







The Power of Now

An Exhibition showcasing Adébayo Bolaji & Robi Walters

Curated by Serena Morton & Mikei Hall

Serena Morton

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In response to prevailing pessimism, Serena Morton and Mikei Hall have joined forces to curate an exhibition of joyful, colourful, hopeful, confident, playful and energised optimism.

In alignment with the Kensington & Chelsea Art weekend at the end of July (27, 28th & 29th July) the exhibition will open to the public on Tuesday 17th July through to the 17th August.

A programme of events will take place including an artist/curator talk as well as a charity event with live music scheduled for Saturday 28th July - with sets by the Loretta Heywood Band and DJ Femi-Fem (mi-soul.com) .

A special live performance of the iconic song Optimistic, written for Sounds of Blackness, 1991 will be performed by The BASSnote Collective.

“A big part of my role as an ambassador for Africa 2.0 is to raise awareness of all the positive change that is going on, not only in Nigeria but across the continent and the whole African diaspora. Economic change certainly, political and cultural too. There is a real new sense of energy, of positivity and a well grounded optimism. The stunning work on show here, by Adebayo Bolaji and Robi Walters perfectly reflect this - drawing proudly on our shared heritage but actively engaging with now and looking to a better shared future.” Hakeem Kae-Kazim (AFRICA 2.0 Ambassador)

Artists

Adébayo Bolaji www.adébayobolaji.com

Robi Walters www.robiwalters.com

Kind Supporters

Hakeem Kae-Kazim https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakeem_Kae-Kazim

www.kensingtonartweekend.com

Proceeds from the charity event night will be donated to The ClementJames Centre

The ClementJames Centre is an award winning charity that empowers the community to release its potential in one of London's most disadvantaged areas. Based in North Kensington, the charity's vision is for everyone in the community to release their potential and live fulfilled lives. It achieves this through education, employment and wellbeing support in a safe and compassionate space. www.clementjames.org

Serena Morton began her career in 1994 at Christie's Auction House. She opened her first art gallery, Morton Metropolis in 2010. Previously she was a Director of Ronnie Wood's Gallery Scream in Mayfair. In 2012 she opened her first gallery on Ladbroke Grove.

Mikei Hall, a senior art handler with 25 years museum experience, joins Serena Morton to co-curate, bringing his own wealth of visual and technical understanding.

Both have long standing connections to, and live within the Borough. They are passionately committed to supporting the Arts across the community of Kensington and Chelsea.

Adébayo Bolaji, is a multidisciplinary artist of Nigerian heritage. His works are intuitively led, but often dealing with social-political, spiritual and psychological matters. With gestural marks that point back to the Oshogbo 1960s Nigerian art movement fused with today's contemporary London and New York 1980s art movement, Bolaji's work as he explains "is an unapologetic use of colour, energy and playfulness not shying away from ourselves or trying to understand who we are".

Robi Walters' prophetic interpretation of the HMS Windrush, (a boat made of banana boxes) is a must-see. Over the past decade, Robi Walters' oeuvre has encapsulated the spirit of transformation. Of materials - taking discarded objects and translating them into something beautiful. And of personal journey - identifying and unifying microcosm/macrocasm and always consciously striving to generate a positive force for change. In 2018, Robi will be exhibiting his work in London, Paris, Dubai, New York, Miami and Los Angeles.

Kindly sponsored by



Kensington
& Chelsea
Art Weekend



Adébayo Bolaji

There is always more than one story, and more than one moment that is happening. There is a dialectic, a conversation, a culmination of ideas. So to define my practice by one thought or one idea will do it injustice.

What is happening is response, an ongoing dialogue with my own journey — which itself goes back to my father's journey, from an old village called 'Ile Ogbo' in Osun state, south west Nigeria — as I try to make sense of my own existence, and identity as a London born Nigerian. This narrative runs through all my practices. I believe that by dealing with oneself one can make a space, a linear world within a circular one, that others can relate to. Even find some kind of solace in, although this is not the whole intention.

Considering the visual aesthetic seen in my work - I deliberately leave the 'mistakes' in, because each moment compliments the next. There is a commitment to the child-like, a playfulness in creating the work. Like an actor who has learnt his lines, not worrying about what is next, I come freely to the space, listen, respond, play and create. It is not a style as such, it is getting out of the way to let the art happen and take its rightful place. To tell the story it needs to tell within each painting, and invite the viewer to take part in completing its narrative.

'The idea knows what it wants' and reminds us that there is creativity in all of us. If executed honestly, the work will inevitably resonate with others. When the works are put together themes of questioning, history, battles, victory, change all come to the fore. It seems to me my work as an artist is to listen to each moment, to reflect and respond honestly... to continue the conversation.

Adébayo Bolaji, July, 2018

Her Majesty

2017

Acrylic, spray paint on board

210 x 122 cm. (42 cm stand)



Hero

2018

Acrylic, spray paint and oil pastel on cotton

154 x 124 cm.



Adura (Yoruba for prayer)

2018

Acrylic, spray paint and oil pastel on cotton

154 x 124 cm.



Untitled: Topless 01

2017

Acrylic and oil pastel on cotton

154 x 124 cm.

