RICHARD AYODEJI IKHIDE

R I C H A R D A Y O D E J I I K H I D E

1991, Lagos, Nigeria
Lives and works in London

Education

2017 Postgraduate Diploma, Royal Drawing School, London
2014 BA, Central Saint Martins, London
2011 Foundation Diploma, Central Saint Martins, London

Solo Exhibitions

2021 *MythMaking*, Steve Turner, Los Angeles
Cosmic Memory, Steve Turner, Los Angeles
Future Past, V.O Curations, London
2019 *Osmosis*, Zabludowicz Collection, London

Group Exhibitions

2020 *No Horizon, No Edge to Liquid*, Zabludowicz Collection, London
2018 *Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018*, John Moores University, Liverpool; South London Gallery, London
2017 Best of Drawing Year 2018, Christies, London
2015 *Obscurity*, Somewhereto, London

Residencies and Awards

2021 V.O Curations Residency, London
2018 Clothworkers' Award 1st Prize, The Clothworkers' Company and Central Saint Martins, London

Bibliography

2021 "Richard Ayodeji Ikhide on education, icons and visual identity," *The Face*, July 8
2020 Lily & George. "Isolation Interviews: Richard Ayodeji Ikhide," *Brooke Bennington*, Issue 17
Maher, Daniel Milroy. "Swim 03 - Changing Mediums," *Swim Magazine*
2019 Luckraft, Paul. "Richard Ayodeji Ikhide interviewed by curator Paul Luckraft," Zabludowicz Collection, May 1

