



Olasunkanmi Akomolehin, *A Day To Remember (II)* 2024, oil and acrylic on canvas, 59 x 48.5 inches

In Power and Repose:

A GROUP SHOW OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN PORTRAITURE

September 12th - October 8th 2024 | New York, NY

Allouche Gallery is excited to present *In Power and Repose*, a vibrant group exhibition that explores the rich tapestry of contemporary African portraiture through the lens of three visionary artists: Kelani Fatai Oladimeji, Frank Coffie, and Olasunkanmi Akomolehin. Join us for the opening reception on Thursday, September 12th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Allouche Gallery's SoHo location (77 Mercer Street).

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Kelani Fatai Oladimeji Untitled, 2024, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 inches



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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.

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

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.

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

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.

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About Allouche Gallery:

Established in 2014, Allouche Gallery is home to an international roster of some of the world's most recognized and culturally significant contemporary visual artists. Through its highly curated exhibition program, the gallery has garnered a reputation for highlighting artists whose work directly challenges preconceived notions of contemporary visual culture and affirming their place in 21st Century art. Home to a select group of both established and rising artists across a variety of disciplines, Allouche Gallery represents the work of Felix R. Cid, Ron English, Nick Georgiou, Paul Insect, Michael Reeder, Malik Roberts, Swoon, Hannah Yata, Juan de la Rica and more. Founded by Eric Allouche, Allouche Gallery is one of New York's premiere commercial art galleries and the preeminent exhibitor of contemporary art. For more information about the upcoming show at Allouche Gallery, please visit

www.allouchegallery.com



Installation image of Allouche Gallery NYC, artwork courtesy of Ron English.

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