Bo)aj;



Body of Pharoah

2017

Acrylic, spray paint and oil pastel on wooden table head

162 x 92 cm.

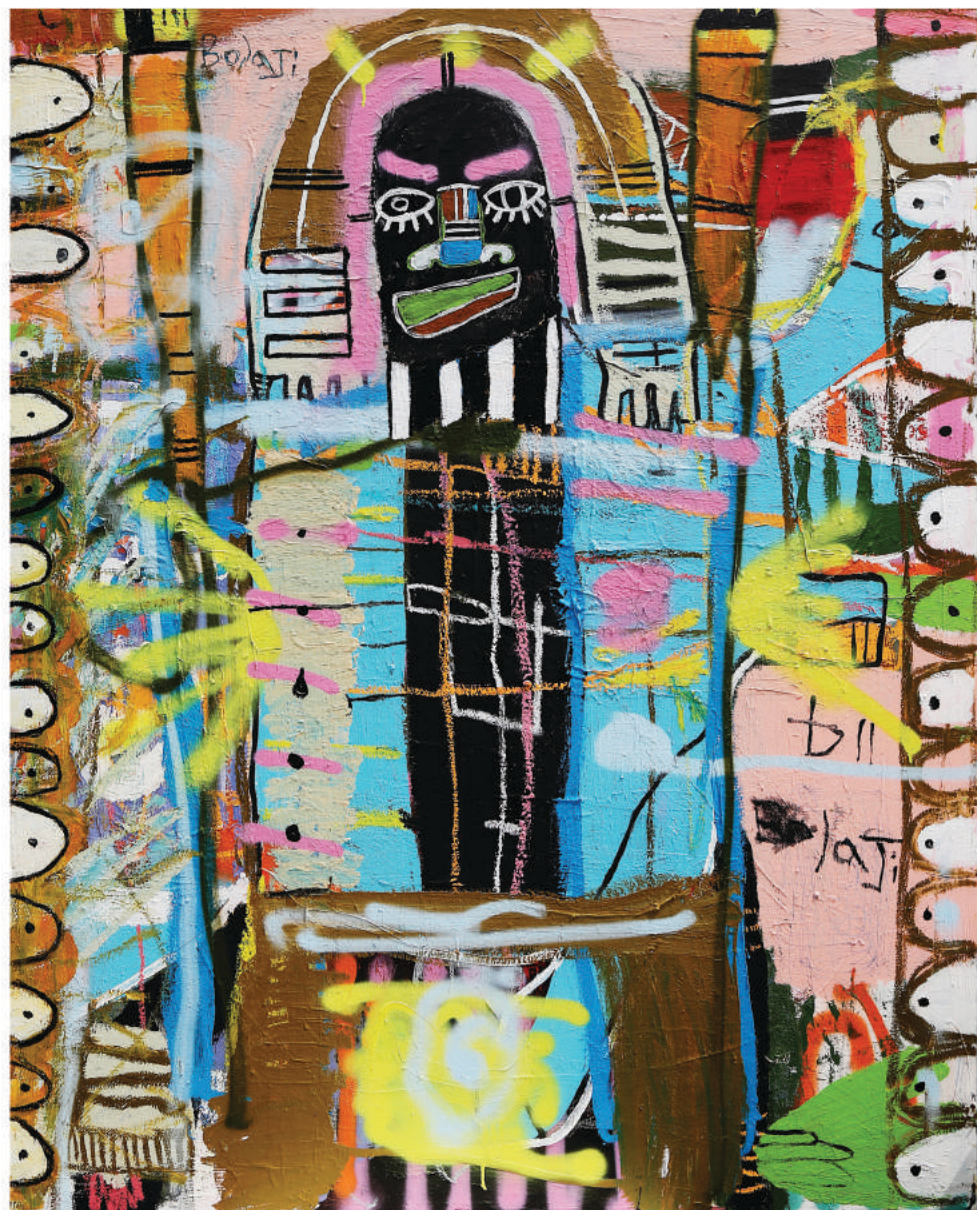


Consciousness

2018

Acrylic and oil pastel on cotton

154 x 124 cm.



Flow
2018
Acrylic and oil pastel on cotton
154 x 124 cm.





Ideas and opinions

2017

Crayon, ink and pencil on Indian paper

32 x 23 cm.