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

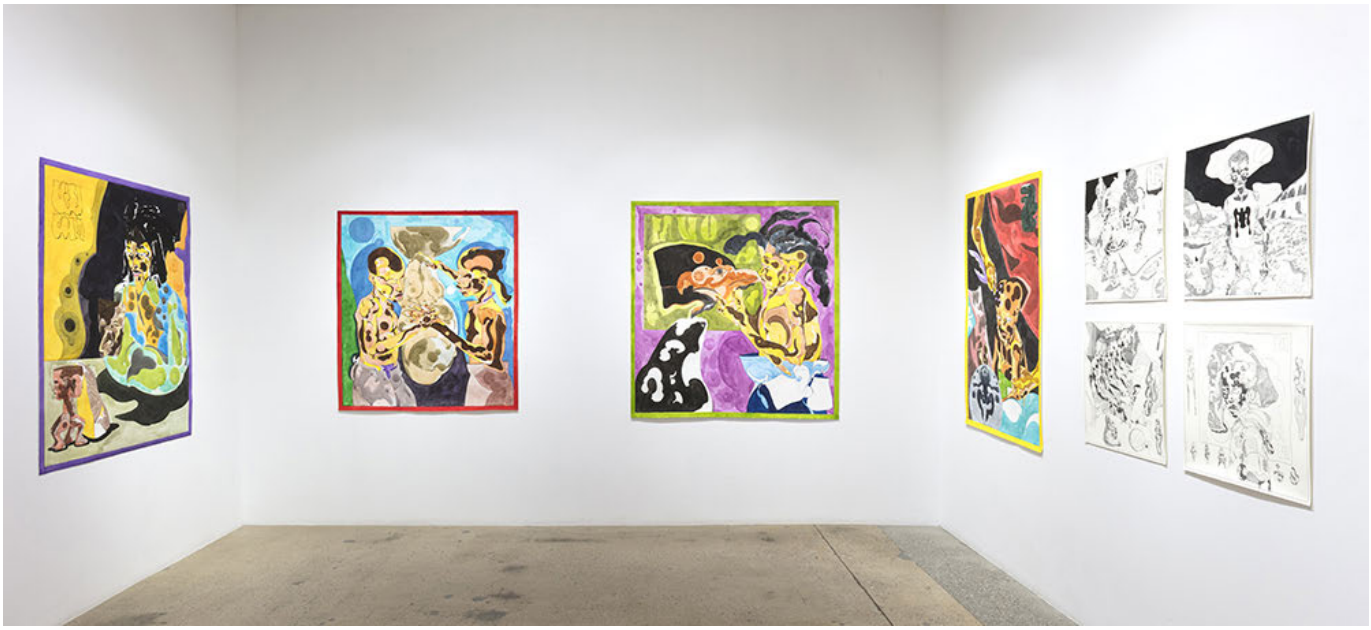
STEVE TURNER

PRESS RELEASE

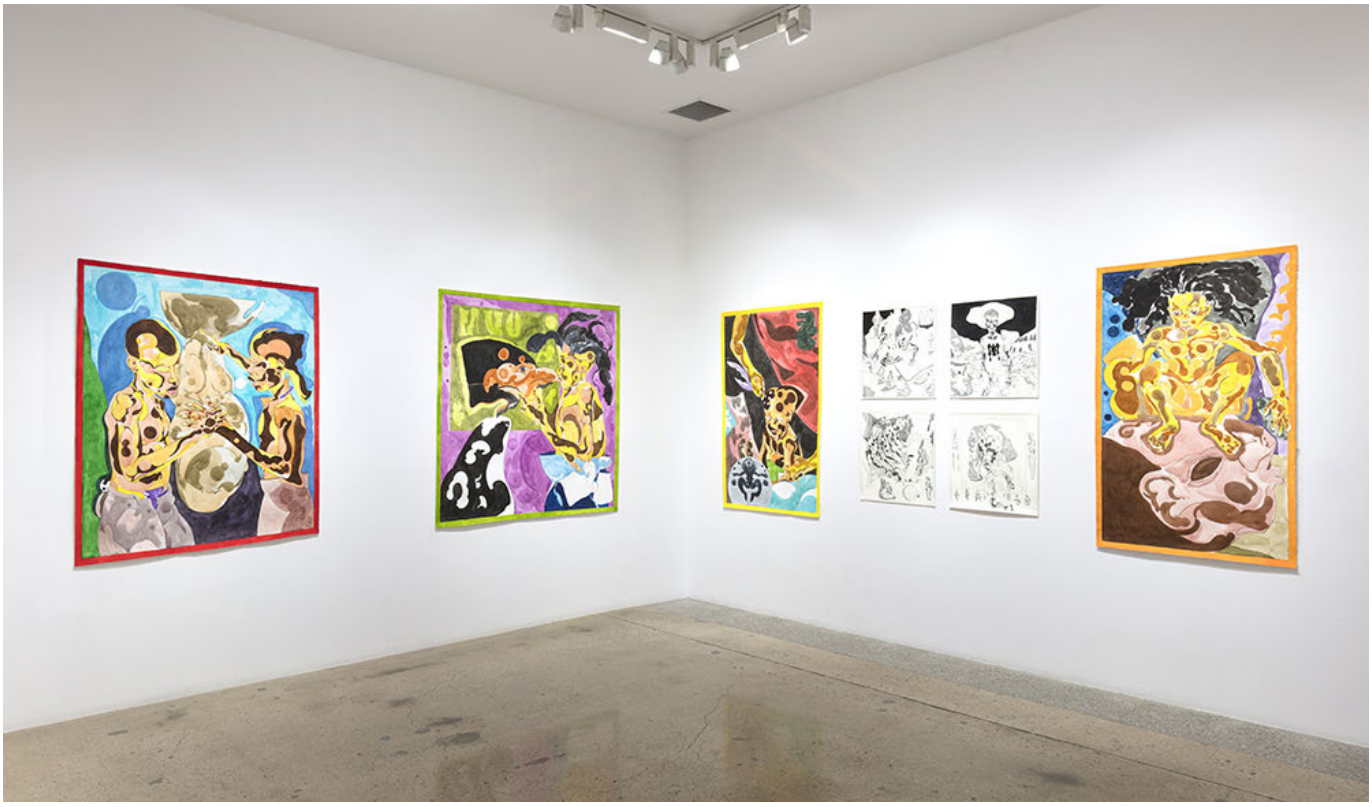
Richard Ayodeji Ikhide: *MythMaking*
August 7–September 11, 2021

Steve Turner is pleased to present *MythMaking*, a solo exhibition by London-based Richard Ayodeji Ikhide featuring paintings that are inspired by his Nigerian heritage and his desire to record the images of his subconscious. He conflates memory, family history and cultural iconography to create images that have a figurative core but are completed with colorful abstract gestures and patterns. According to Ikhide, the works in *MythMaking* represent his desire to make coherent his inner psychic reality, and as that is a murky and mystical endeavor, the works inevitably are comprised of abstract gestures and marks.

