

Gallery 1957

Gallery 1957 participates in 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair with solo booth by Serge Attukwei Clottey

6 - 9 October 2016



Serge Attukwei Clottey photographed for CCQ Magazine in Labadi, 2016. Courtesy the artist and CCQ
Serge Attukwei Clottey, *Packed Community*, 2016, plastics, wire and oil paint, 60" x 78", © the artist, courtesy Gallery 1957, Accra

Gallery 1957 is pleased to participate for the first time in 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair at Somerset House in London with a solo booth by Serge Attukwei Clottey (stand G31).

Named after the year Ghana gained independence, Gallery 1957 opened in Accra in March 2016 with an exhibition and performance by Clottey. Entitled *My Mother's Wardrobe*, the exhibition was curated by Nana Oforiatta Ayim, following the artist's residency at the ANO cultural research centre. Founded by Marwan Zakhem, the gallery evolved from private collecting and presents a programme of exhibitions, installations and performances by Ghana's most significant artists.

Clottey's work examines the powerful agency of everyday objects. Working across installation, performance, photography and sculpture, he explores narratives of personal, familial and collective histories, often in relation to trade and migration. Based in Accra and working internationally, Clottey is the creator of

Afrogallonism, an artistic concept commenting on consumption within modern Africa, through the utilisation of yellow gallon containers. As the founder of Ghana's GoLokal performance collective, Clottey's art works to transform society; through the artistic activism prevalent within his practice, Clottey challenges convention, and advocates the importance of creativity.

On view at 1:54 are Clottey's wall-based sculptural installations created through cutting, drilling, stitching and melting found materials. The works are bold assemblages that act as a means of inquiry into questions of form and history. Also included are works from a recent series of charcoal drawings, *Sex and Politics*. For the artist, the drawings raise the question, "should we as Africans discard all our traditions? And do we even know what ours are?"

Marwan Zakhem comments: *'It is important to us that Gallery 1957's exhibition programme expands outside of the gallery walls, to reach the public sphere - we are therefore delighted to be able to show Serge Attukwei Clottey's work to new audiences in the UK.'*

In August 2016, 1:54 hosted a talk on the art fair and a panel discussion on collecting contemporary African art at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City where Gallery 1957 is located for local audiences. Speakers included Tutu Agyare (Collector and Co-Founder of Nubuke Foundation); Professor Ablade Glover (Artist and Founder of Artists Alliance Gallery); Kerry Greenberg (Tate Modern, Curator - International Art); and Marwan Zakhem (Collector and Founder of Gallery 1957).

About Serge Attukwei Clottey

Clottey has performed and exhibited widely at solo and group shows over the past decade, including: My Mother's Wardrobe at Gallery 1957, Accra (2016); The Kampnagel, Hamburg (2015); Intelligentsia Gallery, Beijing (2015); The Mistake Room, Los Angeles (2015); 27th Festival Les Instants Vidéo, Marseille (2014); WUK, Wien (2014); Mohr-Villa, Munich (2014); Ozwald Boateng, London (2014); 11th Dak'art, Dakar (2014); Nubuke Foundation, Accra (2014); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2012); The Drum Ace Café, Birmingham (2010) and at AfriCAM, Napoli (2009). Clottey has also held artist residencies at ANO Centre for Cultural Research Accra (2015-2016) and Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna (2013).

About Marwan Zakhem - Founder

British Lebanese-born collector Marwan Zakhem has spent the last 15 years living in Africa where he developed a passion for contemporary African art. Through his role as a Managing Director at Zakhem, a family owned business, he has lived in both Senegal and Ghana. Initially founded in 1963 in Lebanon, the Zakhem group of companies extended to eight African countries to meet the expanding construction needs of the continent. Since 2003, Marwan has been

based in Accra, working on Zakhem's projects in the region, which have included the construction of the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City. Marwan's private art collection includes works by Ablade Glover, Kofi Argorsor, Hakajaka, Krotteh Tete and Jimoh Buraimoh as well as other West African artists. Marwan sits on the board of the Tate Africa Acquisitions Committee.

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