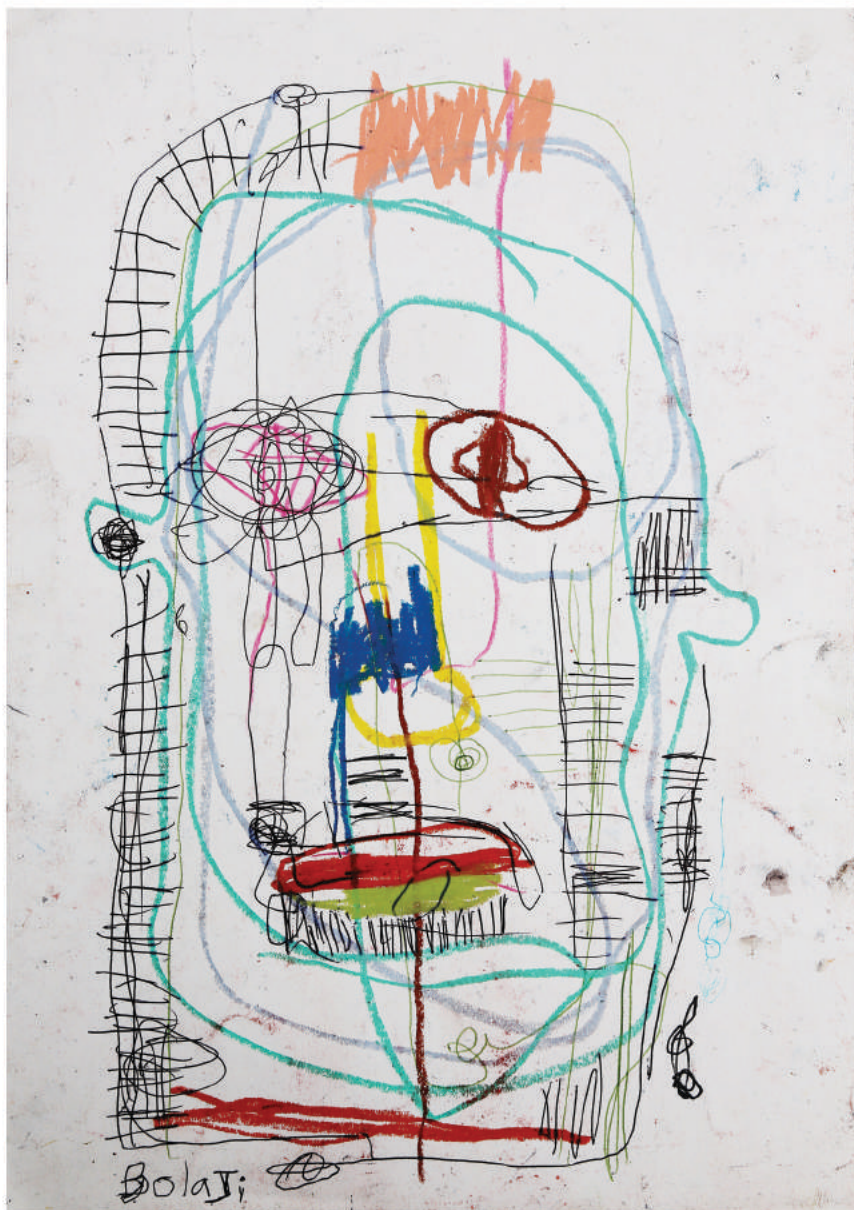


Discoveries

2018

Ink, biro and crayon on paper

42 x 30 cm.



Selah

2017

Ink, crayon and soft pastel on paper

42 x 30 cm.