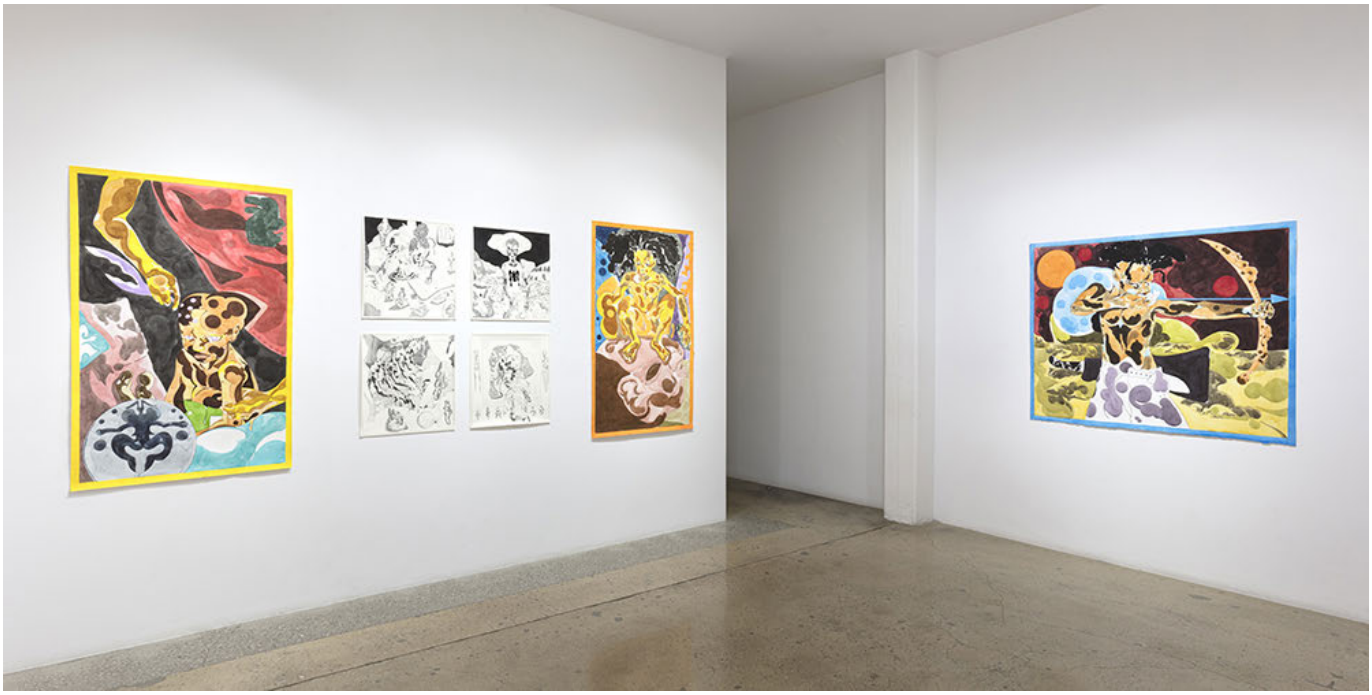
Richard Ayodeji Ikhide (b. 1991, Nigeria,) earned a BA in textile design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London (2014) and Postgraduate Diploma at The Royal Drawing School, London (2017). He has had solo exhibitions at the Zabludowicz Collection, London (2019) and V.O. Curations, London (2021). *MythMaking* is his second solo exhibition at Steve Turner.



