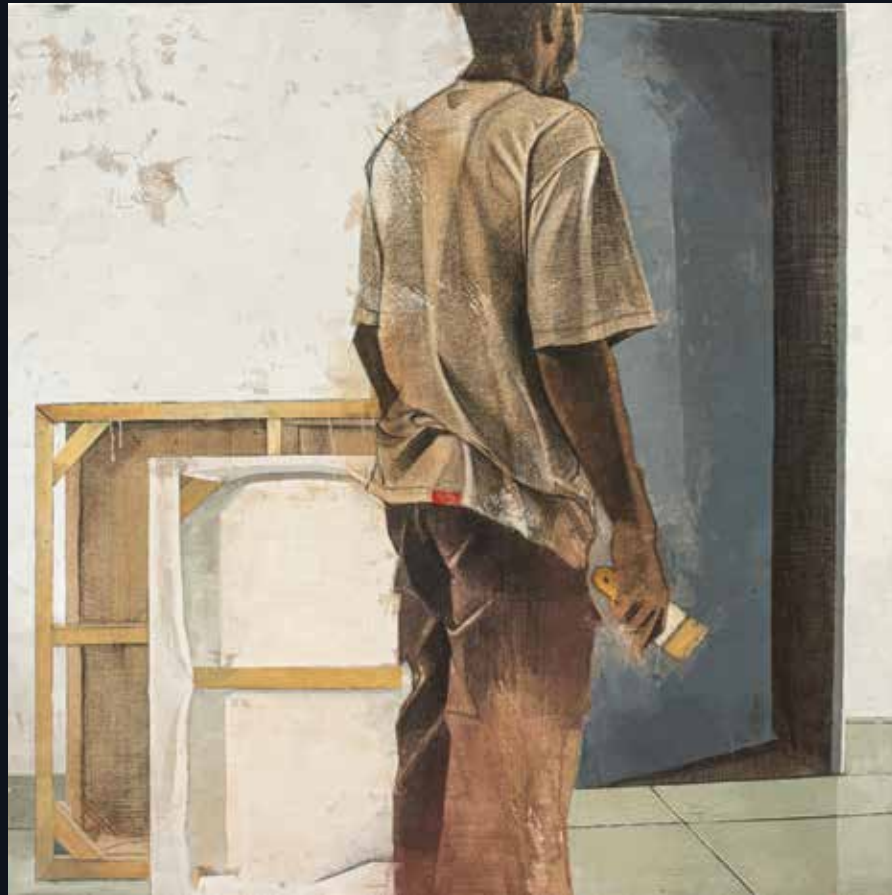


IN
Encounters of Place
SITU



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ASEMAHLE NTLONTI | AYANFE OLARINDE
AYOTUNDE OJO | SESSE ELANGWE
STEPHEN PRICE | TALUT KAREEM

IN Encounters of Place

SITU

ASEMAHLE NTLONTI
AYANFE OLARINDE
AYOTUNDE OJO
SESSE ELANGWE
STEPHEN PRICE
TALUT KAREEM

October 30-November 26, 2022

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Curated by Otsholeng Poo

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FRONT COVER: Ayanfe Olarinde, *Tell me, is this the end or is it only just the beginning*

2022, Ink and acrylic on canvas, 122 x 91.4 cm.

BACK COVER: Ayotunde Ojo, *I dare to dream*, 2022, Mixed media on canvas, 122 x 122 cm.

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Curatorial Statement

By Otsholeng Poo

kó is pleased to present *In Situ: Encounters of Place*, a group exhibition featuring new works by Asemahle Ntlonti, Ayanfe Olarinde, Ayotunde Ojo, Sesse Elangwe, Stephen Price and Talut Kareem.

In paintings and mixed media works, these artists reflect on the concept of place and origin in rapidly changing social, political, and economic realities. They offer perspectives into our shifting understanding of home as a defining element of personal history and a marker of belonging. In an era marked by unprecedented levels of migration and the rise of digital worlds capable of collapsing barriers of space, time, and culture, these works probe our position in the real and virtual world around us.

