

Galerie Kremers presents

Adébayo Bolaji

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS



Adébayo Bolaji (b. 1983 in London as son of Nigerian parents) is a multi-disciplinary artist who lives and works in London. He is a painter with an amazing background and breadth of interests covering writing, filmmaking, theatre and film directing. He also is a professional actor, but what he likes the most is to put his paintings and sculptures on stage. For him visual arts is the field that allows him a maximum of freedom. After several solo exhibitions in London and Zurich, GALERIE KREMERS is pleased to host his first solo show in Berlin.

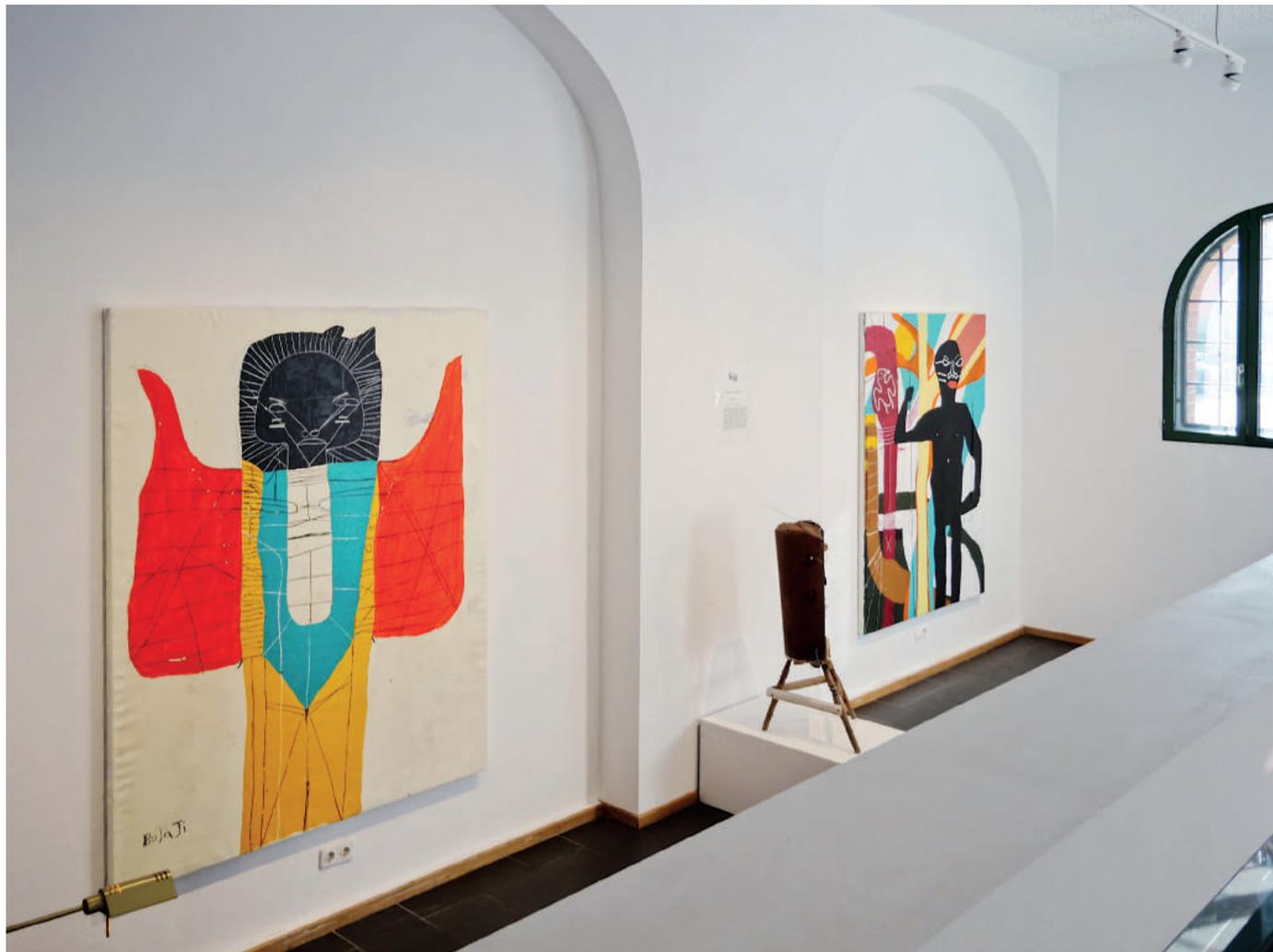


Adébayo Bolaji Between Two Worlds
GALERIE KREMERS 12.9.-30.10.2020

The title "Between two Worlds" can be seen as a term for his artistic approach as well as an introduction and invitation to this exhibition. Between the abstract and the figurative, the rough and the delicate Adébayo Bolaji balances his creative impulse and expresses his vision. The symbols and codes always transfer a meaning connected to heritage and cultural identity.

"The Crossover" is a title that says it all: the painting depicts a specific pose and is a result of an amalgamating process between different cultures.

As a result the paintings and drawings are colourful, full of energy and densely layered, each with its own unique character.



