

## FLOATING IN PLACE

3 MARCH 2024 - 7 APRIL 2024

Nola Ayoola | Ololade Lawal | Shannon Bono |  
Sharon Walters | Theresah Ankomah | Vanessa Endeley



For our first exhibition of the year, Affinity Gallery is pleased to present **Floating In Place**, an exhibition that delves into the metaphorical concept of movement, progress, and identity, inviting viewers to contemplate the societal expectations imposed upon us and the complex interplay between external pressures and internal aspirations. The exhibition confronts the disparity between societal expectations and self-perception. The exhibition opens on March 3rd and runs until April 7 at the gallery space in Lagos.

The exhibition featuring, Nola Ayoola, Ololade Lawal, Shanon Bono, Sharon Walters, Theresah Ankomah and Vanessa Endeley, six powerhouse female artists who using diverse media ranging from painting to collage, explore the subject through different lens of personhood, womanhood and blackness that encourage interpretation and introspection.

**Nola Ayoola** (b.1992) is a multidisciplinary artist whose works are her visual journal. Through sculptures, portraiture, woven and cut-out abstract compositions she encapsulates the philosophy that 'you cannot understand what you cannot pull apart'. Her works are an observation of her heritage and its profound impact on her identity by storytelling through varying lenses. Her past exhibitions include A Woman's Woman's World, Hausen Art Gallery, New York, 2023, Inner Space, Yenwa Gallery, Lagos, 2023, A Color Story, Cierra Britton Gallery, New York, 2023, Shout Plenty, African Artists Foundation, Lagos, 2022, I Saw Things I Imagined, Cierra Britton Gallery, New York, 2022.

Based in Lagos, Nigeria, **Ololade Lawal** is a visual artist who inquires through lens-based mediums and abstract paintings, with more prominence given to the latter in recent times. She studied mass communication at Yaba College of Technology and in 2019, during the higher diploma level, she discovered her passion for arts and visual media. She is also a mentee at the Nlele institute. She recently had her first solo show for her abstract paintings themed 'Eternal Sunshine' with Aziza Gallery. She is currently a Kuta Residency Fellow in Abeokuta, Nigeria.

**Shannon Bono's** (b.1995) paintings embody an afrofemcentrist consciousness, sharing muted narratives and projecting the black women's lived experience through her own lens. She is invested in producing layered, figurative, compositions embedded with symbolism that centralise black womanhood as a source of knowledge and understanding. Enamoured by African spirituality, Christian iconography and renaissance art, she employs its purpose of cultural impact for an improved society within her works. In 2021, Bono presented her first solo exhibition titled "The Hands that Hold You," at the Anderson Contemporary, London. She was selected by his majesty the King to paint a portrait for the 'Portraits of Generation' project, which was featured on BBC 2, and has been displayed at Holyroodhouse house and the National portrait Gallery (2023/24).

**Sharon Walters** (b.1975) is a London-based artist, educator and project curator. Her series entitled '*Seeing Ourselves*', is an exploration of identity, beauty standards, and race through intricate paper cut outs and hand-assembled collages. Recently, she was part of Like Paradise at Claridge's ArtSpace, London (2023) curated by Ekow Eshun. *Seeing Ourselves - the podcast*, explores representations of blackness in museum collections in collaboration with the National Maritime Museum (2020-present). Sharon had a solo exhibition at Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham, England (2022). In 2022, she was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery, London, to create a portrait of race equality campaigners and radical publishers, Eric and Jessica Huntley. The piece was on display temporarily at Gunnersbury Park Museum, London (2023) and has now been acquired by the National Portrait Gallery and will go on display in 2024.

**Theresah Ankomah** is a multidisciplinary Ghanaian artist who works and lives in Ghana. Theresah's socially engaged practice observes, defies, conflates and interrogates everyday objects to explore moments of transformation, community, intimacy and family. In 2021 Theresah was the second runner up of the Inaugural Yaa Asantewaa Art Prize in Africa by Gallery 1957 and also the first runner up of the Kuenyehia Art Prize for Contemporary Art in Ghana, in 2017. Her work, 'The Shrine' is in the permanent collections of the Kuenyehia Trust, Her work titled 'Connecting the Why and the Not' is also in the permanent collections of the European Union Delegation to Ghana. .

**Vanessa Endeley** is a visual artist based in London whose captivating creations are a fusion of contemporary art and profound introspection. Through the interplay of bold brushstrokes, delicate lines, and a rich colour palette, she creates visually compelling and emotionally charged pieces that leave an indelible impression. An artist who values vulnerability, she fearlessly expresses her innermost vulnerabilities and insecurities, allowing viewers to connect on a profoundly personal level. Her past exhibitions include Ambivalent Paradox - Omaka Gallery, UK 2023, ING Discerning Eye - Mall Galleries, UK

2023, Between the Lines - International Body of Art, UK 2022, Portrayed to Protagonist - Galerie Geek, Japan 2022.

For interviews, images, and comment, please contact: Moni Aisida,  
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Exhibition Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm Sundays are by appointment only.

Affinity Gallery

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Affinity Gallery is a modern and contemporary gallery dedicated to the promotion and celebration of African artists who are passionately sharing the African narrative with their works. The gallery functions as a beacon to educate and preserve Africa's rich and diverse culture in a bid to inspire the next generation of young Africans.

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