works of the twelve artists will project the universal pleasures and the specific pains of family. What happens when we willingly embrace our dependency on those who can harm, as well as they can nourish us?

FEATURED ARTISTS

Adolphus Washington (United States)

Agemo Francis (Nigeria)

Alanna Fields (United States)

Charlotte Yonga (Cameroon/France)

Dandelion Eghosa (Nigeria)

Julio Rizhi (Zimbabwe)

Kamila Soares (Brazil)

Lebogang Mogul Mabusela (South Africa)

Millie Toyin Olateju (United Kingdom/ Nigeria)

Nzubechukwu Ozoemena (Nigeria)

Sophia Chioma Azoige (Nigeria)

Unu Mamu (Nigeria)

ADOLPHUS WASHINGTON



Adolphus Washington is a Black American and native New Yorker who currently resides in London. Washington received an MSc in African Politics from School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and he currently works in public affairs in London. His work has been exhibited at Arkade Gallery in Aberdeen, Scotland, Telfair Museum in Savannah, Georgia and The Holy Art Gallery in London, England. He is an Analog Series winner for Contemporary Magazine, October 2022 and has been featured in the publication Black Collagist, November 2021.

Adolphus works primarily with collage, believing it to be the most democratic medium that best embodies the improvisatory nature of Black American culture. Like those before him, forced to make something out of nothing, his limited materials lend to transformation and innovation, further adding to a culture he describes as having been created in free fall.

Adolphus showcases the richness of Black American culture by depicting historical events, as well as the reimagining of these, and evidenced by the colors, shapes, and symbolism used in his work, infuses the spirit of jazz and hip hop into his creations. A big believer in the power of specificity, his work focuses on and champions nuance, confronting his audience with the thorny and complex issues related to descendants of US chattel slavery. He also brings to the fore Black American myth and spirituality and other lesser-known or spoken narratives, linking and contextualizing these in an attempt to enrich understanding and inspire a greater appreciation of the fullness of the Black American experience and expression.

Considering his work to have an advocacy component, he intends for his work to spark conversation, interest in deeper learning, and ultimately, action toward reparative justice for his people.





Love on front street, 2023
Mixed media paint and collage
24 x 33 inches





Wisdom knowledge, 2023

Mixed media paint and collage

24 x 33 inches

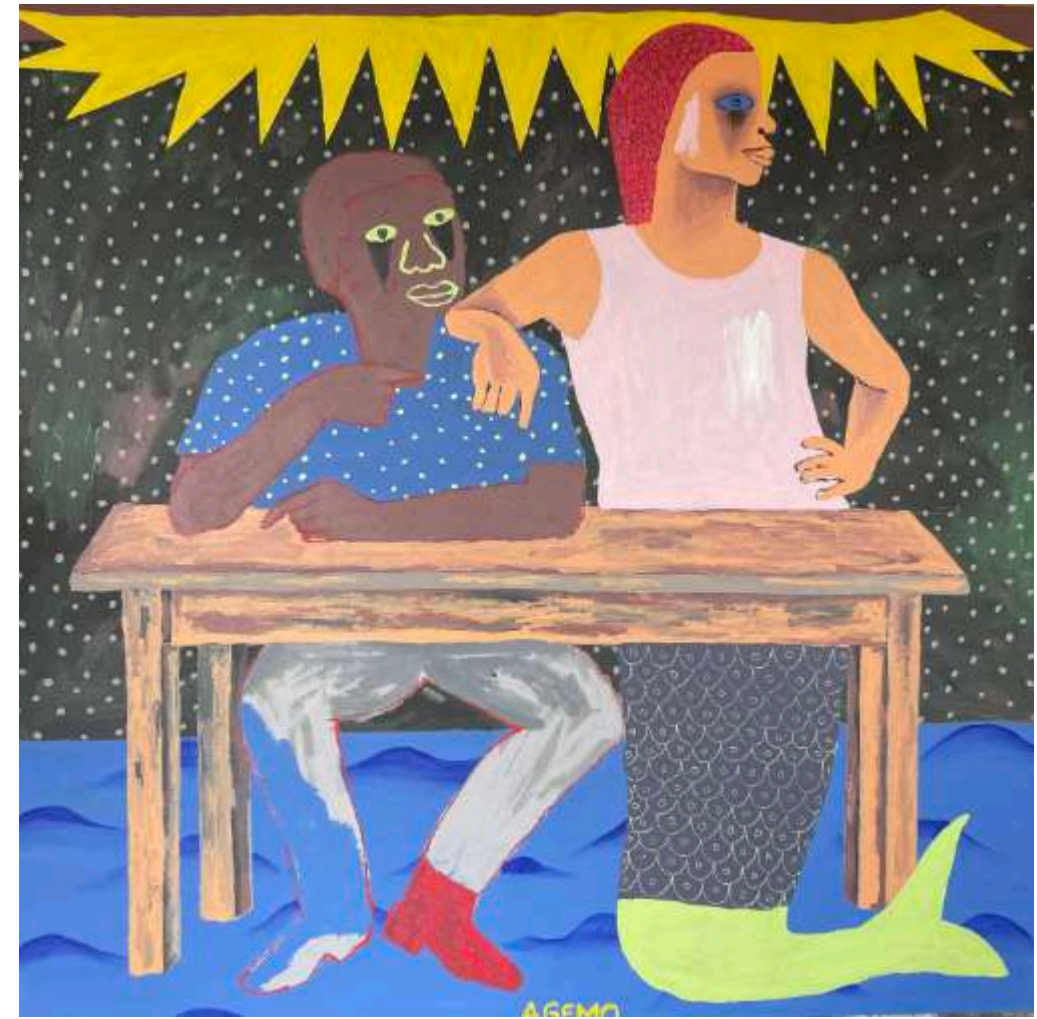


AGEMO FRANCIS



Francis Sewanu Agemo is a Nigerian artist who lives and works in Badagry. He studied Fine Art in Delta State University, Abraka, where he majored in sculpture. In his practice, he prefers to represent the art and elements that forged his youth. As a young child, Agemo grew up under the influence of the traditional art and culture sustained in his village. His grandfather, being one of the dignitary traditional worshippers at the time, proves Agemo, was always surrounded by the traditional objects he represents; statuettes, totems, mask, etc. These sources serve as inspirations, inserted thoroughly in his work, which poses as a means to explore the duality between tradition and contemporaneity.





