

Press Release

MITOCHONDRIA GALLERY PRESENTS CONCORDANT CONVEYANCES, A GROUP EXHIBITION BY RISING ARTISTS FROM IN THE CONTEMPORARY ART SCENE.

June 2021

Houston, TX - Mitochondria Gallery specializes in artworks from emerging and established artists from Africa and the African diaspora, with a mission to educate, and expand the public awareness of contemporary African art. We present a group exhibition titled, "Concordant Conveyances."

Mitochondria Gallery is grateful to present Concordant Conveyances. This exhibition features paintings that explore the monolithic portrayal of Africans, in Africa and the African Diaspora. The perception of a specific group of people is often shaped by the visual representations, and history that are presented. For Africans in Africa or the African Diaspora, visual representations in popular culture are often limited, and do not embody a comprehensive representation of the diversity that exists in their everyday lives. The seven artists in this exhibition are from six countries: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, England, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda. These artists express varying aspects of their experiences in the twenty-one figurative and portraiture paintings. These paintings document the authentic experiences of these artists and depict messages about personal identity, the lives of essential service providers, the zeal to strive for greatness, personal healing, mental health, and love.

Concordant Conveyances explores the beautiful synergy that is created through diversity. This exhibition is a tribute to how our differences make us unique, but together we can create a masterpiece.

Sesse, (b. February 25, 1994), lives in Buea, Cameroon. He obtained his BSc in Political Science from the University of Buea. He classifies his art as contemporary afro-pop with a mixture of cubism and surrealism. The message behind his paintings is how we should open our eyes to bigger visions to achieve more in life. The large eye represents enlightenment. Sesse draws inspiration from his day-to-day life and surroundings. He is also inspired by his fellow artists and master artists such as Picasso and Van Gogh. Being an artist to Sesse means freedom. He wants his art to encourage us as a people to have a bigger eye for the bigger things, the bigger issues, and thus bigger achievements. This is why he features muses such as Jay Z and Jean Michel Basquiat.

Olawale Kolawole, b. December 9th, is an artist from Ondo State, Nigeria. Kolawole studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of Ibadan. His passion for art started at a very young age, and in 2016 he decided to fully pursue his artistic aspirations. Kolawole, classifies his art as figurative, contemporary and portraiture. Through his art he portrays the strength and resilience that is within us all. He is inspired by the simple activities of day to day life.

Nick George (b. 1982, Manchester, England) is a former professional athlete turned expressionist painter. His sporting career, which included stops in Spain, France, Switzerland and Italy, has heavily influenced his art-making in distinctive ways, enabling him to investigate new ideas of culture and beauty. George's



portraits, which are an amalgamation of people he has met through his journey, derive inspiration from abstraction, exploding in a flourish of colorful, exuberant energy married with poetry and symbolism. The subject matter, like much of his work, references the black experience in Europe, his journey as an athlete, and his early upbringing.

Taabu Munyoki, b. June 02, 1996, resides in Nairobi, Kenya where she was born and raised. Munyoki graduated in 2019 from Kenyatta University with a bachelor's degree in fine Art. She majored in graphic design with sculpture and painting as minors. Munyoki classifies her art as figurative, but she borrows from various movements. She combines elements from her background in graphic design and painting to create artworks. The "Service Workers Series," captures a day in the lives of significant people who one way or another keep things running due to the inherent nature of the services they provide. However, they are hardly recognized because we've reduced them to just their roles. No-one ever bothers to find out who they are and how they exist in the space. It's for this reason that the faces are obscured as if to say it could be literally anyone, but we don't know that because essentially we don't care.

Izere Antoine was born in The Democratic Republic of the Congo and raised in Northern Rwanda. He was trained in sculpture and ceramics at the Nyundo School of Art. He has exhibited in various cities across Rwanda and Kenya. Presently, he is a full-time painter and illustrator at Izehirwe Arts. Izere employs the Impasto technique of heavy layers of paint in his artworks.

Daniel Pengrapher (b. Daniel Oshundaro) is an artist from Oyo State, Nigeria. Pengrapher has a B.A. in Visual Art and is presently obtaining a master's degree in art at the University of Belgrade. He classifies his art as figurative abstract leaning towards abstract expressionism. He creates this type of work because it showcases the unity in duality. His art addresses life problems such as mental health and offers hope to those who face these issues. His inspiration comes from God, and being an artist is a way for him to give back to the universe.

Ismael Kwizera is a Rwandan artist and painter. Kwizera holds a Diploma in Fine Art and has been trained by three Rwandan Master Artists, Epa Binamungu, Bushayija Pascal, and Birasa Bernard. Kwizera practices the impasto technique which incorporates painting with thick layers. He also practices realism and semi realism. Kwizera employs colorful pallets to depict the subjects of his paintings.

The exhibition presents works by these seven artists, in a series of paintings with intelligent and bold use of various techniques and color palettes. The works selected for this exhibition cover two specific genres: portrait and figurative paintings.

The virtual exhibition available to the public through our website.

Concordant Conveyances Opens June 30, 2021

Participating artists: Izere Antoine, Nick George, Olawale Kolawole, Ismael Kwizera, Taabu E. Munyoki, Daniel Pengrapher, Elangwe Sesse Ngeseli



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