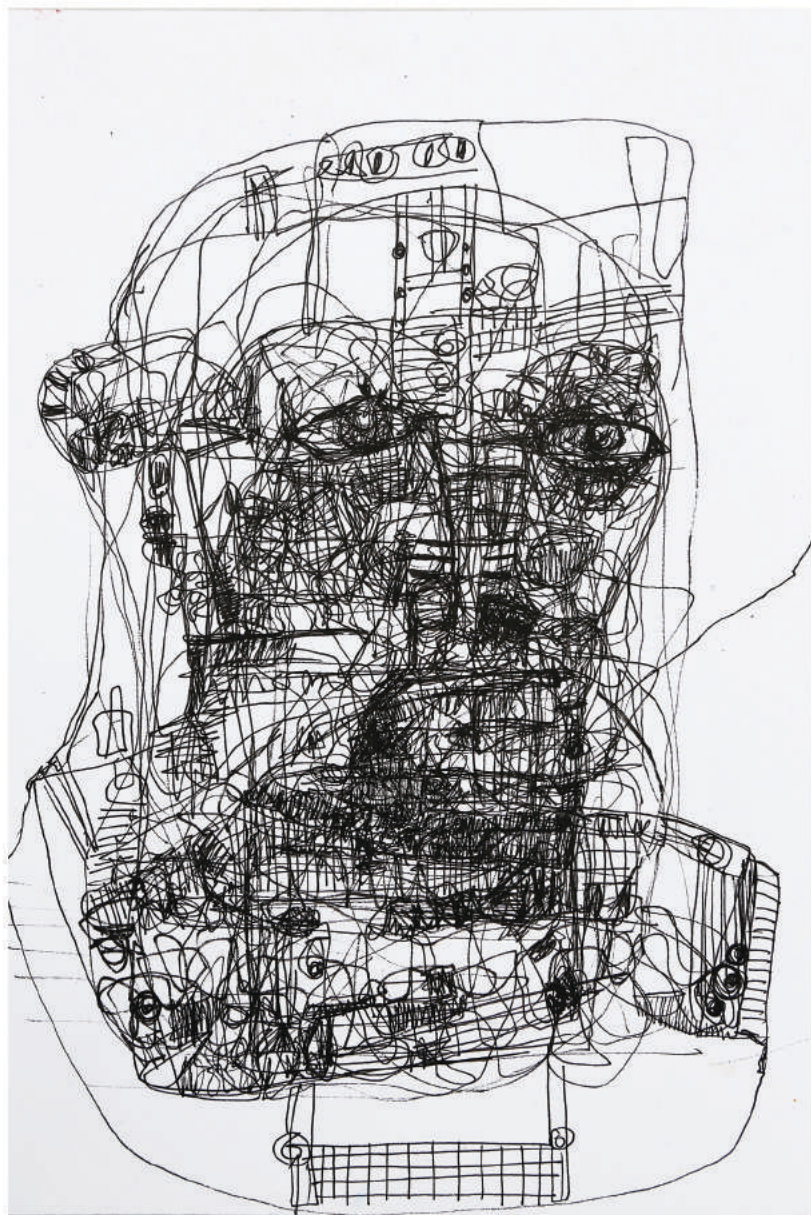


It Really Doesn't Matter

2018

Biro, crayon and pencil on paper

42 x 30 cm.



An Ethiopian King

2017

Ink on paper

29 x 21 cm.



The Philosopher

2017

Ink on paper

29 x 21 cm.

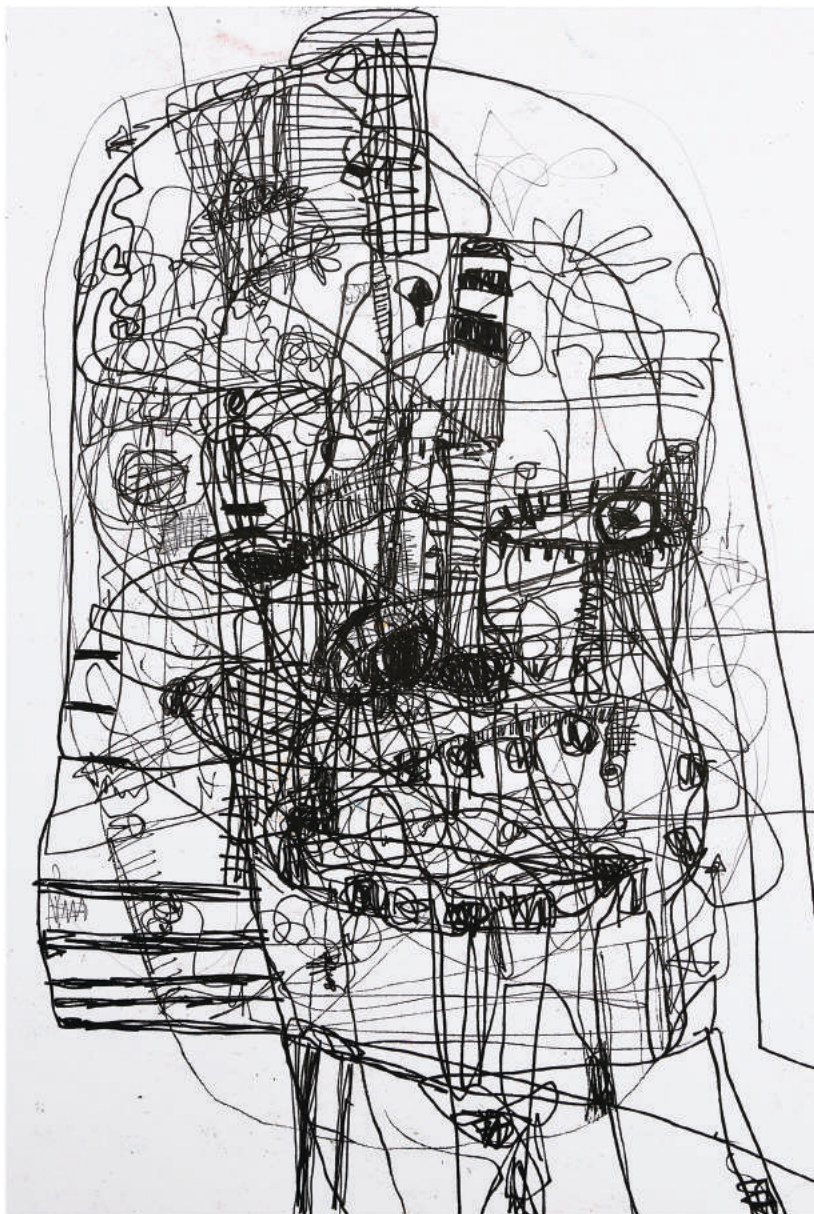


Head of Cleopatra

2017

Ink on paper

29 x 21 cm.



Untitled
2017

Ink on paper
29 x 21 cm.

Robi Walters

“There’s no sugar coating it; I had a very difficult start in life. My path could have gone in a very different direction. The choice to anchor myself in positivity has changed my life. The transcendent and transformative power of conscious optimism is one of the most potent forces in the universe. This current runs through my work and my life.”

Robi Walters

A Rougher Version (Extinct Jamaican Macaw)

2017

Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood

183 x 92 cm.



Are We All Equal? 2013 (Banana Boat no.4)

2013

Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood

96 x 166 cm.