A lesson A warning, 2023

Acrylics on canvas

49 x 49 Inches

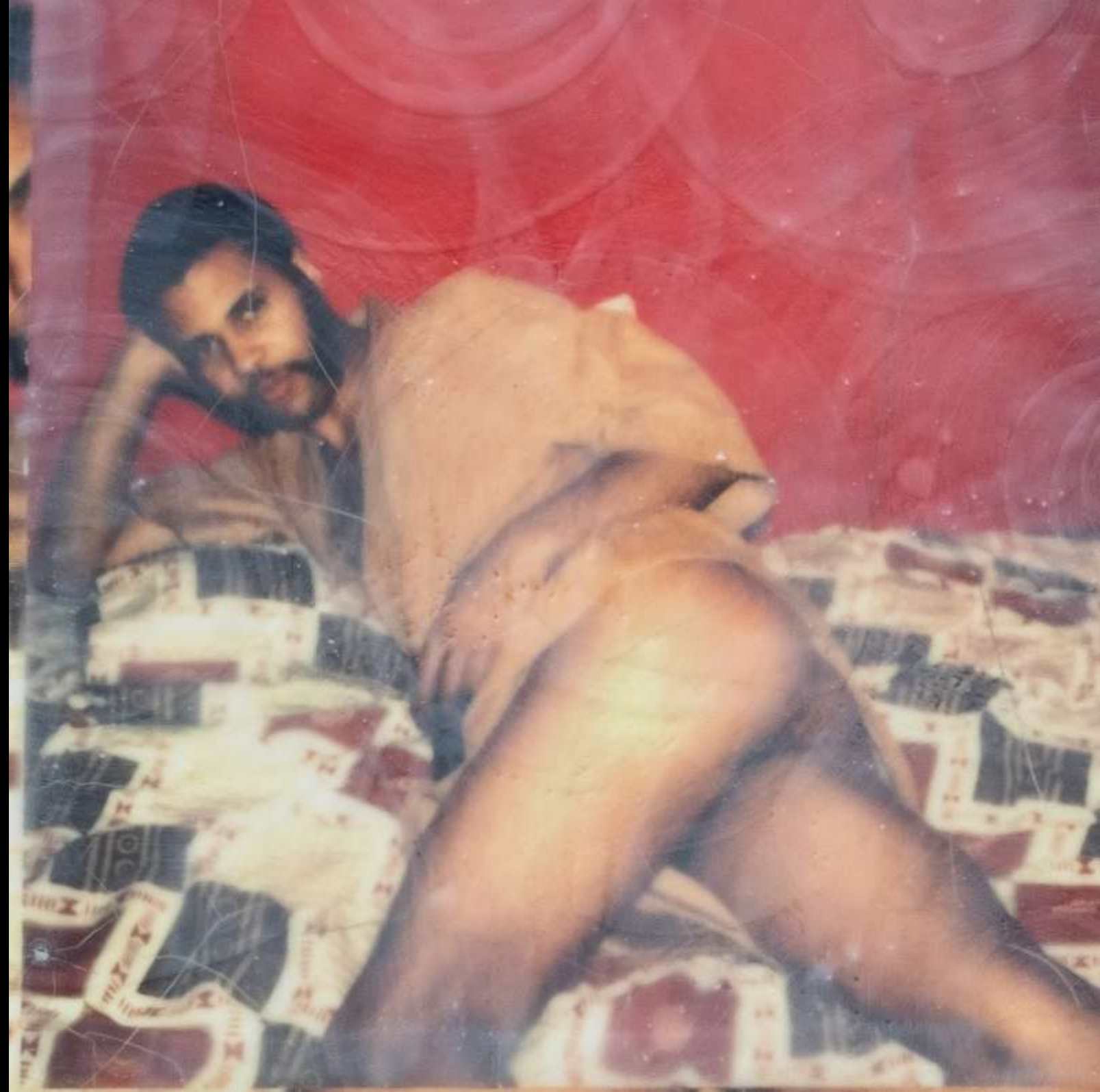


Married to Believes, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 54 Inches

ALANNA FIELDS



Alanna Fields (b. 1990, Maryland, USA) is a mixed-media artist and archivist whose work unpacks Black queer history through a multidisciplinary engagement with photographic archives. Fields' work has been exhibited at Plug In ICA, The High Museum of Art, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Yancey Richardson Gallery, Fragment Gallery, Baxter St. CCNY, Expo Chicago, Felix Art Fair in LA, and Kohn Gallery at Art Basel Miami amongst others. Fields is a Gordon Parks Foundation Scholar and has participated in residencies at Fountainhead Arts, TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image, Silver Arts Projects, Light Work, Baxter St. CCNY, and Gallery Aferro. She received her MFA in Photography from Pratt Institute and is a Lecturer of Photography at Howard University. Fields has given artist talks at the Aperture Foundation, Light Work, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Parson's New School, Syracuse University, and Stanford University. Her work has been published in the New York Times, Aperture Magazine, FOAM Magazine, and The Atlantic amongst others. Fields lives and works between Washington, D.C., and New York City.





Fireflies we make, bright as stars, 2021

Pigment print mounted on museum board, encaustic on panel
30 x 30 inches



CHARLOTTE YONGA



Born in 1985 in Paris, France. She lives and works between Barcelone, Spain, and Paris, France.

