

Paul Majek-Oduyoye

(b. 2000, UK)

Email. paulkmajek@gmail.com

Education.

The Royal Drawing School, Foundation in Art & Design, Level 4 Diploma
2019-2020

University of Oxford, Ruskin School of Art, BFA Fine Art, First Class
Honours 2020-2023

The Royal Drawing School, Drawing year , Postgraduate 2023-2024

Exhibitions.

2020 Virtual Exhibition, titled 'Unlocked'

2021 Online Exhibition, Group show 'Primordial soup'

2021 OUDS New writing festival

2021 'Spoons River Anthology' journal

2021 'In Heavenly Blue' with Sola Olulode, Pacers Gallery in Lagos
Nigeria

2021 Virtual exhibition, titled 'Isolation'

2021 'The Other Within The Other: A Queer and Black Exhibition'

2021 Kanbi projects - 'Untangling the Perils that Tangle us?' Group
exhibition

2022 Old Fire Station Gallery 'Intimacies, after Vallatton' Exhibition

2022 Magdalen college Race and Empire Exhibition

2022 Mothflower 'CHARACTER' Group show

2022 Blackwhite gallery 'Raising boys' Group show

2022 Steingold Contemporary 'HAVEN' Group show

2023 Ruskin School of Art 'Degree Show'

2023 The Maffioli Art Group, 'Exhibition at the Scalpel' Group show

2024 Black Curatorial in collaboration with Black Eats LDN at Woolwich
Works, Group show

2024 O'DA Art Gallery 'Within our Midst' showing in Lagos with Michael
Igwe

2024 Rele Gallery 'Stretching the Light' Group show, Curated by Alayo
Akinkugbe

2024 Next Gen Masters: The Bicester Village x LUX Magazine, group
show

2024 'Best of the Drawing Year 2024' at Christie's in London

2024 The Drawing Year 2024: End of year exhibition & Open studios

Residencies. Selected awards. Fellowships

2019 Artists residency at Dumfries House
2021 Artists residency Magdalen College, Race and Empire Exhibition
2021 Geoffrey Rhodes Prize for Fine Art
2022 Artist residency in Nigeria, Lagos with HFACTOR, streets lights collective
2023 Stuart Morgan Prize for Art History for 'Let The Church Sink, Let The Ship Say Amen' by Paul Majek
2024 The 2024 Morrison Forester Art Prize
2024 Next Gen Masters: the Bicester Village x LUX Magazine Celebration of Emerging Artists
2024 The Moritz-Heyman Residency at Borgo Pignano
2024 The Ingram Prize Exhibition

Bibliography. Lectures. Panels

05/2020 "TEA Time Blog"
An Artist Insight: Paul Majek

06/2020 "Sugarcane Magazine"
Melissa Hunter Davis in conversation with Paul Majek

07/2020 'Transcend'
Artist Magazine collaboration with Onyxmagazine

08/2020 "October Gallery"
Artists talk and workshop with Paul Majek

08/2020 "The Big Draw"
Interview with Paul Majek

04/2021 "Underdogs events"
Interview and live demonstration with Paul Majek

06/2021 "Magdalen college magazine"
Interview with Paul Majek

09/03/22 On panel at Trinity College to celebrate the fusion of art and theatre and 'Intimacies, after Vallatton' with Sam Spencer.

27/10/22 On panel at UCL for the 'Global majority - A celebration of Decoloniality and Recentring Humanity' hosted by Dr. Campbell-Stephens MBE

10/2022 On panel at Magdalen college, Old library, for an exhibition 'Marginalised histories: experiences of people of colour within Magdalen's past' co-curated by Paul Majek

11/2022 Art review Oxford Autumn 'DOCUMENTA' Review : Hew Locke, Tate Britain by Paul Majek

Artist Statement

My work is about ancestral shadow figures in liminal spaces before my time and in the present moment. Staining and drawing on wood allows for a repetitive layering, rendering the surface soft and easy to enter. The process is like creating windows into the subconscious: a fluidity is introduced around the figures, embodying my mind and exploring landscapes of memory, generational dialogue, and spirituality. The marks made with charcoal remain visible and are as important as the painted surfaces. I'm combining painted surfaces with video, sculptural, found or appropriated elements, sited in altar-like domestic interiors.

"Paul Majek takes his own blue-hued lucid dreaming as a point of departure to probe the materiality of liminal spaces in his practice. As his painting title *Blues behind closed eyes* (2021) alludes, he takes interest in what may be "bubbling beneath the surface" of his consciousness. Painting in oil, acrylic and charcoal on wood panels or canvas, Paul recreates the defined terrain of the subliminal. He recontextualizes woodgrain as a liquid form and imprints Nigerian symbols to support a sense of transparency in his figures and ethereality of imagined spaces. His gentle yet ghostly visual language renders his work "soft and easy to enter", allowing his paintings to serve as permeable passageways between dreams, death and rebirth. In this selection of work, he references archival family photos of people and spaces only partially known to him. He approaches the archive as its own autonomous language in order to traverse the perforated landscapes of memory, love, generational dialogue, and spirituality."