MythMaking. Installation view, Steve Turner, 2021

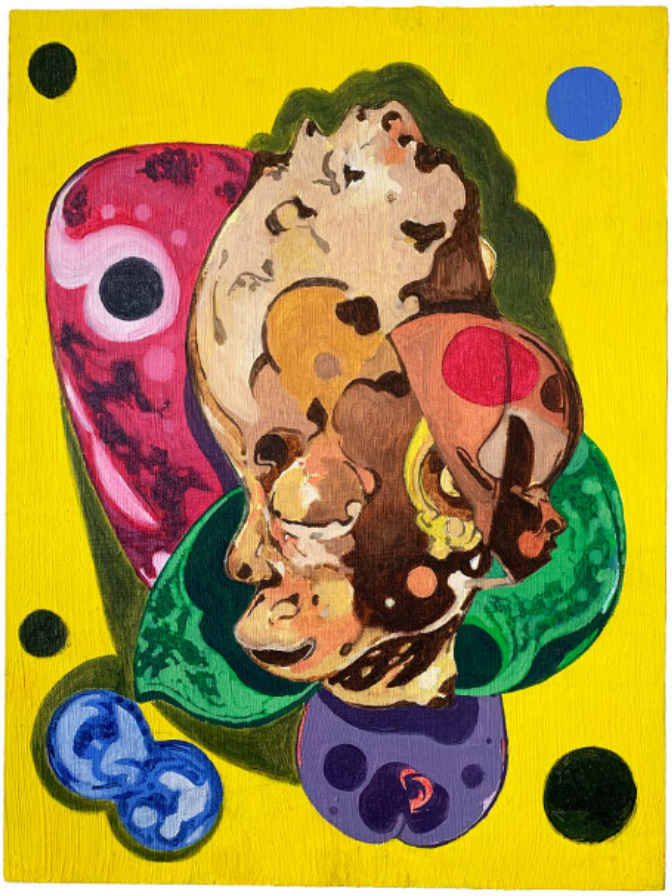


MythMaking. Installation view, Steve Turner, 2021



MythMaking. Installation view, Steve Turner, 2021

STEVE TURNER
PRESS RELEASE



Richard Ayodeji Ikhide: *Cosmic Memory*
February 27–March 26, 2021

Steve Turner is pleased to present *Cosmic Memory*, an online solo exhibition of recent paintings by London-based Richard Ayodeji Ikhide that include images inspired by his Nigerian heritage as well as his interest in other civilizations and mythologies. The works have a figurative core, but they are completed with colorful abstract gestures and patterns. According to Ikhide, "Many cultural histories converge in my work. During the course of my life, I have absorbed a lot of information, and when I make work, I intuitively respond to it and my life experiences. In doing so, I aim to bring together past, present and future as well as multiple geographies and cultures.

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide (b. 1991, Nigeria,) earned a BA in textile design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London (2014) and Postgraduate Diploma at The Royal Drawing School, London (2017). He has had solo exhibitions at the Zabludowicz Collection, London (2019) and V.O. Curations, London (2021). *Cosmic Memory* is his first exhibition at Steve Turner and his first in the United States.

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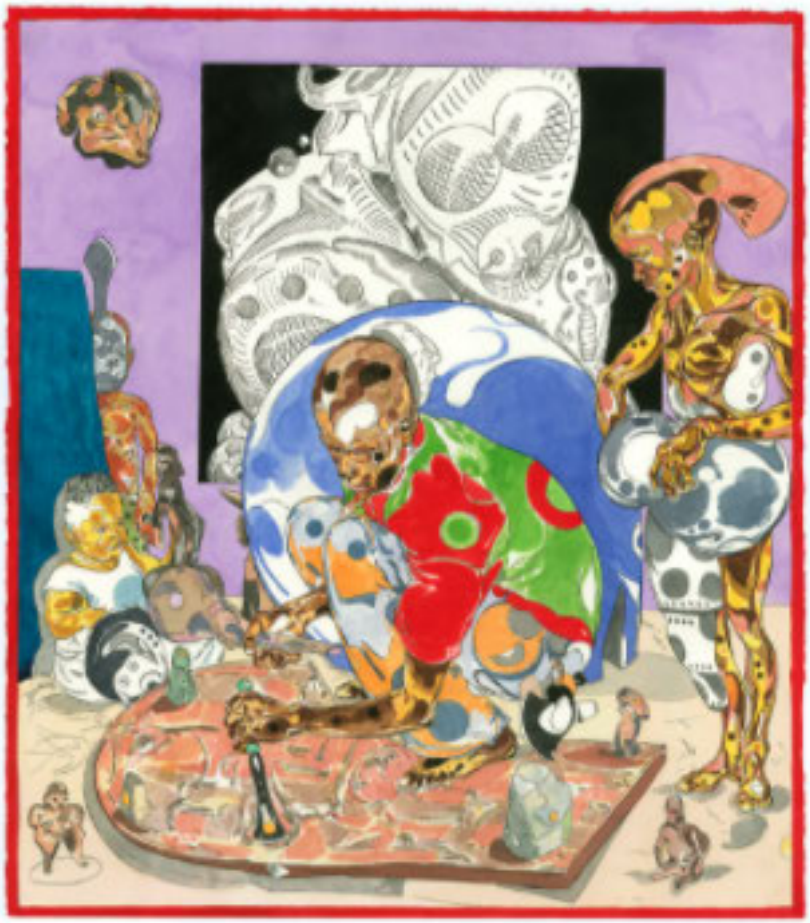
Steve Turner:
Your works instantly resonated with me as distinct. Before we talk about them, let's discuss your past to see how it might have influenced your evolution as an artist. Can you start with a description of your family and your years in Nigeria?

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide:
I come from a large family as my grandfather had two wives and twelve children. My father was his first son and I am my father's first son. My family is from Sabongida Ora, a town located in the state of Edo which was originally part of the Benin Empire. My grandfather would often tell me stories about Benin and the different traditions and customs within our culture. He was a chief and so was his father before him. My grandfather instilled in me a strong sense of self and a pride for our heritage. He would say: "You must always remember that you are a proud Edo man."