The Franco-Cameroonian artist Charlotte Yonga takes a close look at individuals and territories. Her approach, impregnated with dramaturgy, inherits a certain documentary tradition and is permeated by questions linked to the notion of individuality subjected to delocalization and to North-South cross-views.

The subjects she depicts, mostly “ordinary” people captured in specific contexts, are central and confront the viewer. In an alchemy that realistically combines strength and fragility, Charlotte portrays tangible personalities in all their complexities.

Charlotte is a graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Paris-Cergy (ENSAPC). During her studies, she developed a particular interest in the portrait and progressively chose the photographic medium. Then, in an effort to shift the way she looks at her subjects, she explored the expressive qualities of other media, such as video and sound. Charlotte has also been drawing for many years, an intimate work that she has shown very little. Her drawings, made with felt pens and coloured pencils, are “therapeutic sketches” and forms from the unconscious.

Her work has been shown at the Circulation(s) Festival, Paris Photo at the Grand Palais, the Museum of Le Havre, M.Bassy Hamburg in Germany, the Project Space of the Casablanca Biennale in Morocco, the LagosPhoto Festival in Nigeria and the National Museum of Cameroon.





Sacred Baobab, 2021

La Somone, Senegal

Photography

20 x 25 inches



Antoine and Babacar #1, 2021

Dakar, Senegal

Photography

18 x 22 inches

DANDELION EGHOSA



Dandelion Eghosa is a non-binary and queer visual artist whose work explores home, the identities of Afro-lgbtq+ people and human expressions in everyday life. By presenting the personal stories of a largely hidden social group through diverse visual mediums and storytelling, their work offers a fresh interpretation of queer imagery. In the last two years their practice has evolved into a yearning to explore the role of performance in African queer archival practices. They have a passion for experimenting with mediums that encourage the development of the human thought, beliefs, and feelings.





The closest I've been to God, 2023

Printing on canvas

20 x 30 inches



JULIO RIZHI



Julio Rizhi (b. 1991) is a Zimbabwean contemporary artist whose practice encompasses the repurposing of found objects and discarded materials.

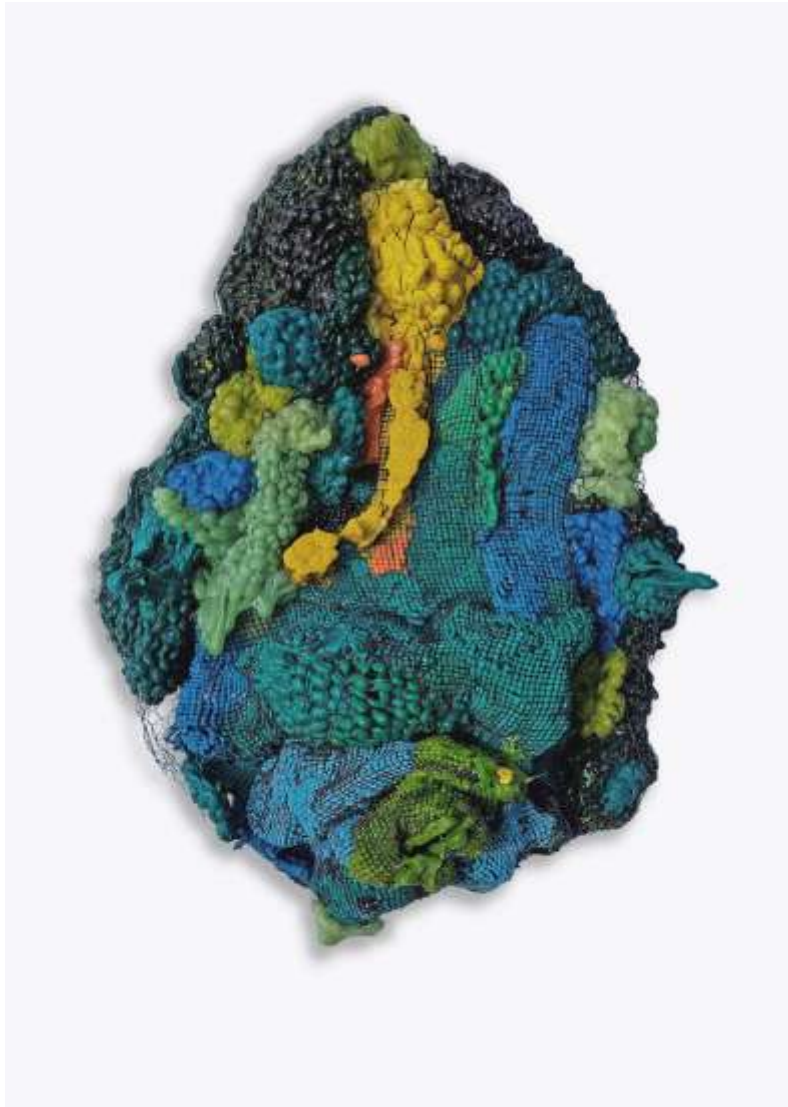
Born in the high-density suburb of Mbare in Harare, Rizhi studied fine art at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe's visual art studio before leaving to pursue and refine his experimental practice. He moved to Chinembiri Studios, working alongside several of Zimbabwe's leading contemporary artists including Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude, Moffat Takadiwa and Wycliffe Mundopa. His studio is now located in the Mbare Art Space, a community-led centre where many of the city's artists work.

Rizhi's practice is deeply embedded in the complexities of urban life in Harare. His work interrogates connections between consumption and its outcomes through the socio-ethical prism of contemporary Zimbabwean life. Rizhi's dystopic and dysmorphic constructions speak to environmental decay and the social cost of high-density living, such as youth unemployment and addiction.

Comprising melted plastic mounted on mesh wire, his sculptural constructions are arresting in their tactile complexity. There is a dark humour at play, luring the viewer in with seductively bright colours and organic, molten shapes – a comment on the promises of a better future often proffered but never fulfilled.