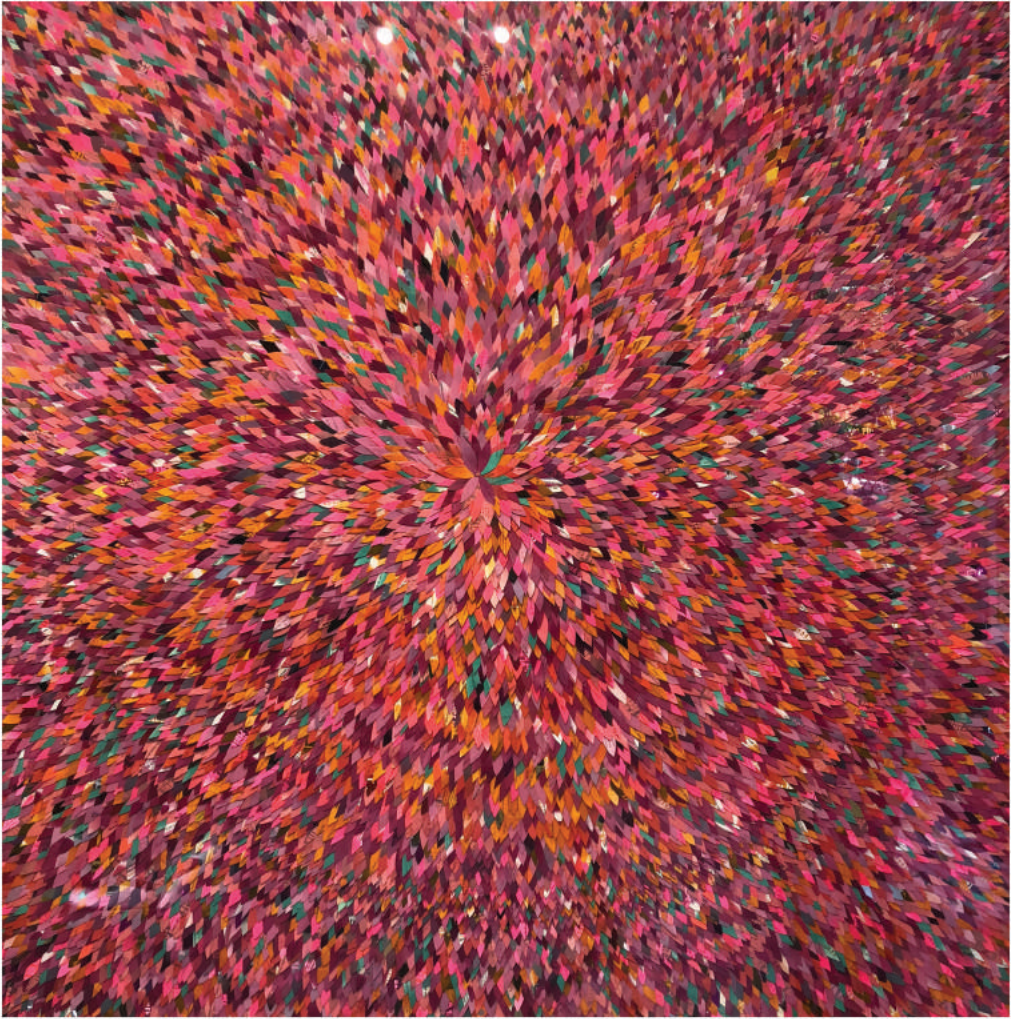


Can This Be Love

2017

Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood

122 x 122 cm.