I spent most of my formative years living at my grandparents' home in Lagos alongside numerous cousins and other family friends. It was chaotic at times, but I treasure the many memories of that busy household.

Growing up in Nigeria has certainly influenced my work. That is my heritage. Though I have lived in England for more than eleven years, I still consider myself a Nigerian and nothing can change that. Wherever I might live, Nigeria will always be my real home and that is where most of my family still resides. When I moved to England, I was already fourteen years old and deeply conscious of my Nigerian identity.

When I was young I wanted to be an archeologist. My father made my brother and me watch documentaries on the Discovery Channel every Sunday and this sparked my interest in the ancient world. He also bought me my first comic books which proved to be significant. I was lucky to have been exposed to a myriad of things as my father and grandfather had so many different interests. My grandfather had a large book on greek mythology in his office which I loved looking at. My dad had busts of Plato and Socrates in our living room which I unintentionally broke when I was playing with them. I did not understand their significance when I was a child, but ironically, as I got older, I took special interest in their philosophies.



PRESS RELEASE
MAY 2019

ZABLUDOWICZ
COLLECTION

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
RICHARD AYODEJI IKHIDE: *OSMOSIS*
30 MAY – 7 JULY 2019

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide, *Microcosm 1*, 2018
Acrylic ink on paper, 28.5 × 38 cm. Courtesy the artist

Zabludowicz Collection is pleased to present Osmosis, an exhibition by Richard Ayodeji Ikhide. Featuring a selection of new drawings, paintings in watercolour and oil, and small sculptures, the exhibition foregrounds Ikhide's attempt to create a personal mythology, one that is deeply informed by the close study of images and objects from the past, and his response to the psychological charge they carry.

Drawing as a continual act of recording and thinking is fundamental to Ikhide's practice. Included in the exhibition are examples of his sketchbooks – compendiums of images that he refers to as his 'books of spells'. Ikhide's pictures weave together depictions of artefacts encountered in museums, books and online archives with vibrant observations made from life.

The importance of a connecting iconology echoing across different historical moments and geographic locations in human culture is a key concern of Ikhide's. Forms and compositional structures from Ancient Egypt and West Africa, Indian miniature paintings, and Renaissance and European masters such as El Greco and Rembrandt combine with influences from more contemporary figures, such as Jean 'Moebius' Giraud (1938–2012), the graphic artist who provided images for cult comic titles such as *Heavy Metal*.

The newly imagined scenarios Ikhide produces are set in what he terms a 'future-past'. Populating these spaces are multiple figures – sometimes in groups, sometimes in isolation as a single subject: children, adolescents, mothers, kings, queens and perhaps even deities. He identifies all the figures he draws as fantastical self-portraits of sorts, exceeding the limits of his regular persona as Richard Ayodeji Ikhide. Reflecting an interest in Carl Jung's idea of the coexistence of the feminine and masculine within the same body, and informed by his own experience of growing up in a supportive matriarchal family, Ikhide's characters are often androgynous. His complex and enigmatic work takes on the challenge of manifesting intangible and open-ended ideas in a tangible, material form.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide (b. 1991, Nigeria, lives and works in London) completed a BA (Hons) in Textile Design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, followed by a postgraduate diploma at the Royal Drawing School, London. His exhibitions include *Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018*, John Moores University, Liverpool, and South London Gallery, London, 2018; *Best of Drawing Year 2017*, Christies, London, 2017, and *Obscurity*, Somewhereto, London, 2015.

Zabludowicz Collection Invites: Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

The Collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day, and it is in constant development. Since 2006, the Collection has been directed by Elizabeth Neilson. In 2007 the Collection opened its main space in London, in a 19th-century former Methodist chapel, where it has worked with artists and curators to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

For any press enquiries please contact:
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VISITOR INFORMATION
Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday,
12–6pm or by appointment

Café, **Library** and **Shop**
The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks,
50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.
shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

Address:
176 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3PT
+44 (0)207 428 8940

Transport (TFL stations):
Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West

