

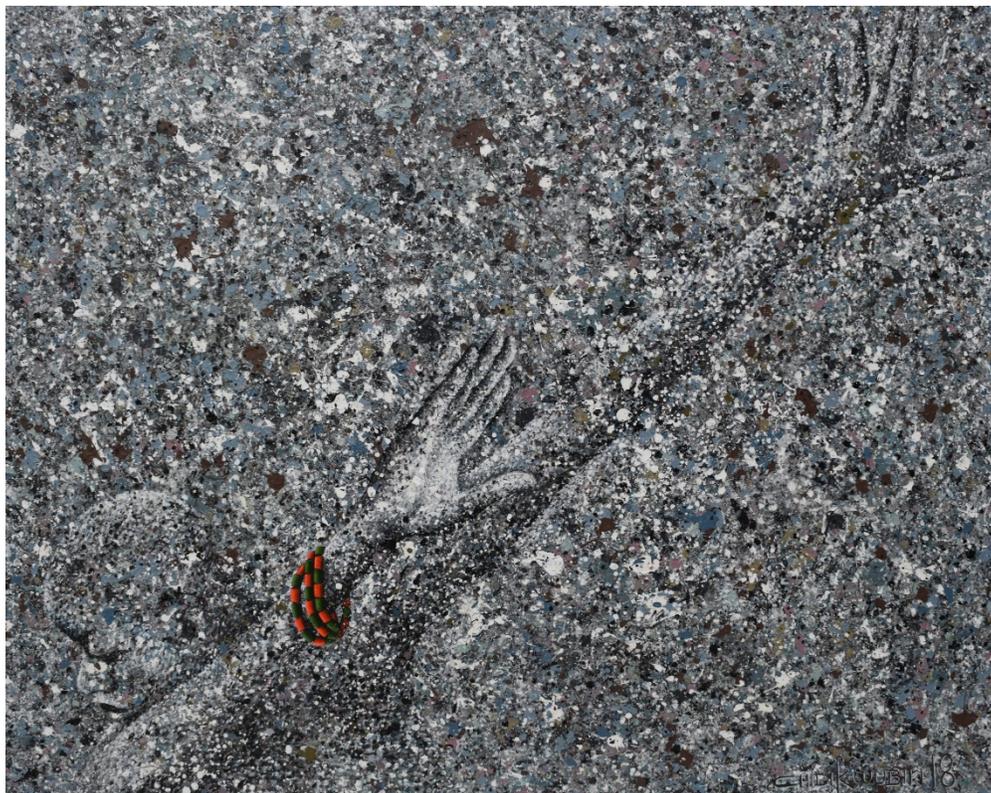
Gallery 1957

Chidi Kwubiri

motionEmotion

curated by Sandra Mbanefo Obiago
in collaboration with SMO Contemporary Art

29 June - 30 July 2018



Chidi Kwubiri, *Hypnotize*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 200 x 250cm. Copyright the artist, courtesy Gallery 1957, Accra

This summer, Gallery 1957 hosts a major solo exhibition *motionEmotion*, by Germany-based artist Chidi Kwubiri, curated by Sandra Mbanefo Obiago in collaboration with SMO Contemporary Art.

motionEmotion is the culmination of a lifelong dream of Chidi Kwubiri's, in which he speaks to the power of music on the creative soul. The exhibition of at least 15 spectacular large canvases and two conceptual installations reflect the spirit dance of celebration, joy, melancholy, energy, hope, and protest that music evokes in people wherever they gather.

In *motionEmotion*, Chidi Kwubiri takes us on a journey across sound, rhythm, performance and dance, by presenting paintings which speak to the outer and inner manifestation of music on identity, the rise of freedom movements, and the impact of lyrics on society across different generations.

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The works introduce a multi-layered, almost opaque world of colour and silhouette that gently seeps into visual consciousness. Utilising his characteristic dripping paint technique on large canvases, Chidi Kwubiri reveals expertly rendered hazy outlines of figures in motion and dance, in a sea of minute dots and drips.

Chidi Kwubiri presents a new monochromatic body of work with minimalist colour highlights alongside his signature colour palette, which reinforce the power of unity and hope against the socio-political tensions surrounding global immigration issues. His bold interpretations also touch on the impact of music on global youth movements by interpreting cross-generational rhythms, culture and political consciousness. The exhibition at Gallery 1957 shows the artist on a journey of sensory memory through paintings of cultural crusaders - such as afrobeat legend Fela Kuti and reggae prophet Bob Marley - juxtaposed against contemporary dances with their roots in Africa, including twerking, popping & locking, hip hop, and rap. *motionEmotion* is set against a backdrop of live music, freestyle instrumental and art based performance.

The exhibition follows a two-week artist residency in Ghana with Gallery 1957.

About Chidi Kwubiri

Born in 1966 in Umuahia, Chidi Kwubiri grew up in Nigeria and relocated to Germany in his twenties. He is a graduate of the Art Academy of Dusseldorf where he gained his Bachelors and Masters of Fine Arts, and has spent the last 25 years exhibiting globally at prestigious galleries and museums in France, Germany, the United States, Russia, Belgium, South Africa and his native Nigeria.

Selected group and solo exhibitions include: *LebensWert Arbeit*, Museum Am Dom, Trier (2018); *Ich bin, weil du bist*, Museum Am Dom, Trier (2017); *Italia Docet*, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice (2015); Casablanca Biennale, (2014), *Mother Tongue*, Temple Muse, Lagos (2013); *Theme Africa*, Phillips de Pury, New York (2010); and *The Internationals*, Millenia Gallery, Orlando (2004).

About Sandra Mbanefo Obiago

Sandra Mbanefo Obiago is an art collector and curator, photographer, and award winning filmmaker. She runs SMO Contemporary Art which promotes the best of African creativity through exhibitions and events in non-traditional gallery spaces. She is a social activist and her campaigns, films, radio programmes and publications focus on art, human rights, women's empowerment, health, the environment, democracy and good governance. She received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Manitoba, Canada in 1985 and a Masters in Telecommunications from Michigan State University, United States in 1988. She has served as a board member of the American International School of Lagos (AISL), trustee of the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), member of the Advisory Council of the Nigerian National Film Institute, and advisory board member of the iREP Foundation.

About SMO Contemporary Art

SMO Contemporary Art specialises in showcasing contemporary art in non-traditional exhibition spaces, focusing on established and emerging artists based in Africa and the diaspora. Founded by Sandra Mbanefo Obiago, SMO holds cutting edge art exhibitions which showcase masters and exciting new talent expressing their creativity through art, performance, film and new media. SMO is experienced in organising symposia, conferences, training and events, which provide a platform for the creative industry to inspire and strengthen humanity's aspiration for the good society.

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Exhibition: Chidi Kwubiri: *motionEmotion*

Dates: 25 June - 30 July 2018

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