Rizhi has exhibited extensively with First Floor Gallery Harare in Zimbabwe and has participated in international art fairs such as ARCO Lisboa, Untitled Art in Miami, AKAA in Paris, Investec Cape Town Art Fair and FNB Joburg Art Fair. He has shown his work at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe and in group exhibitions in Morocco and Australia.





Land Reform IV, 2023

Recycled plastic, mesh wire, spray paint

39.4 x 27.6 x 7.5 Inches





Beauty of Poverty, 2023

Recycled plastic, mesh wire, spray paint

53.2 x 35.4 x 6 Inches



KAMILA SOARES



Kamila Soares is a visual artist from São Paulo, Brazil. Through exploring extensively the existing styles of paintings, she learned to admire and appreciate the works of art. This stage in her life has served to connect Soares to her childhood, which resulted in the realisation of art being a part of who she is. Soares is keen on creating paintings that represent black people, their stories and other details no one else sees; the vulnerable, the mistreated and the misunderstood members of the black community. Kamila's goal as an artist is to beat against all odd, and establish a strong stand against anyone who questions her decision to exclusively paint black people.





Family: cradle of traumas, judgments and bad ideologies

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 16 inches



Single Mother
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 20 inches



Sisters love

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 12 inches

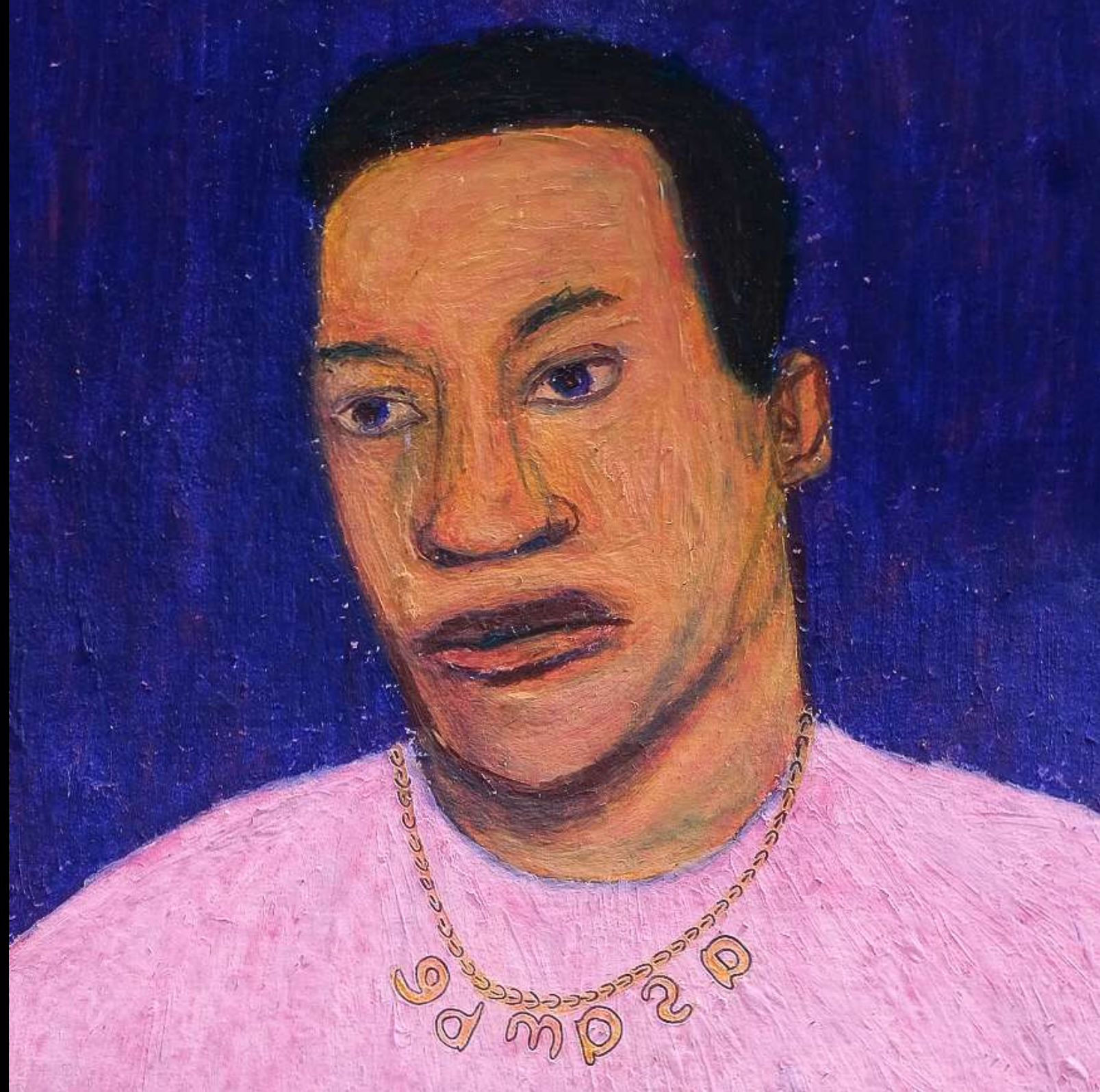
LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA



Lebogang Mogul Mabusela born in Mabopane in 1996 is a Zinequeen and Monotypebabe practising in Johannesburg. In 2019 she graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from the Wits School of Arts, where she was awarded the Standard Bank Fine Arts Prize. Mabusela has participated in a number of group exhibitions; at BKhz, The Wits Art Museum, The Point of Order, David Krut Gallery, FADA gallery and the Turbine art fair, as well as international fair like the FNB Joburg art fair and the Investec Cape Town Art Fair. In 2019 was a Top 50 Design Indaba Emerging Creative. Mabusela in 2022 had her first solo exhibition Ukwatile? –A body of work about language, catcalling and voyeurism– at the Stevenson Gallery in Johannesburg as part of their STAGE program for artists not represented by a Gallery. Currently she runs a printmaking curatorial scheme called The Monotypebabe Curatorial at the Bag Factory Artists Studios after she was awarded a three months Studio Bursary. Recently she completed a two months residency in Austria, at the Salzburger-kunstverein during the fall/winter where she worked on monotype prints and drawings inspired by Christmas and the festive season.