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Twitter.com/Zabludowicz_Col
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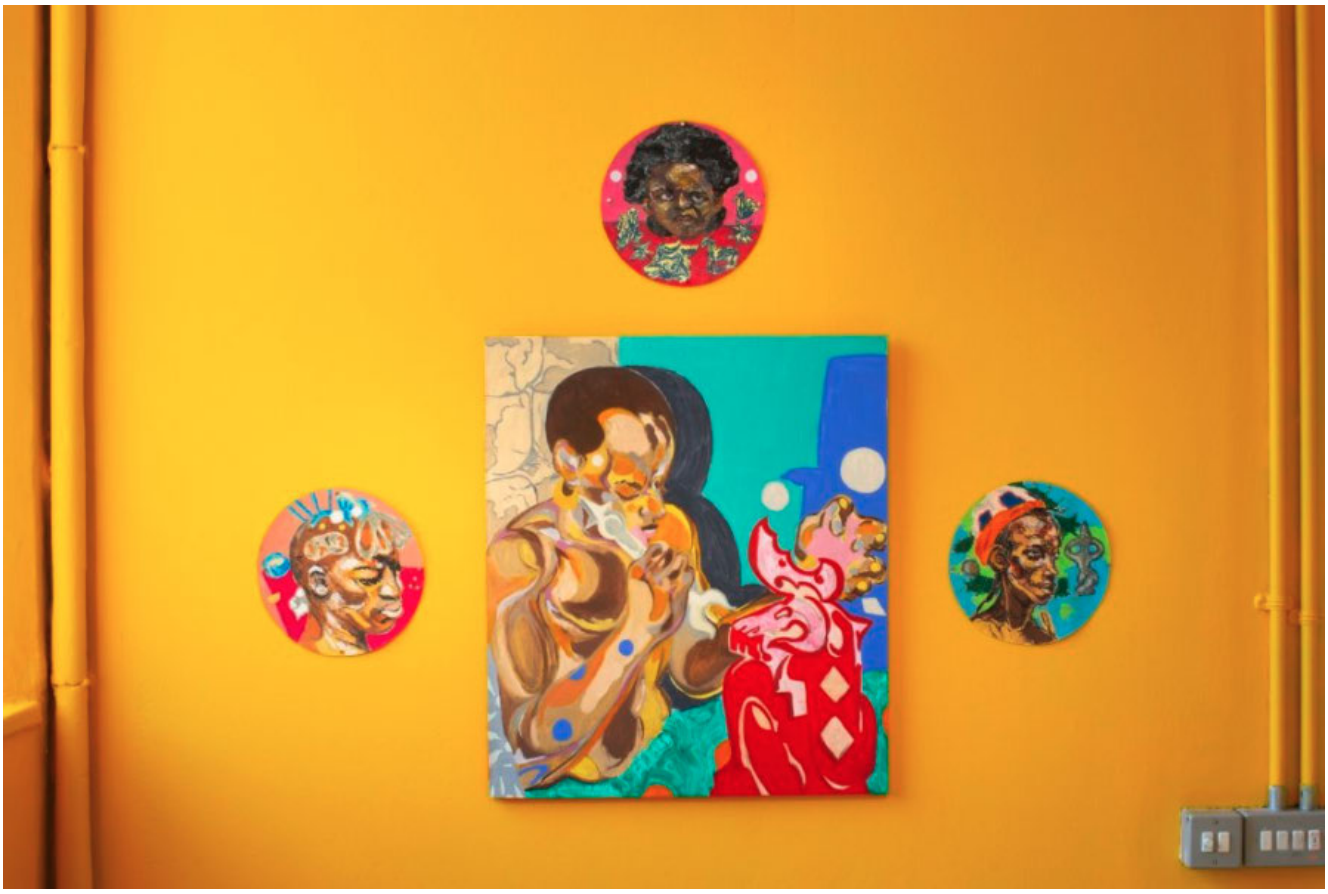
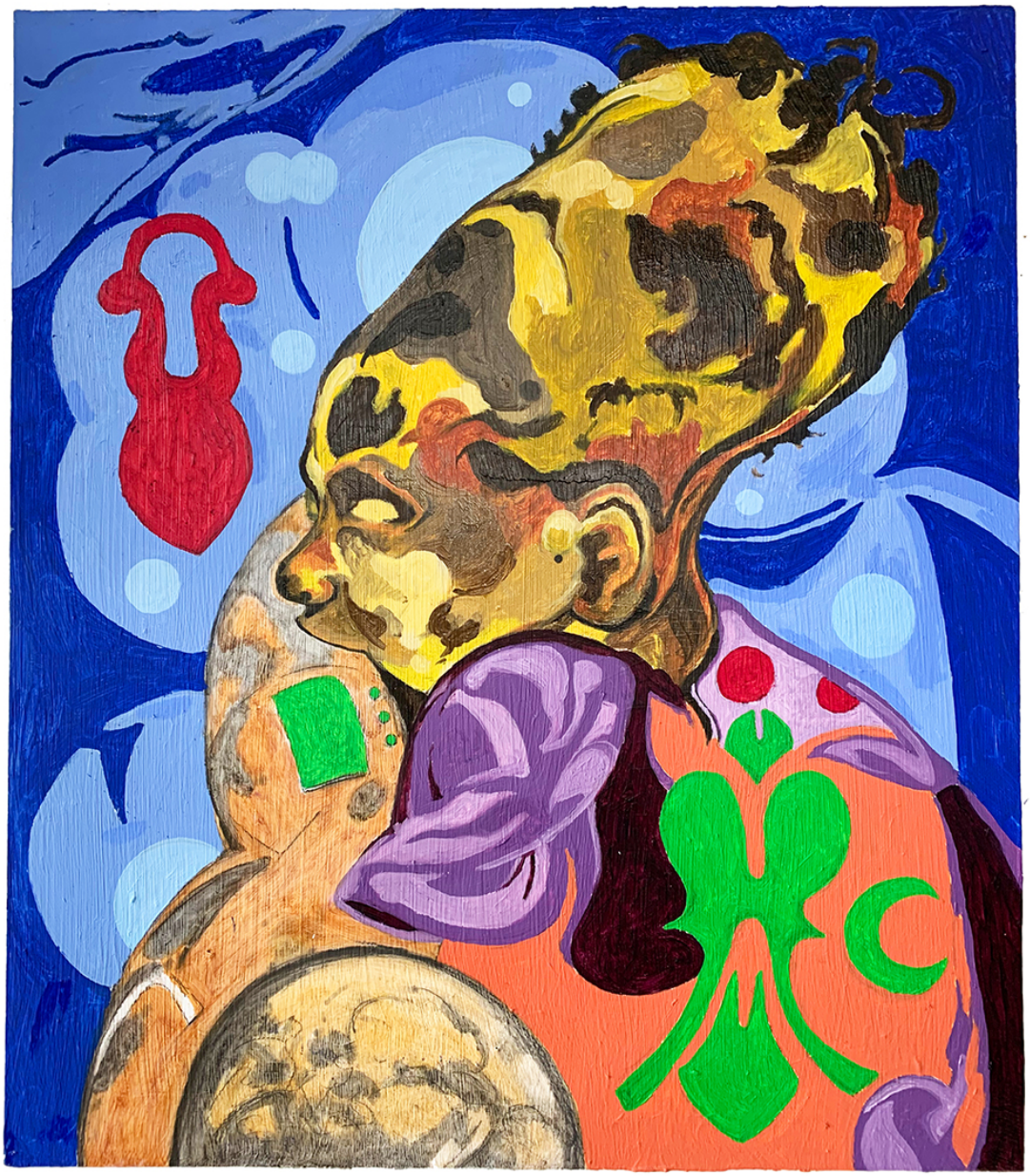
facebook.com/ZabludowiczCollection

