

Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola

Multilateral

Soft Opening: January 27, 2022, 4pm – 8pm

Duration: January 28 – March 19, 2022

The artist will be present at the opening.

Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola's work was first introduced to us more than three years ago, at a private collection in Miami Beach. Since then, the gallery had stayed in close contact with the New York-based artist. Akinbola is Galerie Krinzinger's first artist in residence since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. His exhibition will open on January 27, in the showroom of Galerie Krinzinger (Seilerstätte 16).

MULTILATERAL focuses on the protean nature of the readymade and invites the viewer to bring their own experiences and understanding to a host of prompts within the exhibition. Akinbola abstracts elements from the social and natural world in an attempt to mitigate the space between abstraction and representation.

Multilateralism refers to the principle of participation by three or more parties, a term commonly used in the field of international relations. Akinbola takes this principle and applies it to the variety of materials and objects used not only in the studio but also to create the exhibition. The result is a visual discourse around the conversation of globalization and an ever-converging world.

MULTILATERAL combines several bodies of work including the artist's signature CAMOUFLAGE paintings which consist of durags; fiber scarves used in the maintenance of hair. These paintings are not only bold and striking textural abstractions but they are also visual statements engaging conversations around global consumption, respectability, and the commodification of culture. The exhibition also introduces a new body of works on paper not yet presented to the public made of palm oil, yet another material of protean significance.

A movable sculpture consisting of cassava and hand truck tires sits in the center of the space, almost like a car on the showroom floor of a dealership, a visual prompt that ties the rest of the elements in the exhibition together. A rack of stockfish and a photo of a yellow shopping bag with the logo Lords Exotic Super Market, a main source of material for the artist, not only references commerce but also connects Akinbola's experience during his residency in Vienna to the exhibition in a visceral and personal way.

Akinbola was born in 1991 in Columbia, Missouri, USA. He grew up between Nigeria and the US and now lives and works in New York City, USA. Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola was selected for the Anderson Ranch Art Center Residency in 2017, was awarded the Van Lier Fellowship in 2019, and was an artist in residence at Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna in 2021-22. He has featured in exhibitions at the Pace Gallery, NY, Hauser and Wirth, NY, Night Gallery, CA, Carbon12, UAE, False Flag, NY and the Verbeke Foundation, Belgium as well as the Queens Museum, NY and the Zuckerman Museum of Art, GA, among others. Following his show at the Museum of Art and Design, NY in 2020, Akinbola mounted a significant solo exhibition in early 2021 at the Kohler Arts Center, WI, and *MULTILATERAL* will be his first show with the Galerie Krinzinger.

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