

## **THE ESSENCE OF BEING**

Affinity Gallery is pleased to announce that we will be returning to 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London.

*The Essence of Being* will be showing new works from:

Buqaqawuli Nobakada, Damilola Onosowobo and Terence Maluleke

In this presentation, the artists contemplate personal identity and human connectivity. Distinct, familial muses evoke nuanced conversations surrounding belonging and absolutes. From Nobakada's reflections on feminine beauty and aesthetics; to Onosowobo's questions surrounding cultural dissonance. Alongside, Maluleke's meditations on spirituality through aquatic imagery and treasured momentos. Each artist considers the fluidity between what is given and what is chosen.

These artists expound upon notions of familiarity and personhood, self-determining themselves through curiosity.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **Buqaqawuli Nobakada**

Buqaqawuli Nobakada (b. 2000) is an emerging contemporary mixed-media artist born in the Western Cape and raised between Philippi township and remote Cumakala. Nobakada's background in architecture and fine art from University of the Witwatersrand, is evident in her elaborate painting installations. Her elaborate, figurative portraits display women in soft moments of non-sexual intimacy and hyper-femininity. This strategic self-disclosure allows Black women to bear witness to their rich, complex interiority. Nobakada's artistry pays homage to Black women's contemporary craftsmanship and aesthetic performances. Her most recent exhibitions include, 'I Am & Nothing Else' at Affinity Gallery, Lagos, 'Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt' with FNB Art Joburg, Johannesburg and SOMA, France. She holds the 2023 Latitudes Audience Choice ANNA Award.

### **Damilola Onosowobo**

Damilola Onosowobo (b. 1993) received her Bachelor's in Architecture and Master's in Environmental Design from the University of Lagos. Her works highlight the reality that humans rely on echoes of the past. We are connected through memories. The lives we live serve as artefacts for those in the future to collect. Onosowobo's work has always celebrated the mundane; ordinary things and moments that retain power and resonance within our minds and memories. Her recent shows include, ART X Lagos, 2022, Girls Run The World, Eclectica Contemporary, Cape Town, 2022, Coalesce at Affinity Gallery, Lagos, 2021, Mother of Mankind, HOFA Gallery, London, 2021, Phenomenology of a Black woman, For you Gallery, Dubai, 2021.

### **Terence Maluleke**

Terence Maluleke (b.1995, Soweto) is a Johannesburg-based painter whose oeuvre springs from a deep engagement with and love for his township community. Maluleke grew up in an artistic family. Under his uncle's informal tutelage, he began to explore various artistic styles, experiment with colour and synthesise influences. As a result, he has developed a unique artistic language combining: emerging art technologies, traditional tools and methods, and graphic comic formats. He has attended residencies at La Fourchette de Rôze, Côte d'Ivoire and Schütz Art Museum Residency, Austria. He has exhibited in group exhibitions at Kalashnikovv Gallery and Bkhz in Johannesburg, Affinity Gallery, Lagos and

200CENT with FEDE in Barcelona. His works have been shown at the RMB Latitudes Art Fair and Investec Cape Town Art Fair.