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Voilà L'Afrique LA Edition

by Jimbo Lateef, Anthony Ayi Mensah, Israel
Agboola Oladapo and Oscar Quarshie Nelson

Opening reception, Tuesday, November 15, 6-9 pm

Allouche Gallery Los Angeles opens the second edition of *Voilà L'Afrique*, on Tuesday, November 15th, from 6-9pm. In February 2022, the first edition of *Voilà L'Afrique* opened in New York, and the success of the show prompted the gallery to bring this diverse collection of African art to the contemporary art scene in Los Angeles. The exhibition will debut works by Jimbo Lateef, Anthony Ayi Mensah, Israel Agboola Oladapo and Oscar Quarshie Nelson through December 2022.

Nigerian born Jimbo Lateef, a Nigerian visual artist explores modern calligraphy to create his voice in African art. His unique style of functional inscriptions and designs within his paintings represent the various forms of his subject. Lateef's works have been collected widely by private collectors in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Ghanaian born Ayi Mensah is a self-taught visual artist whose work explores the intersection of figuration and abstraction. Mensah uses photographs of everyday people in his community as source material to then infuse his intuition, self-perception, and imagination into the construction of his paintings. Ayi merges both figurative and abstract strategies within his works resulting in a distinctive creation of odd figures, form, and composition as his signature style.

Ekiti state born Oladapo Agboola Israel has mastered and perfected the overall skill of illustration. He bases on several types of illustration (drawing) but the class in which he specializes in is making of beautiful and mind-blowing Real-life Drawings.

Ghanaian born Oscar Quarshie Nelson adds his compelling voice to the rich canon of the current evolving aesthetic of Ghanaian figurative portraiture. Intrigued by human intuition and the innate connection humans have to nature, his paintings capture candid calm moments where his subjects rest in harmony with the natural world.

When asked why sunflowers are a common theme throughout his works, he expressed "that they show how humans mimic the behavior of the tall plant by seeking sunlight for nourishment." His painted figures, which stand out against a bold, solid colored background, sit in a serene state of stillness or in action exuding youthful insouciance. The beings radiate luminosity while different textures are achieved by delicately placing intertwined threads onto oil paint applied thickly with a palette knife.

This distinguishing feature of Nelson's paintings accentuates the deep tones of the African body, contrasting the lucid western clothing. Through his paintings, Oscar invites the viewer to witness intimate moments of self-care and undaunting expressions of self. The people he paints are those around him; they are his brothers, friends, and colleagues. They are an embodiment of Ghana's youth who are unapologetic in their conquest for the freedom to express their creativity through fashion, music, and art. Their audacious resistance to stifling stereotypes that threaten to dull their shine is characteristic of this era of societal evolution in Accra.

For more information on the artists or gallery please visit allouchegallery.com or email either losangeles@allouchegallery.com or amber@allouchegallery.com