Installation view, Richard Ayodeji Ikhide *Osmosis*, Invites exhibition at Zabludowicz Collection, London, 30 May–7 July 2019. Photo: David Bebber



Installation view, Richard Ayodeji Ikhide *Osmosis*, Invites exhibition at Zabludowicz Collection, London, 30 May–7 July 2019. Photo: David Bebber

SELECTED WORKS



Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Untitled, 2020
Oil on wood
28 x 23 $^{5}/_{8}$ inches (71 x 60 cm)
r.ikhide010020

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Future Past Profile 2, 2020
Watercolor on paper
12 x 11 $^{1}/_{4}$ inches (30.5 x 28.6 cm)
r.ikhide010023

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Contemplating with Effigies, 2020
Oil on wood
28 x 23 $^{5}/_{8}$ inches (71 x 60 cm)
r.ikhide010024

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
AWO N OS ERE 1, 2020
Watercolor and acrylic ink on paper
25 x 22 inches (63.5 x 56 cm)

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
AWO N OS ERE 2, 2020
Watercolor and acrylic ink on paper
25 x 22 inches (63.5 x 56 cm)
r.ikhide010026

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
ABURO, 2020
Oil on wood panel
28 x 23 $^{5}/_{8}$ inches (71 x 60 cm)
r.ikhide010027

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Initiation, 2021
Watercolor on paper
59 $^{1}/_{4}$ x 38 $^{5}/_{8}$ inches (150.5 x 98.1 cm)
r.ikhide010894