Ayanfe Olarinde's ink and acrylic works continue her exploration of the "scribbling" technique for which she is well known. In a blend of harmonious and fluid forms, these works capture the tense balance between order and chaos. In *Stale Wine*, Ayotunde Ojo depicts ordinary moments in the lived experiences of the average person. While Talut Kareem's charcoal and pastel works combine the artist's interest in scenes of youthful self-expression with his dynamic use of abstract patterns, Stephen Price employs expressive brush strokes in works like *Golden Summer* to create a "physicality of texture that is both rough and soft." Inspired by themes of identity and enlightenment, Sesse Elangwe's acrylic paintings take the portrait into bold territory. Using media as disparate as soap and polypropylene thread, Asemahle Ntlonti's work combines intuitive practice with politically astute commentary.

By its conventional usage, "in situ" denotes the natural or original location of something or someone. In this exhibition, various kinds of origins are brought under intense scrutiny and speculation, even the origin of creative impulse itself. For Ayotunde Ojo, a painting begins as "vibration and energy from the rough texture of my canvas leading up to the end of it." Thus, the canvas becomes not only a surface upon which the artist works but also an active channel through which impressions are sent and received.

Memories serve as powerful sources of connection to people, places and things we no longer have access to, but they can also be strongholds, keeping us fettered to old habits and ideas. Ayanfe Olarinde reflects on the origins of identity and selfhood, in particular the ways in which past experiences suffuse, complicate, and contend with the present. Olarinde insists on the importance of documenting it all and of "creating

timestamps of the present in which the events of a defining period can be read" and serve as a reminder for a future self.

In a similar vein, Talut Kareem draws from his memories of being raised by strict parents and the struggle of learning to express himself in environments that felt constricting. "It didn't really make me enjoy my teenage years to the fullest. So, when I see young boys and girls, I tend to reach out to them to enjoy their teenage years to the fullest because adulthood is a world of sweet bitter moments and you're only young once." Each artist in this exhibition brings distinct perspectives to questions we all share about self-discovery, change, and loss. They explore the desire to find firm footing between the demands of the past, the strangeness of the present, and the allure of the future.



ASEMAHLE NTLONTI

Asemahle Ntlonti
Untitled II
2022
Acrylic gel medium, acrylic paint, paper
156 x 125 cm. (61.4 x 53 in.)





Asemahle Ntlonti

Untitled III

2022

Acrylic gel medium, acrylic paint,
paper, soap and polypropylene thread

165 x 147 cm. (65 x 57.9 in.)

Asemahle Ntlonti
Untitled I
2022
Acrylic gel medium, acrylic paint,
paper and polypropylene thread
203 x 153 cm. (61.4 x 53 in.)



AYANFE OLARINDE

Ayanfe Olarinde
Tell me, is this the end or is it only just the beginning
2022
Ink and acrylic on canvas
152.4 x 122 cm. (60 x 48 in.)