Lebogang Mogul Mabusela uses drawing, printmaking and paper as methods to explore what it's like navigating the world as a woman and feminine body in South Africa and most of all the world.

Mabusela's subjects happen to be the black male who is integral in the makeup of black families, even when present or absent in the home of those families. The gazing at these subjects in a critical and confrontational way through a young black feminist lens, brings us to a reckoning of how these many men are brothers, sons, cousins, uncles, husbands, boyfriends, fiances, friends and people's fathers or grandfathers and could be related to any of you or the artist herself, like how in through the various iterations and showcasing of Johannesburg Words she has heard audiences remark on how one face looks like an uncle of theirs or a friend they know, a companion. Some of whom we often rely on for patriarchal protection from the dangers of the very men being called out in the oil pastel portraits and watercolour monotype prints.



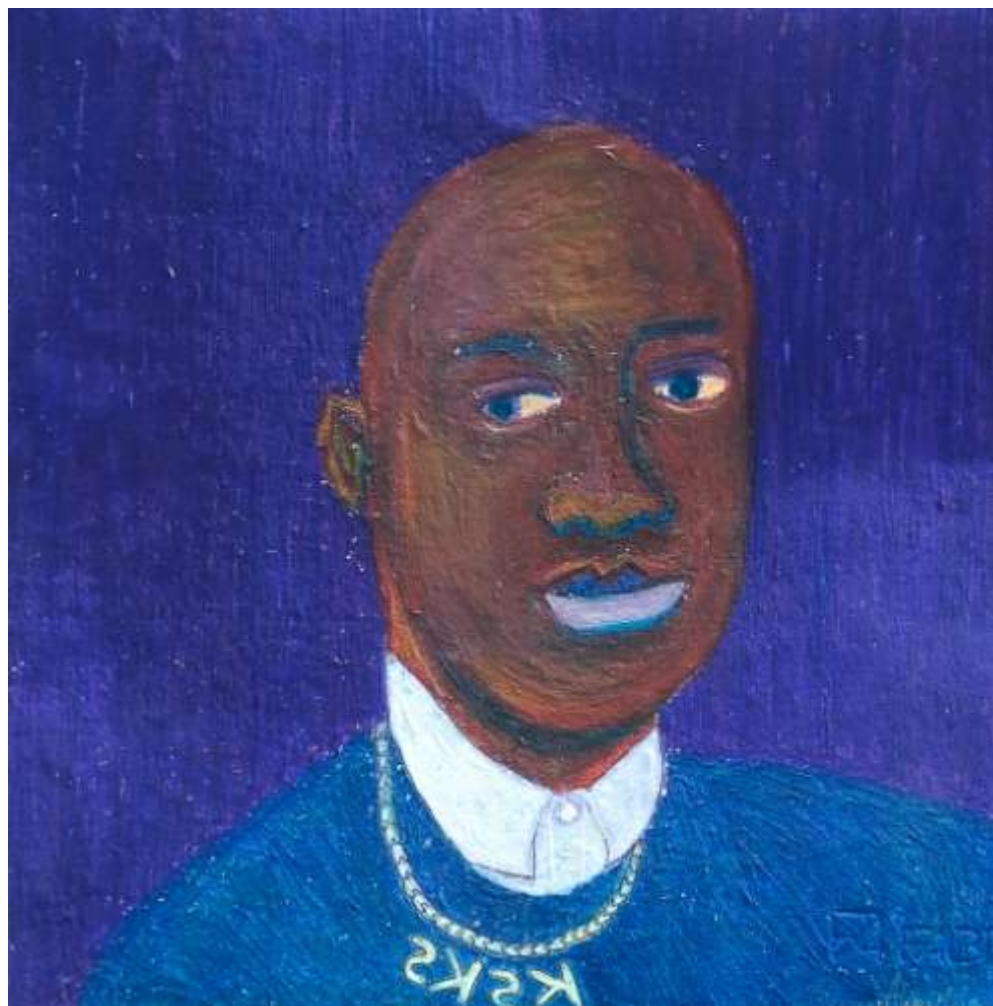


Eh my size, 2022

Oil pastel on art paper

12 x 12 inches

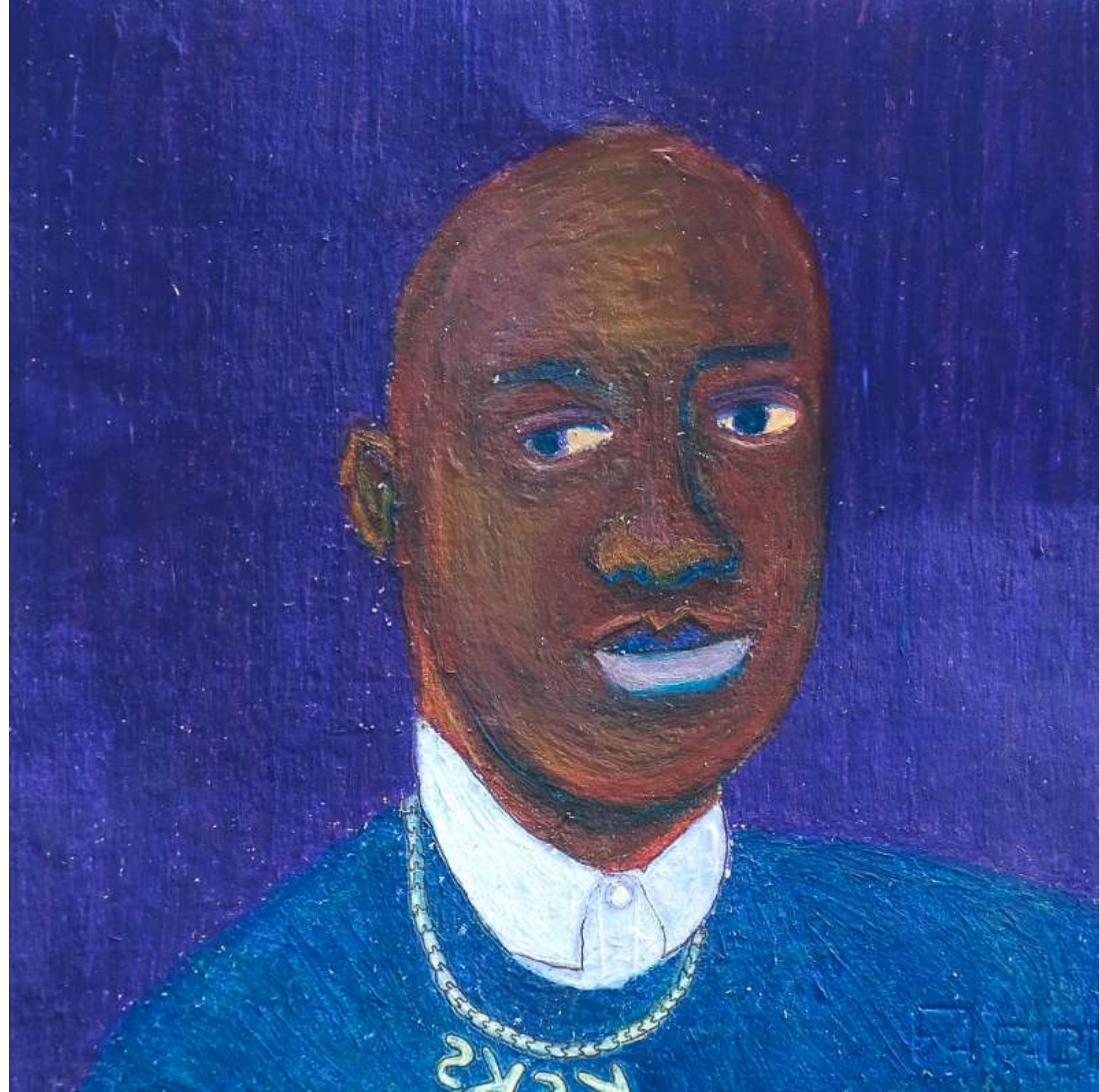


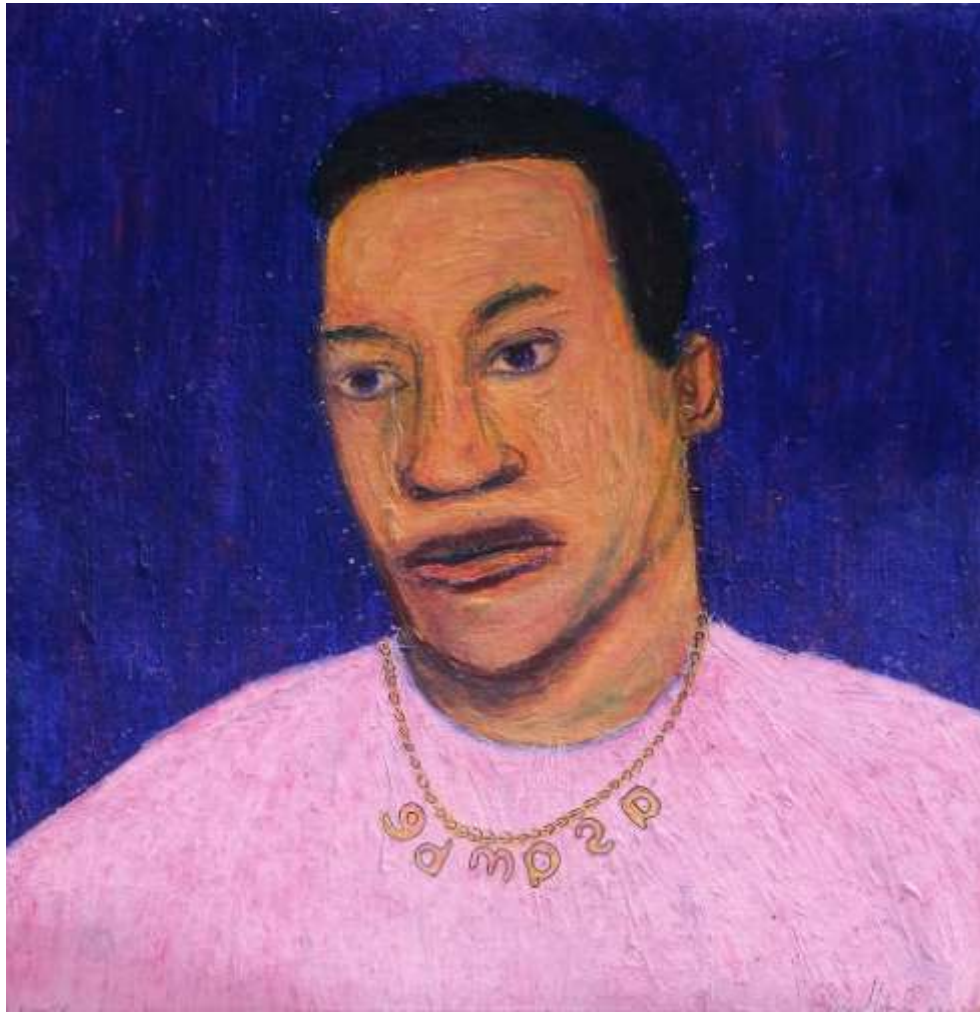


KSKS, 2022

Oil pastel on art paper

12 x 12 inches





Asambe, 2022

Oil pastel on art paper

12 x 12 inches



MILLIE TOYIN OLATEJU



Millie Olateju (b. 1996) lives and works in her hometown, Liverpool, UK. She studied BA Mixed Media Fine Art at the University of Westminster, London, graduating in 2019. She has since been commissioned by the Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool and Penguin Random House. In 2021, she was a recipient of the Liverpool Biennial x 24 Kitchen Street Artist Research and Development grant. Recent exhibitions include group shows - Refractive Pool: Contemporary Painting in Liverpool, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (2022), and 'Are You Messin?', Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool (2022)

