

OTP

Press Release and Artist Statements

OTP.03

23 Mar 2018 - 26 Mar 2018

Whitespace Gallery, Edinburgh (EH8 9HQ)

Wami Aluko

20-year-old Nigerian photographer, stylist, art-director and filmmaker Wami Aluko refers to herself as a “Visual Story-Teller”. A student of economics and philosophy her conceptual art is informed by the cultural structures that link people in society. Music plays an important role in understanding much of Aluko’s output.

The artist cites the general lack of BME representation in the mainstream media and more specifically the lack of representation of Nigerian people as a motivation to create.

“I use the phrase , ‘unity admits diversity’ a lot , as I feel individuality is something that should be celebrated and embraced in society. That is why one of my aims as a creative is to expand people’s limited view on Nigerians and black people in general.”

Ladina Brunner

Exposed to the art and design worlds from a young age, Ladina Brunner has developed a passion for both disciplines, experimenting with different mediums all her life; she now studies product design at the University of Edinburgh.

Heavily influenced by memories of her upbringing on the subtropical island of Bermuda, Brunner’s dot work illustrations for OTP.03 largely focus on creatures of the sea combined with morbid imagery of skeletons, blurring the line between dark fantasy and reality.

Additionally, Brunner has contributed several sculptural works: “I have always been interested in the medium of sculpting; I find it fascinating to ex-

plore the beauty of the grotesque in my sculptures. My sculptures often depict elderly men that have been disfigured to symbolise the hardships that people experience throughout their lives.”

Kome Eleyae

20 years old and from London, Eleyae has produced works in a number of different genres and mediums working with ceramics, paint and printmaking, and writing poetry. After successful solo shows in London and Edinburgh, for OTP.03 Eleyae will exhibit typically striking and moody portraits in Impasto style, along with colourful screenprints and short poems.

Stating that connections between music, film and language drive him to create, Eleyae’s compositions are littered with references to iconic moments in literature and film. A depiction of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Myrtle plays a prominent role in his work for this exhibition. Additionally, Eleyae has produced a series of bright and colourful portraits inspired by the phscycadelic sounds and visuals of 1980’s Japanese jazz music. Other prominent influences include Shinichirō Watanabe’s anime cartoon ‘Cowboy Bebop’, David Lean’s ‘Dr Zhivago’ and the mind-bending work of Bridget Riley.

Freya Hodgkinson

Influenced by the saturated hues of Vlaminck, Hodgkinson’s artworks present individuals and landscapes through an experimental lens of dappled colour. Her portraits are exaggerated and non-naturalistic but remain true to form, drawing inspiration from the stylised expressionist tradition of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner.

Referencing her paintings of Osterley Park, an area of open grassland and sparse woodland on the outskirts of London, Hodgkinson remarks that:

“Osterley Park is in Isleworth, surrounded by suburbia. It is a series of open grasslands and yet within this there is a small watery woodland patch detached from footpaths. The scene I’ve painted could be from Devon or Norway and yet I sat with the sound of a motorway in earshot.”

The artist’s other works present “evening snapshots” of young women imbued with energy, emphasising “the patterns of their clothes and the walls that house them and know their stories”.

Hermione Read

Where is the line drawn between art and fashion? Currently a fashion design student at the University of Edinburgh, Read is fascinated with challenging

these barriers. Adopting a playful attitude in everything she creates, her output could be viewed as both artwork to be observed and statement-piece to be worn.

Read's contributions to OTP.03 represent a juicy amalgamation of bold colour, eccentric texture, expressive mark-making and Y2K tack. They subtly reminisce about childhood and often express her care-free outlook.

With her collection of "re-vamped" footwear, she aims to re-introduce excitement and vibrancy to recycled shoes. "No two pairs are the same, I want to foreground aspects of originality and personalisation."

Alongside these shoes Read displays a series of mixed-media paintings that explore imagery associated with memory, nostalgia and youthful imagination.

Bridget Simpson

A student of Politics and Economics, Simpson aims to reflect the complexities of international power relations in her paintings. In challenge to perspectives that focus solely on the distribution of power and the role of individuals, Simpson foregrounds the impact of international conflicts on the populations affected. In her work for OTP.03, the study of politics is conceptualised as the study of people, via depictions of gentrification in London, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the marginalisation of Native Canadian communities.

And so she feels that art is an accessible format to convey the world's complexities in a single moment.

"I have developed a curiosity for the world and its many contradictions. I want to condense all those complexities into a single moment. My art aims to show the obvious while asking spectators to look for an alternative perspective."

Hotz Clothing

Hotz Clothing is a new independent clothing brand created by Daniel Hotz. Combining elements of graphic design and embroidery with classic film stills, original drawings and rap lyrics, Hotz specialises in producing exclusive and high quality t-shirts, in short runs.

“I have some very exciting ideas for the future. You will be seeing more from this brand.”

Cornershop

The Cornershop is a small doodle-based clothing brand that prides itself on a friendly and cosy style. All garments are screen printed by the brand’s design team in their studio/ bedroom and are released in limited runs.

The Cornershop was started in 2014 by three art students at school in London, with the initial intention of making clothes that they would wear themselves. “This small form of practical procrastination has now developed into an ever-growing international community, filled with collaborating friends and artists alike.”

OTP 6x4 Shirts

A collaboration between friends Oscar Gilbert and Kit Marfleet, the 6x4 series marks a collection of unique t-shirts each printed with a different photographic image, intended to imitate the cheapest method of printing photos at Boots.