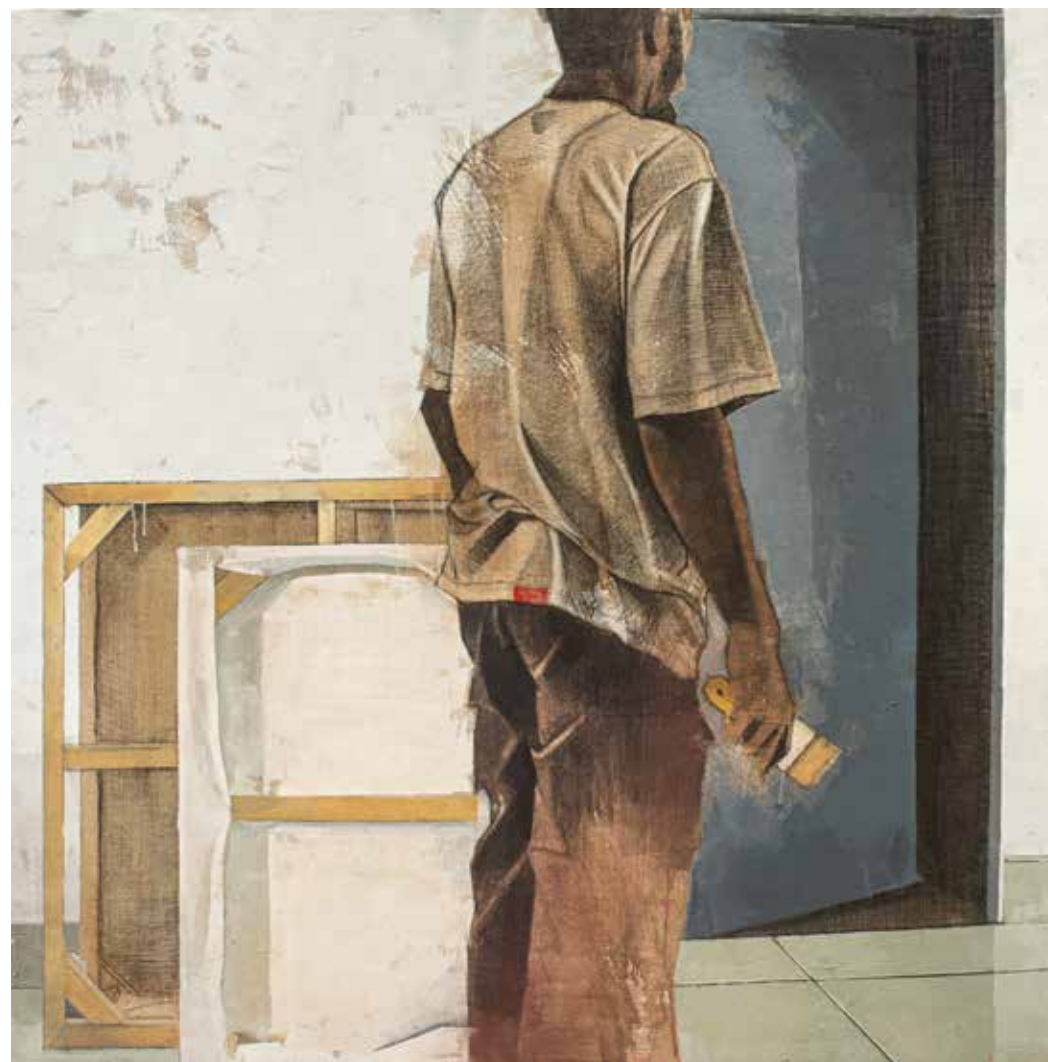


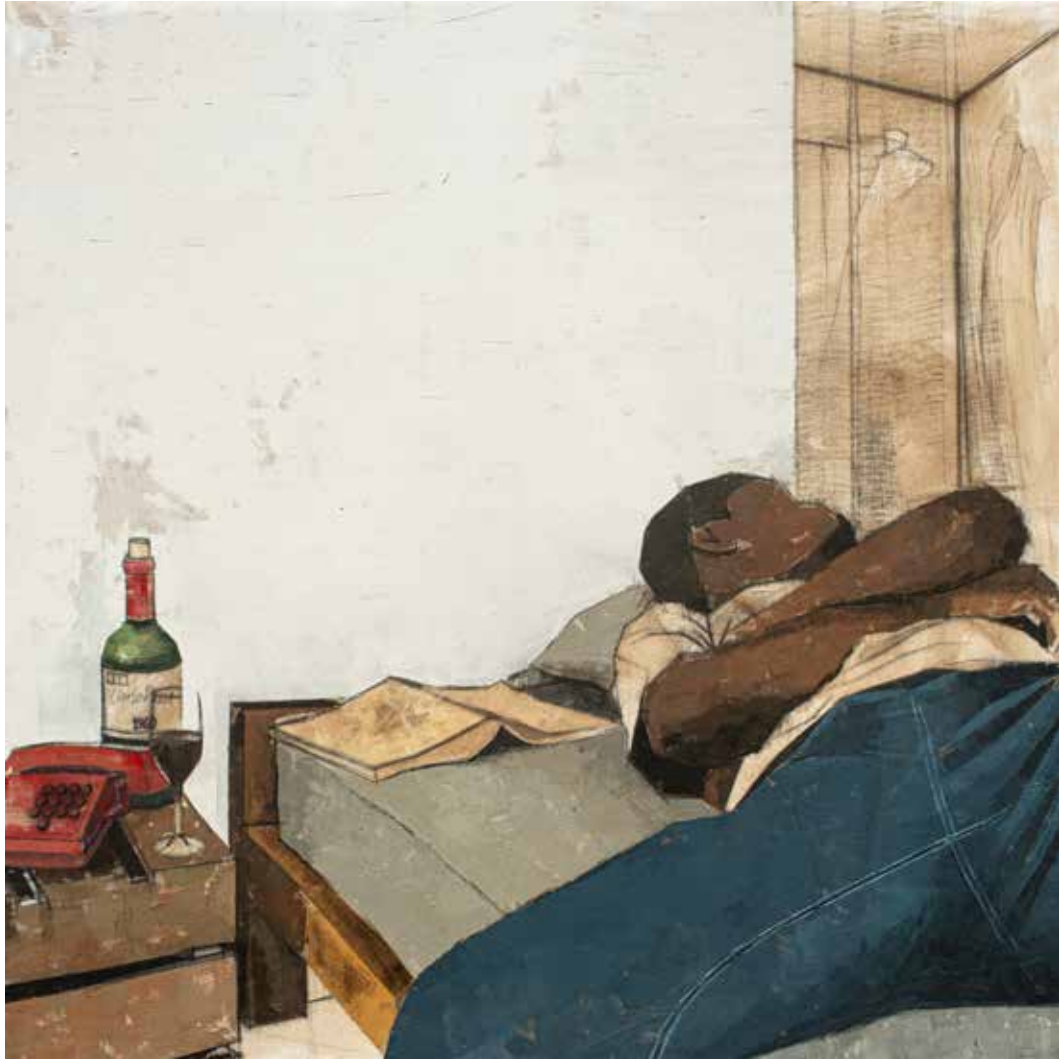


Ayanfe Olarinde
Tell me, is this the end or is it only just the beginning II
2022
Ink and acrylic on canvas
122 x 91.4 cm. (48 x 36 in.)

AYOTUNDE OJO

Ayotunde Ojo
I dare to dream
2022
Mixed media on canvas
122 x 122 cm. (48 x 48 in.)





Ayotunde Ojo
Stale Wine
2022
Mixed media on canvas
122 x 122 cm. (48 x 48 in.)

SESSE ELANGWE

Sesse Elangwe
Questions on identity
2022
Acrylic on canvas
162.56 x 162.56 cm. (64 x 64 in.)





Sesse Elangwe
A place
2022
Acrylic on canvas
101.6 x 101.6 cm. (50 x 50 in.)

Sesse Elangwe
A place 2
2022
Acrylic on canvas
101.6 x 101.6 cm. (50 x 50 in.)