Millie Toyin Olateju makes abstract paintings using mainly acrylic paint. Her paintings are process led - a mellow exploration of the elements with focus on composition, colour, shape, and texture. She takes inspiration from collage, nature, biomorphism, Colour Field painting, Minimalism, Post-painterly Abstraction, Outsider Art, and Surrealism - in particular, Surrealist Automatism - as layers of various colours and organic forms are placed together sporadically. Making a painting provides Millie with a source of joy and play, but mostly a cathartic outlet for an anxious mind and an escape from day-to-day monotony. Being from mixed Nigerian and English descent, Millie's purely non-objective paintings require the viewer to acknowledge her multifaceted existence - beyond the racial bias she often experiences.

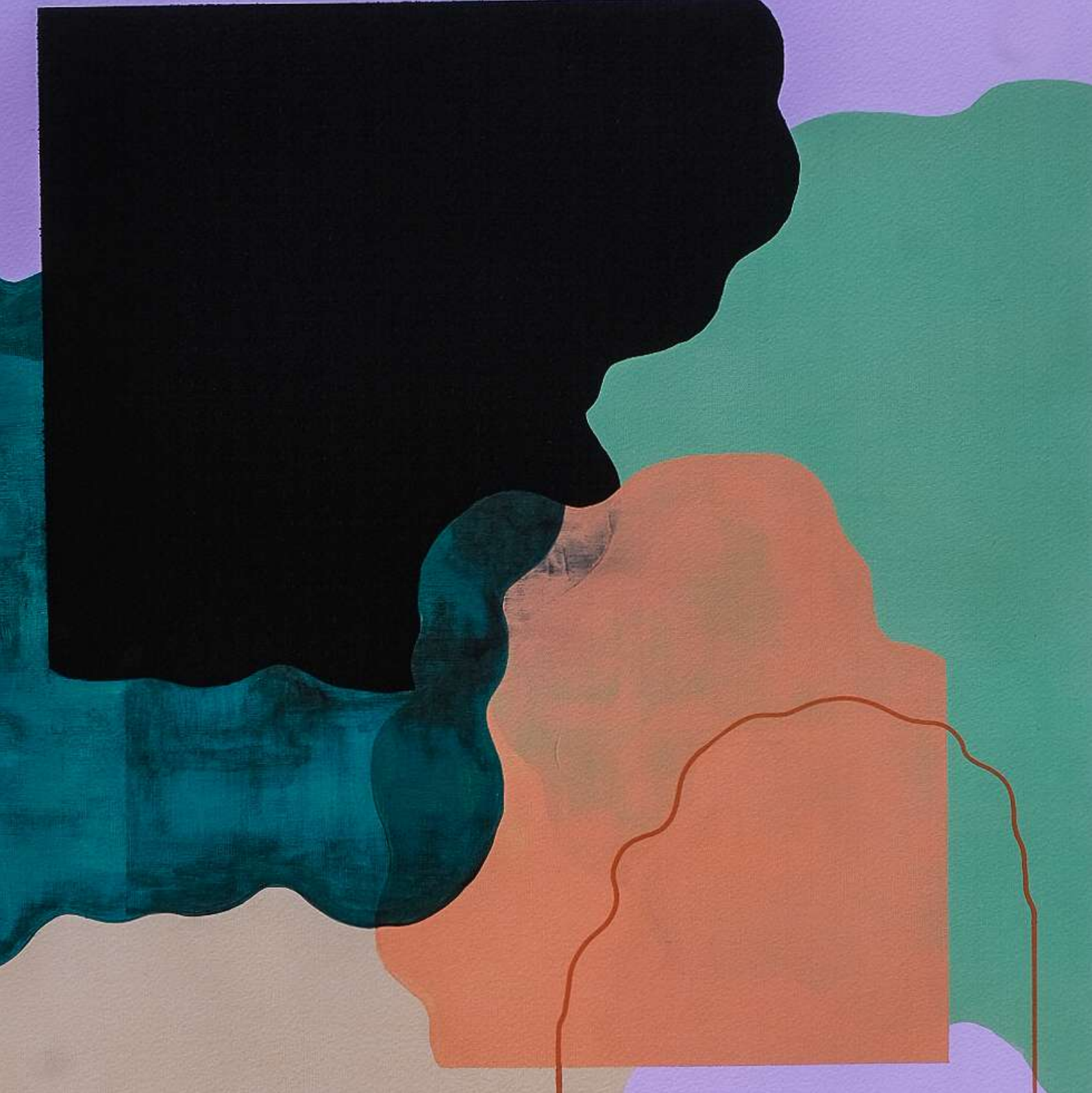




Color study A3 , 2022
Print on Art Paper
11 x 15 inches



Color Study 5, 2022
Print on Art Paper
15 x 19 inches



Color study 6, 2022
Print on art paper
15 x 19 inches



Color study 2020, 2022

Print on Art Paper

15 x 19 inches

NZUBECHUKWU OZOEMENA



Ozoemena Nzubechukwu (b. 1999) is a visual artist working from Benin, Nigeria. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Architecture at the University of Benin, Nigeria. He is greatly influenced by familial patterns, history and lived experiences.

Nzubechukwu's paintings are mirrors into archives from the past. The interpretation of his work aims to isolate the viewer in a reflective space that allows for introspection and retrospection whilst taking cognizance of present realities. He is inspired by artists like Jennifer Packer, Austin Uzor, and kudzanai- Violet Hwami.

