

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sakhile&Me to show works from their personal collection

Accrochage features works by Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, Nnenna Okore, Bambo Sibiyi, and Adejoke Tugbiyele

February 1, 2019

Frankfurt/Main, Germany – Sakhile&Me is pleased to present *Accrochage*, a selection of 16 works from the gallery's collection featuring artists Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, Nnenna Okore, Bambo Sibiyi, and Adejoke Tugbiyele. The exhibition runs from 14 February to 13 April, 2019.

The work of Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga (b. 1991) depicts colorfully clothed figures in intimate compositions with a backdrop of hieroglyphic-like language denoting computerized or coding text. His multilayered work presents a socio-political view of the Democratic Republic of Congo, drawing on the history of the Kongo Kingdom and exploring traditional communities reconciling the break with their past and the challenges and opportunities that have risen from modernity. The artist studied Painting at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Kinshasa.

The artistic impetus of Bambo Sibiyi (b. 1986) rests on the Bantu philosophy of *Ubuntu Ngabantu* ("I am who I am because of who you/we are"). In his acrylic and charcoal paintings, he commemorates civilian members of the South African mining communities, depicting them in moments of leisure with a stereo, a historically important object through which people listen to and share music and stories. Sibiyi trained at the Artist Proof Studio in Johannesburg, where he has worked with artists like William Kentridge, Diane Victor, and Norman Catherine.

Nnenna Okore (b. 1975) is a sculptor, painter, and environmentalist whose nature-inspired fiber sculptures and clay on foam-board paintings marked the inaugural exhibition at Sakhile&Me. Okore's works boast intricate textures and vibrant colors referencing organic elements such as plants, roots, or veins and explore themes of transience and transformation. Okore has received fine arts degrees from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and the University of Iowa and is currently Chair of the Art Department at North Park University in Chicago.

The work of artist and activist Adejoke Tugbiyele (b. 1977) explores LGBTQ human rights issues and her own identity as a queer woman of Nigerian descent and encompasses sculptures, paintings, drawings, videos, and live performance. *Accrochage* features her monumental haute-couturesque mixed-media sculpture "Drama", in which Tugbiyele suggests „the new African Lady – poise, elegance, intellect and physical strength.“ Tugbiyele has received degrees from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Maryland Institute College of Art.

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About the gallery

Sakhile&Me is a contemporary art space based in downtown Frankfurt working with emerging and established international artists, creative entrepreneurs and curators, with a particular focus on Africa and its many diasporas. The gallery's two founders, Sakhile Matlhare and Daniel Hagemeyer, received bachelor's degrees from Hamilton College and master's degrees from the University of Sydney. Matlhare then pursued a doctoral degree at Northwestern University focusing on how contemporary artists work alongside curators, art historians, and other art experts in the gatekeeping process, within and beyond the rubric of contemporary African art. Hagemeyer has worked with his father, Achim Hagemeyer (Kunsthandel Hagemeyer), for the past four years, specializing in German Expressionist and classical modern art.

461 words. 3.048 characters.

Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm; by appointment.

Image Material

Bambo Sibiyi. *Dear Msakazi*. 2018. Acrylic and charcoal on canvas. 155x100cm. **File name:** bambo_sibiyi-dear_msakazi.jpg. **Caption:** Bambo Sibiyi: Dear Msakazi.

Adejoke Tugbiyele. *Drama*. 2018. Palm spines, oil funnels, gas pumps, perforated metal, hardware cloth, wire, and black paint. 211x61x61cm. **File name:** adejoke_tugbiyele-drama.jpg. **Caption:** Adejoke Tugbiyele: Drama.

Nnenna Okore. *Ututu*. 2016. Burlap, cheese cloth, paper, dye, acrylic and wire. 76x76x76cm. **File name:** nnenna_okore-ututu.jpg. **Caption:** Nnenna Okore: Ututu.

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