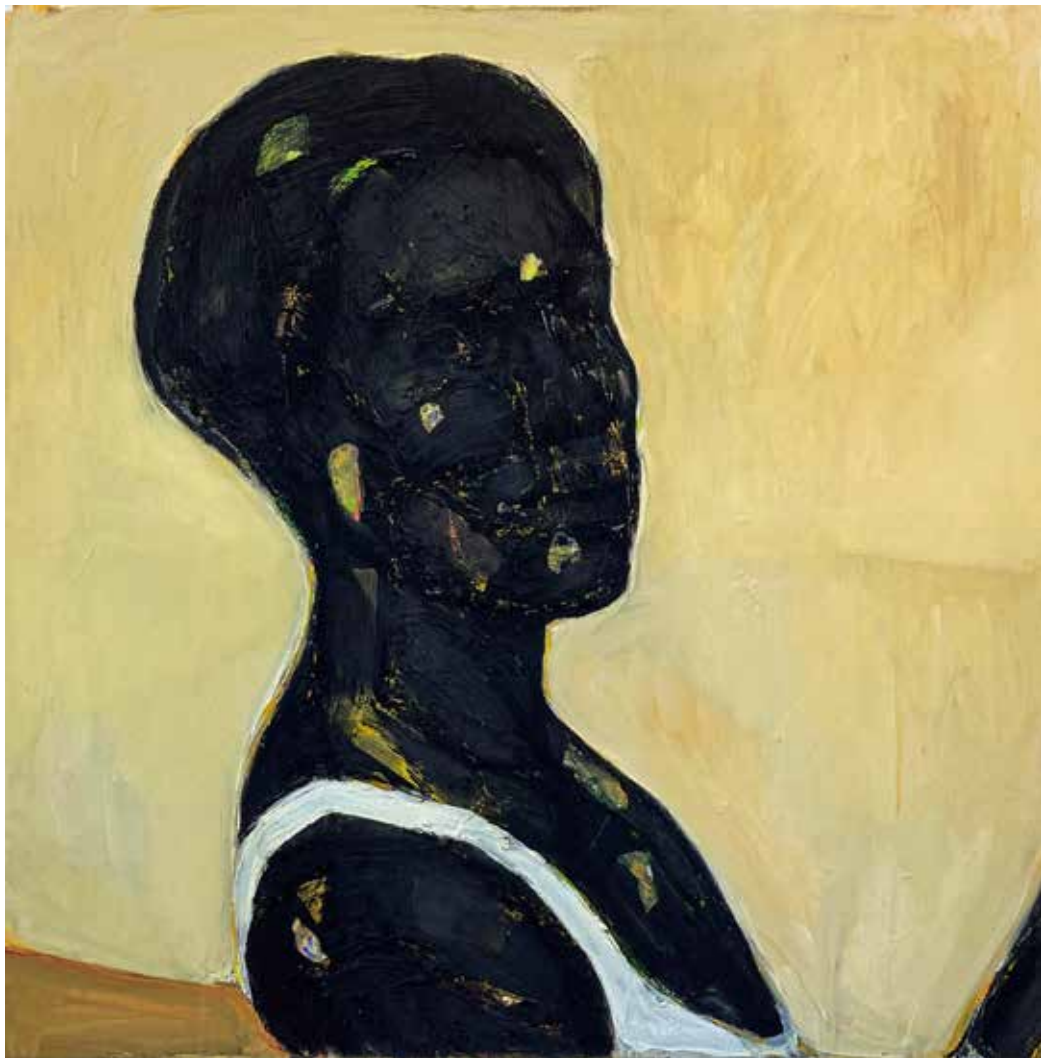


Sesse Elangwe
Life na secret
2022
Acrylic on canvas
91.4 x 91.4 cm. (36 x 36 in.)

STEPHEN PRICE

Stephen Price
The teal grass
2022
Charcoal, soft pastels and acrylic on canvas
76 x 120 cm. (30 x 47 in.)





Stephen Price
Sounds of piano
2022

Charcoal, soft pastels and acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm. (23.6 x 23.6 in.)

Stephen Price
Essence
2022
Charcoal, soft pastels and acrylic on canvas
76 x 101 cm. (30 x 39.7 in.)





Stephen Price
Golden Summer
2022

Charcoal, soft pastels and acrylic on canvas
122.5 x 91 cm. (48 x 35.8 in.)

TALUT KAREEM

Talut Kareem
Fetch your life
2022
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas
152.4 x 122 cm. (60 x 48 in.)





Talut Kareem
Moment with moon
2022
Charcoal and acrylic o canvas
122 x 91.4 cm. (48 x 36 in.)

Talut Kareem
Gossip Girls
2022
Charcoal and acrylic on canvas
122 x 91.4 cm. (48 x 36 in.)



