

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

## ***Worldmaking***

534 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, New York

July 13 – August 25, 2023

### **HAWA ALI AWANLE AYIBORO**

Hawa Ali Awanle Ayiboro (b. 1997, Nima, Ghana) is a self-taught painter whose work is influenced by her upbringing in a conservative Muslim patriarchal family and her rebellion against her arranged marriage at a very young age. Women dressed in suits populate her work, emphasizing her aversion to conformity, rejection of traditional gender roles, and her aim to inspire others to break free from their own systemic oppression. Awanle Ayiboro's work has been exhibited in group exhibitions including *Visual Language: The Art Of Protest* at Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles (2023); *When The Birds Fly Home* at Artemartis and Gallery 1957, Accra (2023); *Reflections Of Her* at Mitochondria Gallery, Houston (2022); *Ties That Bind Us* at The Cowrie Culture, Accra (2022); and *Dreaming Tomorrow* at Emergeast Gallery, Dubai (2022). She lives and works in Accra, where she is affiliated with the art collective Artemartis.



### **DELA ANYAH**

Dela Anyah (b. 1986, Accra, Ghana) uses garment-making techniques to weave discarded materials such as butyl inner tubes, polypropylene sacks, license plates and rubber tires into intricate compositions. Drawing from traditional African art and avant-garde fashion, Anyah's assemblages bring awareness to the realities of consumption and industrial waste. Recent solo exhibitions include presentations at the Nubuke Foundation, Accra (2023) and The Noldor Residency, Accra (2022). Anyah has also participated in group shows such as *REVERB 23 | Abstract Resonances // Contemporary Voices* at Latitudes Online (2023) and the *Kuenyehia Prize* at The Mix Design Hub, Accra (2023). Anyah was the second runner up for the



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Kuenyehia Prize for Contemporary Art (2023) and a semi-finalist for the Art X Prize (2022). His work is in the collections of the Institute Museum of Ghana and the Issaq Foundation in Accra. He currently lives and works in Accra.

### **RITA MAWUENA BENISSAN**

Rita Mawuena Benissan (b. 1995, Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire) is a Ghanaian-American interdisciplinary artist whose practice focuses on the historical significance of royal umbrellas and their use in today's culture. Benissan is the founder of Si Hene, a foundation that aims to preserve and make accessible Ghana's chieftaincy tradition. The artist has had solo exhibitions at Gallery 1957, Accra (2023); The Mix Gallery, Accra (2022); the Foundation of Contemporary Art, Accra (2021); and the Arts + Literature Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin (2021). Benissan's work has been included in the Dakar Biennale, Senegal (2022); *EFIE: The Museum As Home* at Museum Ostwall im Dortmunder U, Dortmund, Germany (2021); and *The Medium is the Message - The African Diaspora Story*, Taylor Hall Gallery, Newark, Delaware (2021). Benissan received a BFA from Michigan State University, and an MFA from University of Wisconsin Madison (2017 and 2021). She currently lives and works in Accra.



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## ERIC GYAMFI

Eric Gyamfi (b. 1990, Bekwai, Ghana) is a photographer and filmmaker who uses the complexities of nature as the starting point in his research. His photographic practice explores history through botany, combining the analogue process with the use of unconventional materials. Gyamfi has exhibited at the Vienna Biennale, Vienna (2021) and the 11th and 12th editions of the Bamako Encounters -African Biennale of Photography, Bamako, Mali (2017 and 2019). He received the Foam Paul Huf Award from the Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam (2019) and the Magnum Foundation Emergency Fund grant from Magnum Photos (2016). Gyamfi holds a BA degree from the University of Ghana, and currently lives and works in Accra.



## KELVIN HAIZEL

Kelvin Haizel (b. 1987, Accra, Ghana) addresses the expansive realm of personal identities within a larger socio-political context through painting, conceptual photography, and archival interventions. His work has been shown in group exhibitions including *Beautiful Diaspora / You Are Not the Lesser Part* at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago (2022); *This Is Not Africa: Unlearn What You Have Learned* at the ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Denmark (2021); *Orderly Disorderly* at the Museum of Science and Technology, Accra (2017); the 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg (2022); the Stellenbosch Triennial, South Africa (2020); and the 11th edition of the Bamako Encounters-African Biennale of Photography Bamako, Mali (2017). In 2017, Haizel won the prize for young contemporary photography, *A New Gaze 2*, awarded by Vontobel Art Commission, Zurich (2018). Haizel currently lives and works in Accra.



