



Dennis Osadebe | **FIGURES OF PLAYFUL REBELLION**

UNTITLED, Art Miami Beach OVR
02 - 6 December

FIGURES OF PLAYFUL REBELLION

Do you remember how much fun it was to visit a playground as a child? Nigerian mixed-media artist, Dennis Osadebe wants us to forget about our overwhelming adult responsibilities for a short while and transport us back to our care-free youth. In his upcoming online exhibition, 'Figures of Playful Rebellion', Osadebe's sense of fun and humour enhance the viewing experience, whilst encouraging us to listen, nurture and respect the child within.

Originally from the vibrant, promising city of Lagos, Osadebe's name is becoming internationally established through his innovative use of bold, bright and geometrically rich artworks. Osadebe's style is a unique combination of digital processes, which he uses to create canvasses that are subsequently layered with acrylic paint.

Osadebe has a strong entrepreneurial foundation, which grants him insight to an ever-evolving art world. He encourages his viewers to reinterpret art from the continent of Africa by using constructive, stimulating and dynamic images and narration. Osadebe proudly coined the movement 'Neo-African' in opposition to the apathetic, overused phrase 'African art'. Appropriate rebranding of traditions in a transforming world, that serve to enhance and empower creatives emanating from the African continent.

Osadebe's distinctive artistic style has expanded and led him to explore and reinterpret indoor and outdoor personal spaces – the concept of new personal spheres since people are mostly indoors now. The 'art audience' who wouldn't usually have connected or engaged with Osadebe's works can now see themselves, their friends and their loved ones in these works.

'Figures of Playful Rebellion' will be visible as part of the UNTITLED, ART Miami Beach Online Viewing Rooms during the first week of December. It features six new mixed-media paintings, that engage play as the foundation of creative expression for the artist and contemplates how through play, we can bring together people, strengthen the community, and challenge apathy and injustices. In the works, we are introduced to young characters performing different forms of joyful action, such as swinging and playing with toys as we are asked to reflect on our own relationship with play as an asset for generating social change.

In creating this series, Osadebe unpicks ideas about the power of play for the potential of our future, and what shifts could come from an adventurous showcase of beliefs, to challenge feelings of hopelessness, as a result. Understanding play as an opportunity for escape, and an offer of contrast to the tone of protest, is done in stark contrast to what we have become accustomed to.

Osadebe utilises the raw universality that the act of play occupies, being an apparatus that is accessible to all. The artist transfers us back to our childhood to re-frame the power of this innate method of communication to think about real change, thus serving as a reminder that the future is worth playing for. – By Dennis Osadebe and Andrea Kemsley.



Play Time War
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas
111 x 76 cm (44.4 x 30 inches)



Breath of Fresh Air (Swing)
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas
76 x 76 cm (30 x 30 inches)



Carousel Ride
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas
100 x 100 cm (40 x 40 inches)



Orientation Day
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas
88 x 88 cm (35 x 35 inches)



Two Heads are Better than One
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas
153 x 125 cm (61.59 x 50 inches)



Playhouse
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on
Canvas
153 x 125 cm (61.59 x 50 inches)



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Osadebe

SWING (Jangilova) explores the importance of letting go, escapism and fun. The work unpicks the potential of joy as an untapped source of ultimate creativity. It forges an opportunity for reflection – considering play as a process for generating new ideas.

Osadebe creates an intimate relationship with himself, through the motifs and symbolism found throughout his artworks. Jangilova is the Nigerian Pidgin lingo for Swing – showcasing the connection between his heritage and symbols such as the speakers, that reference Osadebe’s own method of escapism through music.

Each aspect of the artwork is tied together through the cinematic, circular framing that creates the effect of the masked subject being in motion, bringing the foundational thought – joy, as an act of resistance into both life and action.



SWING (Jangilova)
Archival Gicleé Print on Hahnemuhle fine art paper, edition of 30
92 x 33 cm (36 x 13 inches)



A 3D digital rendering

A 3D digital rendering





A 3D digital rendering

A 3D digital rendering





A 3D digital rendering

EXHIBITIONS

2020

UNTITLED ART, Miami Beach OVR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (December 2 - 6)

Neo Luv, GR Gallery, New York, NY (May 15 - June 7)

Without Warning, Avenue Des Arts, Los Angeles LA (April 25 - May 25)

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (February 14 - 16)

I LIKE HISTORY, BUT I LOVE FICTION (Solo Exhibition), Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (January 31 - March 13)

2019

Complex Con (Art Fair), Avenue Des Arts, Booth E31, Long Beach, California, USA (November 2 - November 3)

Tongue + Chic (Auction show), Phillips Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong (October 9 - October 25)

Field Of Dreams (Solo Exhibition), Avenue Des Arts, Los Angeles, USA (September 21 - October 12)

DREAMstate (Group Exhibition), Gr-Gallery, New York, USA (September 12 - October 12)

Work. Life. Balance (Solo Exhibition), Jumeo Kim Gallery, Daejeon, South Korea (August 1 - August 31)

Portrait Of A Bright Generation (Solo Exhibition), Gallery Liusa Wang, Paris, France (January 11 - February 23)

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Booth C6, Cape Town, South Africa (February 15 - February 17)

A Spectacular Now (Duo Show) with Evans Mbugua, Circle Art Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya (January 30 - February 16)

2018

Revealed (Group Exhibition), Gallery 88, Miami Beach, Florida (December)

Cu-ulture And Tradition: Same Experience, Different Local (Group Exhibition), The Koppel Project, London, United Kingdom (October- November)

The Other Art Fair presented by Saatchi (Art Fair), New York, USA (November)

FNB Joburg Art Fair Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa (September)

A Stranger In My Home (Art Fair), The Other Art Fair presented by Saatchi, New York, USA (May)

Next Generation Storytellers by Wanuri Kahiu, World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland (January)

2017

ARTOJA (Group Exhibition), Art Twenty One, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (December)

The London Illustration Fair (Art Fair), Oxo Wharf, South Bank, London, United Kingdom (December)

Remember The Future (Solo Exhibition), Red Door Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (June)

Art House Foundation Auction (Art Auction), Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (February)

2016

Lagos Living and Working (Group Exhibition), Heritage Place, ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria (March)

For the Love of Cars (Group Exhibition), Eko Atlantic City, Lagos, Nigeria (January)

2015

Platform (Group Exhibition), Art Twenty One, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (December)

Art Pop Up Series (Group Exhibition), IAMISIGO showroom, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (September)

Rele Loves (Group Exhibition) Rele Gallery, Onikan, Lagos (August)

2014

Culture Shock (Group Exhibition), Terra Kulture, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria (December)

Private Collections

Osadebe's works are exhibited in private and public collections in 6 continents.

Christopher Moller **Gallery**