“IF I THINK ABOUT THIS SHOW, I THINK A GOOD STARTING POINT WOULD BE THE SCULPTURE, TITLED ‘WOLI’, WHICH IN THE YORUBA LANGUAGE MEANS “PROPHET”. A PROPHET OPERATES BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL WORLDS, A MOUTHPIECE, AN INSTRUMENT TO DECLARE OR REVEAL THAT WHICH HAS BEEN REVEALED TO HIM/HER. I THINK, WE CAN ALL, IN SOME WAY BE OPERATING BETWEEN THESE WORLDS, TRANSMITTING SOMETHING WHETHER CONSCIOUSLY OR NOT. AND IF THIS IS TRUE, WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY, ITS PURPOSE, ITS LIMITATIONS AND MORE SO... WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THE UNKNOWN...?”





The Opening, 2020, mixed media on coarse grain jute, 205 x 165 cm

Woli, 2020, constructed with found materials, steel, gold leaf, wood, tire, wire and tambourine cymbals, 150 x 105 x 53 cm

The Crossover, 2020, mixed media on coarse grain jute, 205 x 165 cm

Commander of the Seas, 2020, acrylic, spray paint and crayon on cotton canvas, 154 x 121 cm

The Visitation, 2020, gold, acrylic, oil pastel, crayon and hessian rag on cotton canvas, 154 x 121 cm





Illuminate, 2018,
 biro, crayon, ink
 pencil on card, 82,5 x
 59,3 cm



Iyanu (Wonderful),
 2020, crayon, pencil,
 biro on paper, 37 x
 31 cm



Force, crayon, pencil,
 biro on paper, 34 x
 29 cm



Queen of Sheba, 2020, biro,
 crayon, ink pencil on artist
 paper, 39 x 32,5 cm



Christos II and Christos, 2020,
 biro, crayon, ink pencil on artist
 paper, 38 x 33 and 39 x 32,5 cm



The Promise, 2020, biro, pencil
 and crayon on artist paper, 34 x
 29,5 cm



X: „How can you let her get away with that?
Y: „Because it robots that don´t understand context..
Don´t be a robot A.B. on Instagram,
posted: 12.10.20