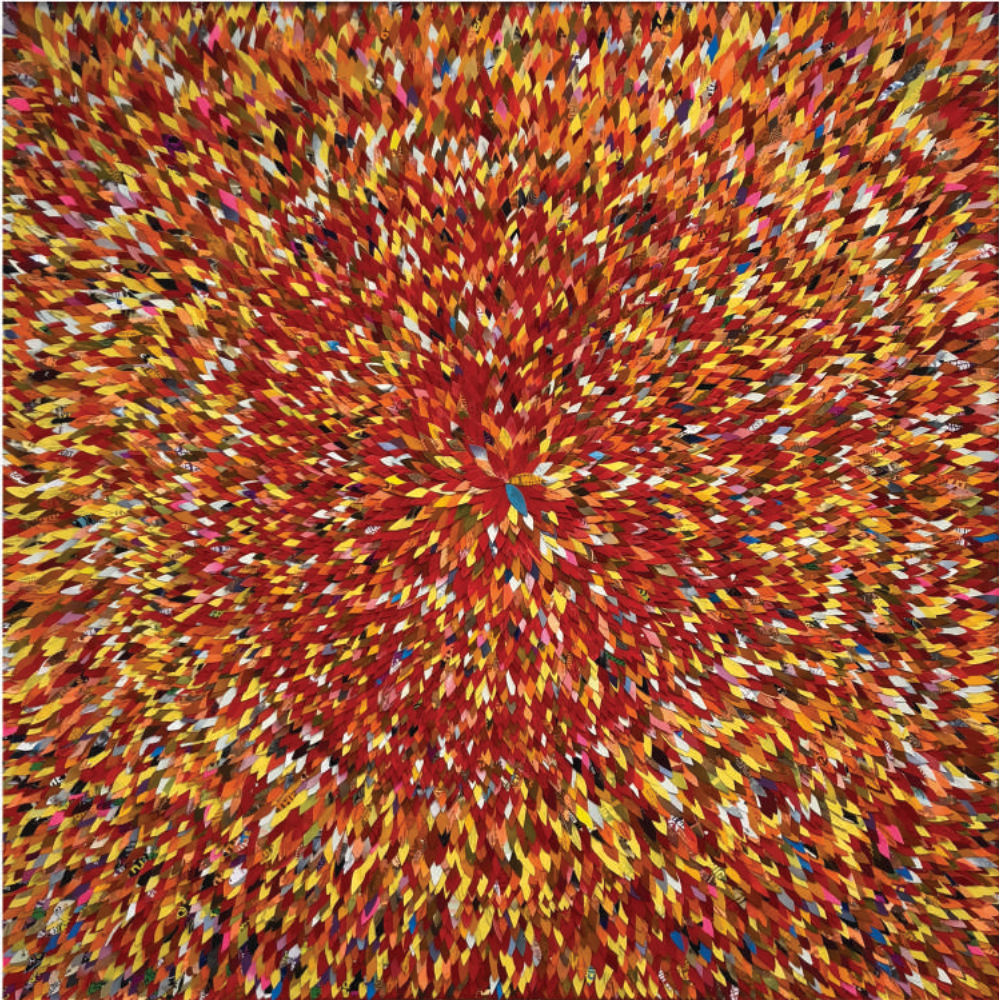


Let It Roll

2017

Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood

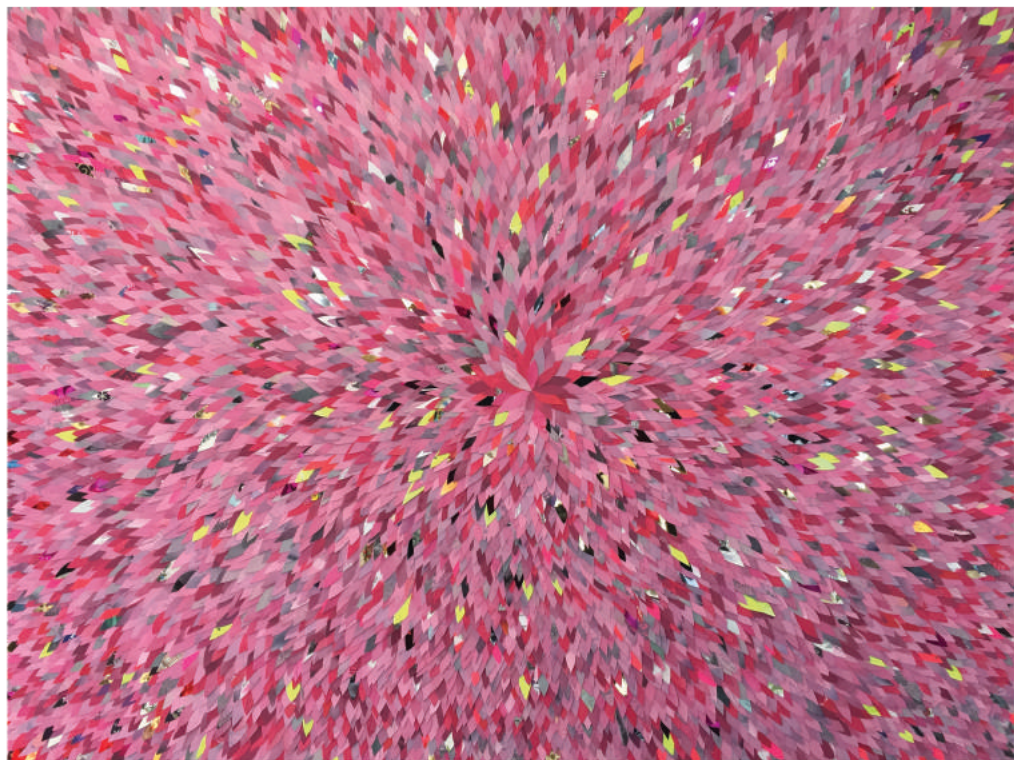
122 x 122 cm.