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## GIDEON HANYAME

Gideon Hanyame (b. 1996, Teshie-Zongo, Ghana) uses common material such as water filters, plastic loofahs and cotton flour sacks to explore the simplicity of pattern, repetition of colors, and geometric forms unveiling beauty from waste. Hanyame has exhibited in *Coordinates: 6.682663, -1.574128, (A Confluence of Art from Karlsruhe and Kumasi)* (2023) and *Remnants of Our Dreams* organized by 360 Projects Ghana and the Foundation for Contemporary Art Ghana (2022). He graduated with a BA from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. He currently lives and works in Kumasi.



## AL HASSAN ISSAH

Al Hassan Issah (b. 1993, Kumasi, Ghana) builds on references from art historical movements and his lived experience within the Zango communities and in the city of Kumasi. His solo shows include *Kum Ase: A Field Filled with Golden Spikes*, a multi-site exhibition at Red Clay Studio, Tamale, KNUST Jubilee Mall, Kumasi, and at the Museum of Science and Technology, Accra (2023); *Eloquence of The Wind, A Dream of Toffees and Spikes* at the Opuko Ware II (KNUST) Museum, Kumasi (2022); and *Seduced by the Charms of a Mistake* at the Nubuke Foundation, Accra (2021-22). Group exhibitions include *Documenta 15* through the blaxTARLINES collective, Kassel, Germany (2022); *4+3=1 There are Stories to be Forged for Common Denominators to Come Forth and Social Balance to be Restored* at SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany (2022); and *Failure is the Key* at the KNUST Botanical Garden (2021). Issah received his BFA and MFA degrees from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, and currently lives and works in Kumasi.



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## GODELIVE KASANGATI KABENA

Godelive Kasangati Kabena (b. 1996, Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo) is a performer, filmmaker, and photographer who places her subjects in unconventional settings, creating a world wedged in the ambiguities of reality. Her work has been exhibited in *Kinshasa (N)tóngá: Between future and dust* at KANAL–Centre Pompidou, in Brussels and at the Academy of Fine Art of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2022); *Passing the Torch* at the Institute of National Museum of the DRC, Kinshasa (2020); and *Connected* at the Academy of Fine Art of Kinshasa (2019). Kabena has also participated in the 7th Edition of the Lubumbashi Biennial, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (2022); and the 12th Edition of the Bamako Encounters-African Biennale of Photography, Bamako, Mali (2019). Kabena earned her degrees at Academy of Fine Art of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. She currently lives and works between Ghana and Kinshasa.



## KAY KWABIA

Kay Kwabia (b. 1996, Mpraeso, Ghana) is a self-taught photographer with a deeply diverse practice that focuses on the exploration of the body and nature and alternates between fashion and fine arts. Kwabia has exhibited his work in a solo exhibition at DeForty Five, Accra (2021), and in group shows including *Point Of* at F2 Fotofestival, Dortmund, Germany (2023), and *Streams of The Diaspora* at the Dortmunder U, Dortmund (2022). He received his degree from Takoradi Technical University, Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana. Kwabia currently lives and works in Accra.



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## ARABA OPOKU

Araba Opoku (b. 1998, Accra, Ghana) is a multidisciplinary artist whose surreal abstract paintings focus on water scarcity in Accra. Opoku has exhibited in solo exhibitions at Gallery 1957, Accra (2022); ADA \ Contemporary art gallery, Accra (2022); and in group shows such as *When the Birds Fly Home*, Gallery 1957 (2023); *Beneath the Surface*, Lehmann Maupin Gallery, London (2023); and *Afrifem artxfeminism* at Nubuke Foundation, Accra (2020). Opoku won the Yaa Asantewaa Art Prize in 2021 and is the Creative Director of the art collective Artemartis. Opoku is currently studying at the University of Ghana, Accra, and is living and working in Accra.