Satisfied, 2019, Oil Patel on
Card Paper, 21 x 27 cm

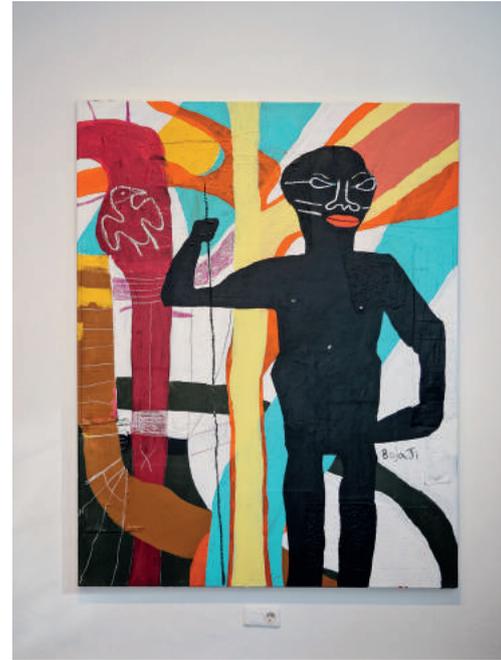
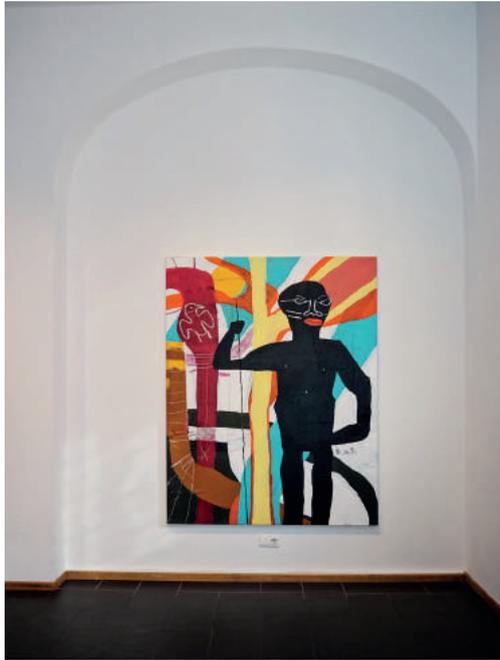


War, 2019, Oil Patel on Card
Paper, 21 x 27 cm



Mystical, 2019, Oil Patel on
Card Paper, 21 x 27 cm

„My Art. The Spectrum of my reality is wider than one continent.“
A.B. on Instagram, posted 11.10.20



The Crossover, 2020, mixed media on coarse grain jute, 165 x 205 cm

CV Education

Central School Of Speech & Drama/ [Master of Arts]

London Guildhall University. [LLB Law].

Artistic Director of Ex Nihilo Theatre Group

Solo Shows in London, Zurich, New York, and Berlin

THE WORK.

“At the centre of Bolaji’s practice is a dialogue between the internal and external world; by responding honestly to the world around him the artist

subsequently engages in an intuitive exploration of himself.

Bolaji describes his style of painting as a form of psychoanalysis. Rich with references to personal history, as well as cultural notes from his Nigerian heritage and home city, London, Bolaji’s colourful and animated canvases unfold organically from within. His process can be characterised as a kind of liberating play in which his emphasis on following and

trusting the line as well as his instinctual choice of colour is fundamental. Sigmund Freud cited play as a means of healing: it allows for the expression and reconciliation of unconscious emotions and anxieties. It is an apt metaphor for Bolaji's paintings, for play transgresses the barrier between the individual's inner world and the world outside.

The subject of Bolaji's work varies, from the seemingly aesthetic to a direct commentary on the state of the human condition. The closer you look at the paintings the more you discover; faces may sometimes loom from dark hidden corners as well as almost illegible words of poetry appearing beneath layers of bold primary colours.

Bolaji enjoys engaging with both ritualistic and mystical imagery; depicting struggles both internal and external between the old and new, these images acting as metaphors for the conflict we all experience whilst establishing our own emotional identities. The use of the same vibrant language is a constant element narrating a different story within each painting. Visually, the works have layers of bold colours and as the texture thickens the velocity builds up. Colours are placed on top of each other, without being blended, as sometimes they come straight from

the tube. The conscious choice of acrylic paint, which dries fast,

preserves the energy and tempo of the piece.

Through an instinctive process of creation in which colour holds court, Bolaji looks inward in order to comment on the external world. Possessing an almost prophetic quality and mirroring the power of ritual, his cathartic practice provides a therapeutic function for both artist and viewer; on the one hand, the viewer explores the painting alone, on the other, there is a strong feeling that you are devouring a part of the artist himself".