I'll Be Your Friend

2017

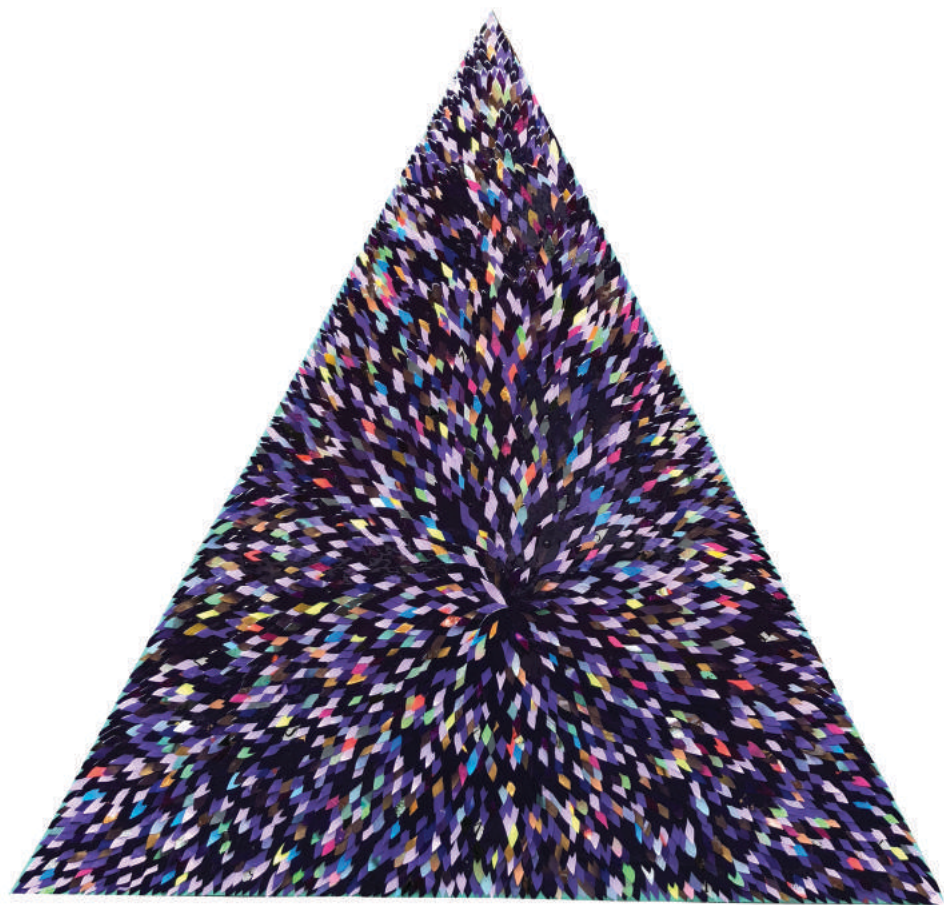
Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood,
92 x 60 cm.



Freee

2018

Recyled card, spray paint, miri card, glue on plywood, resin
122 x 120 cm.

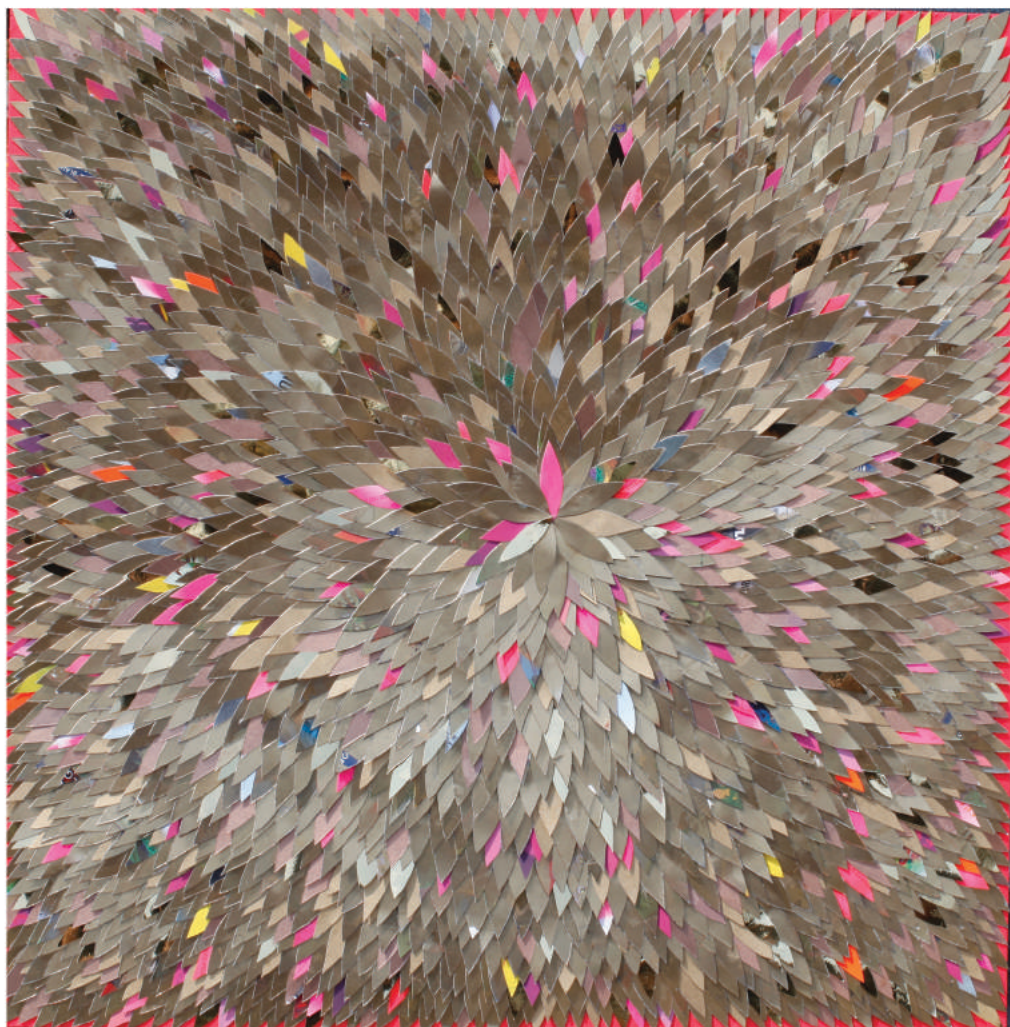


Like We Used To

2017

Recycled card, miri card, spray paint, glue on plywood

61 x 61 cm.