STEVE TURNER

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Conversation with a Godhead , 2021
Watercolor on paper
59 $^{1}/_{4}$ x 60 $^{5}/_{8}$ inches (150.5 x 154 cm)
r.ikhide010895

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Mother Vessel, 2021
Watercolor on paper
56 x 50 inches (142.2 x 127 cm)
r.ikhide010896

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Yout Juice , 2021
Watercolor on paper
59 $^{1}/_{4}$ x 35 $^{7}/_{8}$ inches (150.5 x 91.1 cm)
r.ikhide010897

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Anima Projection, 2021
Watercolor on paper
59 $^{1}/_{8}$ x 46 $^{1}/_{8}$ inches (150.2 x 117.2 cm)
r.ikhide010985

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Inu Itan 1 (Inside Story 1), 2021
Acrylic ink on paper
$22\,^{1}/_{8}$ x $23\,^{1}/_{4}$ inches (56.2 x 59.1 cm)
r.ikhide010989

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Piercing Thru, 2021
Watercolor on paper
48 $^{7}/_{8}$ x 59 $^{1}/_{2}$ inches (124.1 x 151.1 cm)
r.ikhide010990

STEVE TURNER

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Symbolic Deconstruction, 2021
Watercolor on paper
59 1/8 x 44 1/8 inches (150.2 x 112.1 cm)
r.ikhide010991

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide
Inu Itan 3 (Inside Story 3), 2021
Acrylic ink on paper
$22\,^{1}/_{8}$ x $23\,^{1}/_{4}$ inches (56.2 x 59.1 cm)
r.ikhide010992

SELECTED PRESS

THE FACE

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide on education, icons and visual identity

All clothing & footwear Onitsuka Tiger Fall/Winter 2021 Collection

In partnership with Onitsuka Tiger

The London-based textile designer turned fine artist took a trip to his studio with Onitsuka Tiger to walk us through his love of mythology, artefacts and Japanese illustration.

Words: The Face
Photography: Oliver Truelove
8th July 2021

To celebrate the launch of Onitsuka Tiger's expansive, marble-laden new store in London, we hit up two of the country's emerging artists who know a thing or three about innovation. Here, we journeyed to Mayfair to meet with draftsman and mythological painter,* Richard Ayodeji Ikhide *to ask: what is the power of creativity?

THE FACE

As the world reopens its doors, so begins the flurry of enthused shoppers flinging off their dressing gowns in favour of a slick new look. Fortunately, Japanese fashion label Onitsuka Tiger has just opened a brand spanking new flagship store on London's Regent's Street.

Not only is the near 10,000 square foot, two-floor space located on one of the world's most prestigious shopping streets, but it's the first location to offer the entire Onitsuka Tiger lineup in a single establishment, from the contemporary and heritage collections to the NIPPON MADE series rich in craftsmanship, as well as the luxury THE ONITSUKA line.

Onitsuka Tiger is also opening its doors to the eclectic crew that makes up London's creative scene – they have big plans for the gallery space that's located in the store's basement that's soon to be teeming with local and global artists exhibiting their work.

One talent the brand have their beady eye on is Central Saint Martins graduate, Richard Ayodeji Ikhide. When the 29-year-old isn't in his Conduit Street studio creating vivid, hyperreal portraits, he's teaching World Imagery at the Royal Drawing School. Having recently finished a residency at VO Curations – who promote diverse voices within the arts – the painter is gearing up for his next "cosmic" solo exhibition at Steve Turner gallery in LA this summer.

We went to Ikhide's bright Mayfair studio in the heart of London, with a haul of Onitsuka Tiger's Autumn & Winter 2021 collection, to see him in action.

Hi Richard! Tell us about your path to becoming an artist...

Where do I start? I mean, I moved to England when I was 14 from Lagos. I've been drawing since I was a kid, pretty much. I used to draw on the walls in my grandparents' house in Lagos, getting in trouble. In school, I was really into art. It was funny because I didn't find out I was dyslexic until I was 21 and at CSM, but through school, art was like my safe haven. I'd bunk classes and just go and spend time in the art department. I'd get in trouble but my dad would be like, 'Well, at least you're good at something!' I'd come home with A's in art but fail everything else.

All clothing & footwear Onitsuka Tiger Fall/Winter 2021 Collection

But you initially pursued a career in textiles. What made you switch over to fine art?

For three years I studied textiles at CSM and I was making repeat prints, which were like massive tapestries because I got a sponsorship from a cloth worker's foundation. They gave me loads of four-metre length linen fabric to print on. And then obviously after I graduated, making that kind of work wasn't sustainable.