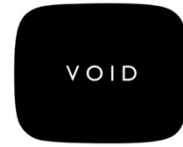


Patrick Street
Derry
BT48 7EL
Tel. No. +44 (0)28 7130 8080
hello@derryvoid.com
Reg. Charity No. XR69



21st January 2020

******* Press Release for Immediate Attention *******

Ima-Abasi Okon –

sur— [infinite Slippage: production of the r ~e ~a ~l as an intensive magnitude starting at zero-eight] —plus
at Void Gallery, Derry

1st February – 9 April 2020

Preview 1 February | 6 - 8:30pm

6pm Ima-Abasi Okon in conversation with Taylor LeMelle

Void Gallery is delighted to present a commission by London and Amsterdam based artist Ima-Abasi Okon - in partnership with the Chisenhale Gallery. Okon works with sculpture, sound and video to produce installations that explore exhibition-making as an exercise in syntax, adopting linguistic and grammatical structures within her installations as a way of complicating the construction of knowledge.

For the iteration of the commission, Okon delineates individual aspects of a previous vocabulary of symbols embedded in both hand-made and mass-produced materials, including film to explore representations of the body and the formation of taste, value and excess. A series of industrial air conditioners are adapted to become hosts for a new multi-channel sound piece comprising an existing audio track that has been slowed down. Acting as both a cooling system for the gallery and as a vehicle for the sound work, the fans perform at various speeds and durations.

In another gallery the ceiling has been partially lowered using a standardised modular system, often found within offices, retail spaces, waiting rooms and other administrative environments. The mass-produced ceiling tiles have been smeared with an invisible mixture of morphine, insulin, ultrasound gel and gold, imbuing the otherwise everyday objects with a personal, totemic charge.

Hand-crafted glass light shades, each adorned with an opulent design and filled with palm oil and Courvoisier VS Cognac, hang from the ceiling. With the introduction of these liquids, the lights emit a golden glow, further highlighting an atmospheric friction between Okon's production processes, pointing to the possibilities of magic as a sculptural act. Okon's ongoing use of oriented strand board, painted with varnish and framed with 'exotic woods' further explore how value is assigned to a given object or material through its categorisation, modes of display and origin.

Through the use of sound, scale and light and film, Okon's commission makes audible and palpable an excess, or surplus, that is often silenced or not seen and in doing so questions how to represent a body in its absence. Ima-Abasi Okon's practice across print, sculpture and moving image revolves around a preoccupation with knowledge, its production and the methods which language both regulates and distributes it. The result is work that often deals with how information is performed as an extension of knowledge.

This new commission was made in partnership with the Chisenhale Gallery, London.

Ima-Abasi Okon Bio

Ima-Abasi Okon lives and works between London and Amsterdam. Selected exhibitions

include: *Infinite Slippage: nonRepugnant Insolvencies T!-a!-r!-r!-y!-i!-n as Handclaps of M's Hard'Loved'Flesh [I'M irreducibly undone because] —Leanage-Complex-Dub*, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK, *The Weather Garden: Anne Hardy curates the Arts Council Collection*, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne (2019); *Sur— [MIX-USE COMMODITY] —plus*, Kingsgate Project Space, London; *Parables for the BLAZER: Mahalia's EXCISTENCEandEXISTENTS-HyPE fragrant stacking balm (306.HAL)*, Plaza Plaza, London; *13th Dak'Art Biennale*, Dakar, Senegal; *There's something in the conversation that is more interesting than the finality of (a title)*, The Showroom, London (all 2018); and *UNTITLED: Art on the Conditions of Our Time*, New Art Exchange, Nottingham (2017). In 2018, she was awarded both the Nigel Greenwood Research Prize and the Summer Residency at Hospitalfield, Scotland. She is currently participating in the residency programme at Rijksakademie voor beeldende kunsten (Academy for fine arts), Amsterdam.

Taylor LeMelle Bio

Taylor Le Melle is a curator, writer, co-publisher at PSS Press, co-director at not/nowhere. Recent writing has been published in Flash Art, Cura, and Art Monthly as well as in monograph publications on artists Helen Cammock (Whitechapel Gallery) and Sophia Al-Maria (Bookworks). Taylor was curator-in-residence at Wysing Arts Centre in 2019.

For more about Ima's work please visit www.imaokon.co.uk.

Photo credit: Odudu Okon

- For further information on Void Derry or to arrange a tour or interview, please contact: Tansy Cowley, Press & Marketing Coordinator, Void Gallery, Derry marketing@derryvoid.com / 028 7130 8080

Void Gallery:

- Void Gallery is a contemporary art space located in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland. With up to 5 exhibitions per year showing the work of established international and Irish artists, Void has created an international reputation for its wide-ranging and challenging exhibition programme. A key element to the gallery is the Engage programme, which places participation, engagement and learning at the heart of Void, making contemporary visual art accessible to visitors of all ages.
- Mission statement: Void is committed to exhibiting national and international artists, we commission and produce new works that allow for artists to expand their practice. An integral part of Void is the Engage Programme that engages with diverse audiences through the education and outreach programme.
- Void Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Void Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council Northern Ireland, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Enkalon Foundation, Ragdoll Foundation, and Garfield Weston Foundation.
- Each exhibition launch is kindly supported by Northbound Brewery.
- For the latest news and events follow @derryvoid on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram - #voidartgallery - or visit our website at www.derryvoid.com.
- Void Gallery, City Factory, Patrick Street, Derry-Londonderry, BT48 7EL.
028 71308080 / www.derryvoid.com.

***** ENDS *****