With mildly textured layout of paint and roughly scribbled text, he tries to pull the viewer into the complexities and similarities of regular human life, activities and interactions leaving the viewer nostalgic, wanting more.

Nzubechukwu's works have been shown at the group exhibition - Stop; listen, Stockholm, Sweden (2020) and 'it's all in me' a group exhibition at Affinity art gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.





Waiting in thy patronage II, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

8 x 8 Inches



Waiting in thy patronage I, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

8 x 8 Inches



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 Inches



The nativity, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
33 x 23 Inches



The first true meal after coming out from water, 2022

Acrylic on canvas

50 x 50 inches

SOPHIA CHIOMA AZOIGE



Sophia Chioma Azoige is a multidisciplinary artist residing in River State, Nigeria. In the year 1996, she was born in Ikom. She grew up in Gboko, Benue State, where she started drawing as a child. studied Fine Art and Design at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in Port Harcourt, River State. She is inspired by the beauty of human existence alongside her life experience. She attempts to translate beauty and calmness to a broad spectrum of people. She believes life is a journey and one could encounter strain





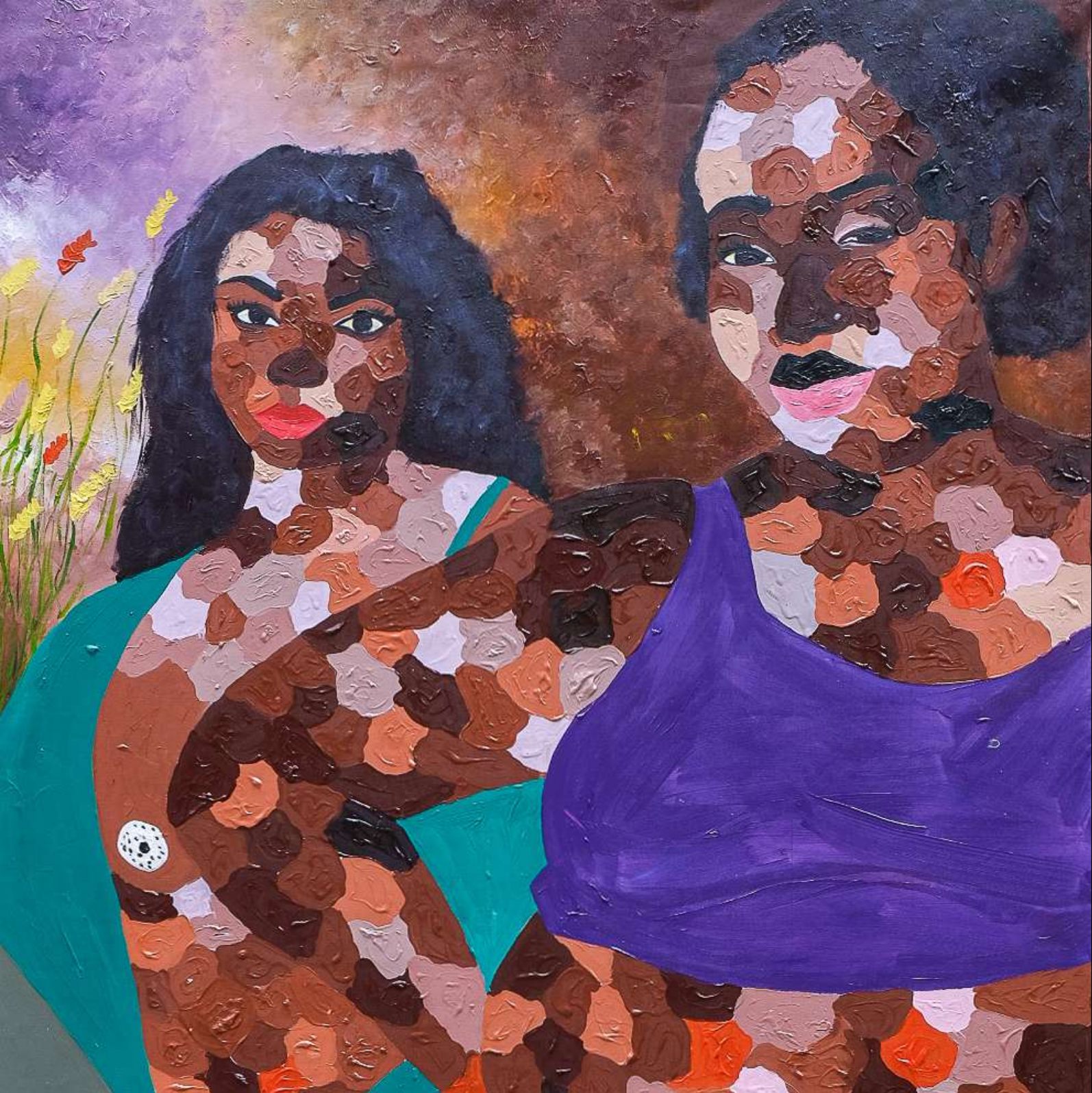
Ectasy, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 Inches



Etched on our soul I, 2023

Acrylic on canvas,

48 x 72 Inches



Etched on our soul II, 2023
Acrylic on canvas,
48 x 72 Inches

UNU MAMU



Mamu Unu (b.2000) is a Nigerian born visual artist currently residing in Middlesbrough, UK. He works predominantly with photography to create striking and often mystical portraits of people exploring diverse realities and truths. Their process involves various experimentations with negative space, colours and heavy contrasts.

Mamu has participated in numerous group exhibitions - Alliance Francaise Lagos, Boundaries of Reason (2021), Abuja Photo Festival, Abuja, Nigeria and Arnheim collection 4 (2022), Arnheim gallery, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Art for Mamu has always been a search for truths he couldn't grasp, words he couldn't find and lives he couldn't live.





Social Contract, 2023

Photography

14 x 18 inches



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