

DESIRE LINES

04 September - 30 September 2022

Emmanuel Adeyemi Adebayo | Lawrence Meju | Roseleen Labazacchy | Thuthukani Myeza



Roseleen Labazacchy, Touch not, Mixed media painting, 91.44 cm x 91.44 cm, 2022



Lawrence Meju, An Ode to Self, paper on paper, 60 x 50 cm, 2022

Affinity Art gallery is pleased to announce ‘**Desire Lines**’ a group exhibition featuring four emerging artists from Nigeria and South Africa. The exhibition opening Sunday, September 4th, is the culmination of the first emerging artists open call issued by the gallery at the beginning of 2022. The selected artists, Emmanuel Adeyemi, Lawrence Meju, Roseleen Labazacchy and Thuthukani Myeza utilize a variety of mediums and materials to create new meanings and interpretations. Their use of materials are equally as significant as the conceptual underpinnings of their works, as they aim to upend viewers' expectations and initial impressions.

The exhibition explores the concept of what it means to go down the ‘road not taken’ and the myriad outcomes that could be awaiting on the other side. The works implore one to notice that path on the side, to pay attention to the narrow road with the rough edges, to hone in on the barely visible route with very few people on it. Indeed desire lines mandate that one be in tune with themselves and their environment, if not how do you even know they are there? Humanity and evolution have come so far with wonders in industry, technology and science but these artists argue that along the way society may have lost some things that are crucial to our humanity as individuals and as a collective, and one of the ways to regain that humanity is to step out of the way.

Emmanuel Adeyemi Adebayo (b.1999) is an artist living and working in Lagos. His works include paintings and sculptures that take on various shapes and forms in motion intended to draw in viewers both as witnesses and also as part of the creation. By engraving a fresh cycle of thoughts in their minds and imagination, he provides a chance to challenge perspective and perceptions. Through an awareness of purpose, he is engaged with refining his artistic talent with a focus on transforming the earth and our relationship with it for the better. Emmanuel's work has featured in various group exhibitions such as Inferno Of The Living, Retro Africa Abuja (2021), Editions #17 Segou'art, Gallerie Medina, Mali (2021) and Sculpting the city, Rele Gallery, Lagos (2020)

Lawrence Meju(b.2000) is a visual artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. He is currently studying for his bachelor's degree in Architecture at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Lawrence looks to inspire authenticity as well as explore his ideas and creative styles no matter how mundane they may seem. He believes that seeing the big picture sometimes requires an intersection of many ideas. He tells his stories with a variety of mediums – paper, paint, and digital mediums. His works have been exhibited at the Adidas flagship London with Creative Debuts (2022) and “The Ties that bind us” virtual group exhibition by The Cowrie Culture (2022).

Roseleen Labazacchy, (b.2000) lives in Ibadan, Oyo state. She received her Nigerian Certificate of Education (NCE) in Fine Art from the Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo (2019). Roseleen's artistry effortlessly captures a seamless amalgam of post-impressionism and neo-impressionism through the dominant reflection of her ultrafeminine tendencies as she tenderly projects the worth and beauty of the African woman. Roseleen's work has featured in various group exhibitions such as Open Windows, VAV Art Gallery (2021) and Talentila Art Foundation 2021.

Thuthukani Myeza (b. 1996) is a digital collage artist from Johannesburg, South Africa. Thuthukani began creating digital collages during the first phase of the pandemic in 2020. After becoming disillusioned with poetry due to a traumatic experience that left him feeling unable to create, Thuthukani turned to visual art to give him solace and refuge. He defines his work as “an elaborate pursuit of sanity” having no distinct style. His work often explores the beauty and dread of being black influenced by apartheid, segregation, and pre-colonial and colonial Africa. Thuthukani's work is a melting pot of different African cultures from across the continent. His work has been featured in numerous Zines such as Back 2 Black and Agbowo Issue 5 and The first ever issue of Prazzle Magazine. His work was also featured in a group exhibition titled Not another hair show in 2021 at the NWU Art gallery in South Africa curated by Tsegofatso Seoka.

“We are very pleased with the selection of artists from our first open call” says Olugbemi Arinso, gallery founder & director, “We received over a hundred applications from many talented artists and we will look into making this an annual phenomenon”. The exhibition is on through the month of September until the 30th at Affinity Art Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos.

For interviews, images, and comment, please contact: Moni Aisida, manager@affinityart.gallery

Exhibition Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm

Sundays are by appointment only.

Affinity Art Gallery,

Unit 2, 1-7 Muri Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

www.affinityart.gallery

NOTES TO EDITORS

Affinity Art Gallery is a modern and contemporary gallery dedicated to the promotion and celebration of African artists who are passionately sharing the African narrative with their works. The gallery functions as a beacon to educate and preserve Africa’s rich and diverse culture in a bid to inspire the next generation of young Africans.

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