

ALLOUCHE GALLERY

IN POWER AND REPOSE

A GROUP SHOW OF CONTEMPORARY
AFRICAN PORTRAITURE

FEATURING FRANK COFFIE, KELANI
FATAI OLADIMEJI, AND OLASUNKANMI
AKOMOLEHIN

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Kelani Fatai Oladimeji (b. 1994, Nigeria) elevates African portraiture by intertwining modern subjects with the opulence of Old Master techniques. His paintings, set against intricately patterned backdrops reminiscent of regal tapestries, fuse classical aesthetics with contemporary reflections on race, identity, and power. Though rooted in his Lagosian heritage, Oladimeji's work transcends geographic boundaries, offering a nuanced exploration of Black representation in a global context. By casting figures such as Biggie Smalls in a noble light, he challenges traditional notions of portraiture and redefines the canon of Black representation more broadly.

Frank Coffie's (b. 1992, Ghana) earthy portraits, enriched with hand-strung yarn, celebrate the strength found in communal bonds and moments of quiet intimacy. Coffie's process of weaving yarn through his canvases was initially born out of necessity; traveling from his home in Ghana to school in South Africa and unable to stretch his canvases, he cut them and weaved them back together. The visible woven bonds were a breakthrough, as they seemed to represent the very themes he sought to explore.

Olasunkanmi Akomolehin (b. 1995, Nigeria) draws inspiration from familial archives, transforming childhood photographs into contemplative scenes that explore themes of love, loss, and resilience. His portraits, often framed by lush floral backgrounds, invite viewers into intimate moments of leisure and reflection. With subjects that frequently gaze directly at the viewer, Akomolehin bridges past and present, evoking a sense of nostalgia while engaging in a dialogue that transcends the portraits' initial medium.

In *Power and Repose* offers an immersive exploration of the multifaceted stories embedded in contemporary African portraiture, where personal and collective histories converge.



Frank Coffie
To Greener Pasture, 2023
Oil, yarn, and beads on canvas
60 x 60 inches



Frank Coffie
Lady in Red, 2022
Oil and yarn on canvas
84 x 48 inches



Frank Coffie
Park at Alone, 2023
Oil and yarn on canvas
60 x 60 inches



Frank Coffie
Gathered in Bikini, 2024
Oil and yarn on canvas
60 x 60 inches



Frank Coffie
His First, Her First, 2024
Oil, yarn and beads on canvas
60 x 60 inches



Frank Coffie
Ewe King, 2023
Oil, yarn, and beads on canvas
84 x 48 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
A Day To Remember (ii), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
48 x 58 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
A Moment with Lucy, 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
A Portrait of Ìbítólá (II), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
A Portrait of Oluwaseyi (I), 2023
Oil and acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
The Old Times (iii), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
Girl with a Silver Necklace (I), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
47.6 inches diameter



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
Untitled, 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
46 x 48 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
Girl with a Yellow Earring (I), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
31 x 31 inches



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin
Times of Renaissance (iii), 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
24.25 inches diameter



Kelani Fatai Oladimeji
A Lady In Her Prime “Beauty, Love and Strength,” 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
47 x 36 inches



Kelani Fatai Oladimeji
Faizal "Young and Demure II," 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 x 30 inches



Kelani Fatai Oladimeji
Notorious B.I.G. "The Legacy," 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 x 30 inches



Kelani Fatai Oladimeji
Akilah "Young and Demure," 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
38 x 30 inches



Kelani Fatai Oladimeji
Shade "Sunflower Beauty," 2024
Oil and acrylic on canvas
35 x 24 inches