## GIDEON APPAH

Gideon Appah (b. 1987, Accra, Ghana) is an evocative painter and draftsman who pulls from experiences of intimacy and leisure that speak to recollection, history and mythology. His flattened, jewel-like compositions are centered around stylish figures, both known and imagined, luscious landscapes, prevalent architecture, African folklore and daily rituals from his childhood. These sumptuous scenes are often informed by post-independent Ghana, most readily sourced from film stills, newspaper clippings, journals and family photographs created in the 1960s through 1980s. His most recent solo show, *How to Say Sorry in a Thousand Lights*, was on view at Pace Gallery in London until April 2023. His works have also been exhibited internationally, including at the Institute of Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University; Milan Triennale, Milan; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; Acquavella Galleries, New York; Casa Barragan, Mexico City; Ghana Science Museum, Accra; Goethe Institute, Accra; KNUST Museum, Kumasi and Nubuke Foundation, Accra. His work is included in the collections of the Absa Museum, Johannesburg; Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden,



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Marrakesh; and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. He was shortlisted for the 2016 Kuenyehia Art Prize and 2022 Henrike Grohs Art Award. He lives and works in Accra.

## YLINKA BAROTTO

Ylinka Barotto is a curator and Gallery Director at Mitchell-Innes & Nash where she fosters, reinforces, and advances the gallery's artists' engagement with museums and institutions. Barotto previously served as curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, and at the Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University, Houston, Texas, where she organized critically-acclaimed exhibitions. She has been responsible for building, implementing, and diversifying permanent collections through gifts and acquisitions. Her curatorial practice focuses on the intricacies of history, politics, race and identity, and champions the practice of under-recognized artists. At the Moody, Barotto curated the exhibitions *Baseera Khan: Weight on History*, co-organized with the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2022); *Charisse Pearlina Weston: Plunge Cry* (2021–22); *Clarissa Tossin: The 8th Continent* (2021–22); *Edra Soto: GRAFT* (2021–22); *Kapwani Kiwanga: the Sand Recalls the Moon's Shadow* (2021); *Sondra Perry: Ocean Modifier* (2020–21); *Kameelah Janan Rasheed: perhaps there is no sequel* (2020), and the group exhibition *States of Mind: Art and American Democracy* (2020). At the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, she worked on modern and postwar retrospectives and contemporary exhibitions including *Artistic License: Six Takes on the Guggenheim Collection* (2019–20); *Danh Vo: Take My Breath Away* (2018); *Mystical Symbolism: The Salon de la Rose+Croix in Paris, 1892-1897* (2017); *Visionaries: Creating a Modern Guggenheim* (2017); *Moholy-Nagy: Future Present* (2016); and *Alberto Burri: The Trauma of Painting* (2015–16). Barotto received an MA in curatorial studies at Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, Italy.



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## Photo Credits Artists' Portraits

### **HAWA ALI AWANLE AYIBORO**

Hawa Ali Awanle Ayiboro. Photo: Kwadwo Asiedu; Courtesy of Artemartis and the artist.

### **DELA ANYAH**

Dela Anyah. Photo: Noldor Artist Residency; Courtesy of the artist.

### **RITA MAWUENA BENISSAN**

Rita Mawuena Benissan: Photo Michael "Kwame Pocho" Dakwa; Courtesy of the artist and Gallery 1957.

### **ERIC GYAMFI**

Eric Gyamfi. Photo: Vera Acquah; Courtesy of the artist.

### **KELVIN HAIZEL**

Kelvin Haizel. Photo: Bernard Akoi-Jackson; Courtesy of the artist.

### **GIDEON HANYAME**

Gideon Hanyame. Photo: Insight media, Joshua Cann Lamptey; Courtesy of the artist.

### **AL HASSAN ISSAH**

Al Hassan Issah. Photo: Edem Dedi; Courtesy of the artist.

### **GODELIVE KANSAGATI KABENA**

Godelive Kasangati Kabena. Photo: Edward PRAH; Courtesy of the artist.

### **KAY KWABIA**

Kevin Kwabia. Photo: the artist; Courtesy of the artist.

### **ARABA OPOKU**

Araba Opoku. Photo: Kwadwo Asiedu; Courtesy of Artemartis and the artist.

### **GIDEON APPAH**

Gideon Appah. Photo: Courtesy of Gallery 1957.



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## YLINKA BAROTTO

Ylinka Barotto. Photo: David Heald.