



CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

DENNIS OSADEBE





INTRODUCTION

'Contemporary Man, From Remember the Future Series (2018)' forms part of gallery owners; Christopher Moller and Jaco Claassen's personal collection. The painting depicts a reclining figure on a blanket reading a book aptly entitled: 'Contemporary Man' whilst wearing a bike or space helmet. The painting explores the idea of deconstructing the notion of contemporary African art while simultaneously questioning exactly what it means.

The artwork questions the realities of Nigeria's contemporary society, including those of power, class, and gender whilst suggesting possibilities for the future. The figure's helmet, something Osadebe sees as a symbol of protection, technology and spirituality. Within this artwork, he's placed the helmet on the head of the 'everyman' African, as a way of illustrating just how pervasive the impact of technology is in our everyday lives.

"There is also an inherent sense of isolation associated with the helmet," Osadebe explains, "which parallels the isolation created by the technologies that we consume. As the technologies of our world advance and offer a new level of global connectivity, they also transform our experience and the way we interact with others. We become detached and enter a virtual environment, blocking many of our basic senses."

The sign 'Section 419, this land is not for sale' on the top right quadrant of the work refers to Section 419 of the Nigerian Criminal Code regarding fraudulent practices. This catch phrase is commonly used in Nigeria for any fraudulent activity that occurs. We all have our dreams of building and creating something new, while simultaneously having to deal with adversities, such as corruption which is so rife in society. Osadebe likes to use the term: 'Neo African' to describe his work, a way to break out of that box and out of the expectations projected onto creators as artists from Africa.



CONTEMPORARY MAN, FROM
REMEMBER THE FUTURE SERIES (2018)

Digital & Acrylic on canvas,
85 x 100cm (34 x 40 inches)
USD 20,000



BIOGRAPHY

Dennis Osadebe is a Nigerian mixed-media artist, based in Lagos. Osadebe's vibrant post-pop style is centered around the idea of reimagining Africa through the use of positive, provocative, and progressive imagery and narratives, forging a dialogue where tradition meets invention and innovation. Through juxtaposing elements of the past alongside the present, and utilising his Nigerian heritage as a starting point, Osadebe places Africa in the context of the future and its limitless possibilities.

With his characteristic use of flattened planes, minimalist geometric shapes, and bold colours, Osadebe works in, what he refers to as a "NEO" visual style; one that is modern, bright, and expressive. Osadebe coined the cultural movement, 'Neo- Africa', as a response, to deconstruct the limiting, lazy term of 'African Art'. This encourages people to rebrand tradition in a way that reflects the transforming world.

Osadebe's process blurs the line between the digital and physical. The digitally composed scenes are elevated by painted adornments of carefully selected areas. This distinct texture change is inherent to the narrative of the work by providing a visual relationship between the processes of the new generation artists and old masters together. Osadebe consequently renders each work as unique, as he removes the possibility for digital reproduction. The references to traditional materials and crafts, such as masks and colourful textiles, are inspired by the historic arts and culture of Osadebe's home, Nigeria.

Osadebe's practice is loaded with provocative surrealism, meaningful symbolism, and playful humour, presenting itself as a continuing investigation of the relationship between the traditional and contemporary, with Africa at its forefront.

EXHIBITIONS

2022

Apr 29 - May 26, 2022

Factory Reset

KÖNIG GALERIE x Numéro, Berlin

Jan 20 - Feb 19, 2022

Do You Know How To Pray?

KÖNIG GALERIE Chapel, Berlin

2021

Jun 16 - Jul 16, 2022

Modern Magic

KÖNIG GALERIE, London NW1

INSIDE OUT, The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art, New York, United States of America (October - February)

SAFE SPACE, GR Gallery, New York, United States of America (May) – Solo exhibition.

2020

FIGURES OF PLAYFUL REBELLION, Untitled, Art. Miami Beach OVR, Christopher Moller Gallery, United States of America (December) – Solo booth.

NEO LUV, GR Gallery, New York, United States of America (May) – Duo exhibition.

WITHOUT WARNING, Avenue Des Arts, Los Angeles, United States of America (April) – Group exhibition.

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (February).

I LIKE HISTORY, BUT I LOVE FICTION, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (January) – Solo exhibition.



2019

TONGUE + CHIC AUCTION, Phillips Auction House, Hong Kong (October).
Complex Con Art Fair, Avenue Des Arts, Long Beach La, United States Of America (October). FIELD OF DREAMS, Avenue Des Arts, Los Angeles, United States of America (September) – Solo exhibition.
DREAMSTATE, GR Gallery, New York, United States of America (September) – Group exhibition. WORK. LIFE. BALANCE, Jumeo Kim Gallery, Daejeon, South Korea (August) – Solo exhibition. PORTRAIT OF A BRIGHT GENERATION, Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris, France (January) – Solo exhibition. Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (February).
A SPECTACULAR NOW, with Evans Mbugua, Circle Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya (February) – Duo exhibition.

2018

REVEALED, Gallery 88, Miami Beach, Florida (December) – Group exhibition.
CU-ULTURE AND TRADITION: SAME EXPERIENCE, DIFFERENT LOCAL, The Koppel Project, London, United Kingdom (October) – Group exhibition.
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa (September).
A STRANGER IN MY HOME, The Other Art Fair by Saatchi, Brooklyn Expo Centre, Brooklyn, New York, United States of America – Solo exhibition.
NEUE WELTEN, Reto Andri Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland (April) – Group exhibition.

Museum Exhibitions

The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art, New York - 'Inside Out' (Oct 29, 2021 - Feb 13, 2023)

Grants & Awards

National Gallery (Micro-Commission) - The Rules Do Not Apply 2021.

Selected Press

Dennis Osadebe: Meet the Nigerian artist visualizing Africa's future by reaching into the past, CNN, August, 2022

Dennis Osadebe: The term "African Art" is Lazy, Document Journal, May, 2019

Dennis Osadebe: Near Future, Republic Journal, September 2019

Dennis Osadebe: Spectacularly Forward, Contemporary And, March, 2019



G A L L E R Y

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

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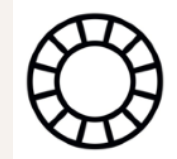
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TO PURCHASE

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info@christophermollerart.co.za



ACQUISITION PROCESS

- Once you have chosen your favourite piece, please contact our team at info@christophermollerart.co.za to confirm your request and advise on your shipping address.
- Please note, your requested piece and invoice will be valid for 7 calendar days. Once payment has been processed and received, ownership of the piece will be transferred.
- Art pieces will be released to the waiting list after 7 days.
- Shipment date will be confirmed per purchase. Kindly note, artwork will only leave the Gallery post exhibition.
- Kindly note all ZAR prices are excluding 15% SA VAT.
- Kindly note, shipping cost excludes any destination taxes & import charges

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

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Please inform your bank of the transaction in advance and provide them with our Merchant code: 2738375 should your bank reject the request from a foreign country.

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ENQUIRIES | How can we assist?

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VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact us to view in person.

Tuesday - Friday · 10h00 - 16h00

Monday & Saturday · Viewings by Appointment Sunday · Closed

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

VISIT US

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