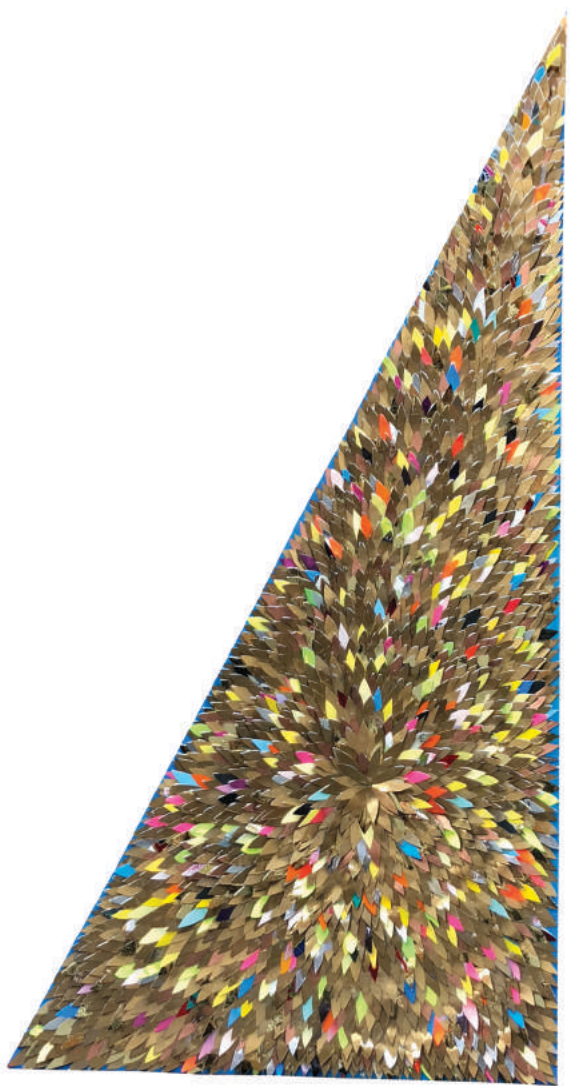


The Games We Play

2018

Recycled card, spray paint, miri card, glue on plywood, resin

122 x 60 cm.





We are Stardust 015 (Yellow)

2018

Acrylic spray paint and Posca pen on paper
40 x 30 cm.



We are Stardust 020 (Pink)

2018

Acrylic spray paint and Posca pen on paper

40 x 30 cm



We are Stardust 041 (Blue)

2018

Acrylic spray paint and Posca pen on paper

40 x 30 cm



We are Stardust 053 (Black)

2018

Acrylic spray paint and Posca pen on paper

40 x 30 cm.

PRICE LIST

Adébayo Bolaji

<i>Her Majesty</i> , 2017	£8,000 ex. VAT
<i>Hero</i> , 2018	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Adura (Yoruba for prayer)</i> , 2018	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Untitled: Topless 01</i> , 2017	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Body of Pharoah</i> , 2017	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Consciousness</i> , 2018	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Flow</i> , 2018	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>Ideas and opinions</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT
<i>Discoveries</i> , 2018	£700 ex. VAT
<i>Selah</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT
<i>It Really Doesn't Matter</i> , 2018	£700 ex. VAT
<i>An Ethiopian King</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT
<i>The Philosopher</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT
<i>Head of Cleopatra</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT
<i>Untitled</i> , 2017	£700 ex. VAT

Robi Walters

<i>A Rougher Version (Extinct Jamaican Macaw)</i> , 2017	£12,000 ex. VAT
<i>Are We All Equal? (Banana Boat no.4)</i> , 2013	£10,000 ex. VAT
<i>Can This Be Love</i> , 2017	£10,000 ex. VAT
<i>Let It Roll</i> , 2017	£10,000 ex. VAT
<i>I'll Be Your Friend</i> , 2017	£10,000 ex. VAT
<i>Freee</i> , 2018	£8,000 + ex. VAT
<i>Like We Used To</i> , 2017	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>The Games We Play</i> , 2018	£6,000 ex. VAT
<i>We are Stardust 015 (Yellow)</i> , 2017	£500 ex. VAT
<i>We are Stardust 020 (Pink)</i> , 2017	£500 ex. VAT
<i>We are Stardust 041 (Blue)</i> , 2017	£500 ex. VAT
<i>We are Stardust 053 (Black)</i> , 2017	£500 ex. VAT

Prices will be subject to VAT at 20%

For sales enquiries please contact serena@serenamorton.com

Serena Morton would like to thank the following people;

Mikei Hall

Vestalia Chilton & the *Team* at Kensington Art Weekend

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Femi Fem

Loretta Heywood

The BASSnote Collective

Garth Carter

Bernard Smyth

Gordon Quinlan

and *of course*, Adébayo Bolaji and Robi Walters