Artist Biographies



Asemahle Ntlonti (b. 1993) graduated from the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2017, where she majored in sculpture. She was awarded the 2018 Young Female Residency by The Project Space, a non-profit cultural institution founded by the late Benon Lutaaya in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2019, Ntlonti attended a residency at the South African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA) in Knysna and Saint Emilion, France. Ntlonti's work has been exhibited widely in South Africa and abroad. Her work has been exhibited at WHATIFTHEWORLD; Blank Projects; Stevenson, Amsterdam; Galerie EIGEN + ART, Leipzig, Germany; and RESTUDIO, Johannesburg. In 2019, her work was included in several group exhibitions at SMAC Gallery; Open 24HRS; and Gallery MOMO in Cape Town.



Ayanfe Olarinde (b. 1996) is a self-trained visual artist currently exploring scribble art and photography. In 2018, she graduated from the University of Lagos with a BSc. in Microbiology. In 2018, she was shortlisted for the GTBank Days of Dorcas Photography Contest. In 2019, she was nominated for the Future Awards, and went on to win the First Bank Magic 125 Creative Contest. In 2020, she was listed amongst the 100 Most Inspiring Women in Nigeria. In 2019, she exhibited alongside other photographers at the *25th Bamako Encounters, Mali – OFF* exhibition, and the *Live-In Desires* exhibition by the Goethe Institute Nigeria and The Nlele Institute. She has participated in group exhibitions at SMO Contemporary, Retro Africa, AAF Lagos and Rele Gallery.



Ayotunde Ojo has a degree in Graphic Design from Yaba College of Technology. He worked as a junior art director with Rosabel Advertising for a year, after which he decided to focus on his practice as a full-time studio artist. His work has been featured in a number of fairs and exhibitions including Future Fair's Virtual Holiday Market, 2020; Domesticity at Volery Gallery, Dubai, 2021; Harper's Books 36 Paintings, East Hampton, NY, 2021, and a solo exhibition at Future Fair, NYC, 2021.



Sesse Elangwe (b. 1994) is a Cameroonian visual artist from the region of Buea. He currently lives and works in San Antonio, Texas. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions including *Dawn*, Mitochondria Gallery, Houston, 2022; *Where is my hat*, Showbonain, California, 2021; Group Show, 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace, Australia, 2021; Patrimoine collectif contemporain, Doulaart, Douala, 2021; *Awakening*, Chilli Art Projects, London, 2021; *Concordant Conveyances*, Mitochondria Gallery, Houston, 2021; *The Last Pictures Show*, Alliance Française, Lagos, 2021; Patrimoine collectif contemporain (Group Show), Doulaart, Douala, 2020; The Kai, Annie Kadji Gallery, Douala, 2020; and *The Last Pictures Show*, Douala, 2019.



Stephen Price (b. 1995) was born and raised in Italy after his parents emigrated from Ghana, and later relocated with his family to Birmingham UK. He graduated from the University of Northampton with BA Fine Art Painting and Drawing. In 2021, he was selected for the Royal Society of British Artists Annual Exhibition and was awarded the Society's Patron's Prize. In 2021, he took part in the group exhibition, 4x4+1 at Chilli Art Projects, London.



Talut Kareem (b. 1994) is a contemporary artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. He received his National Diploma in Mass Communication at Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, and subsequently pursued a B.A. in Visual Art from the University of Lagos. His work has been featured in exhibitions including *Unusual Suspects*, African Artists' Foundation, Lagos, 2021; *Stop, listen!*, CFHILL Gallery, Sweden, 2021; *Sublime: Between Solid and Vapour*, Rele Art Gallery, Lagos, 2020. He was recently featured in a group exhibition titled *SELF ADDRESSED* curated by Kehinde Wiley at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery. He has participated in artist residencies including the Rele Arts Foundation Young Contemporaries, 3 x 3 x 3 Artists in Residence, and the AAF Artist in Residence Program at the African Artists' Foundation in Lagos.

About kó

kó is an art gallery based in Lagos, Nigeria, that is dedicated to promoting modern and contemporary art. kó has a dual focus in championing Nigeria's leading artists from the modern period and celebrating emerging and established contemporary artists across Africa and the Diaspora.

www.ko-artspace.com