

AS SEEN BY ME

Roland Lawar & Anthony Laurencin

6 – 26 MAY 2022

STUDIO WEST is pleased to present 'As Seen By Me', a duo exhibition co-curated by gallery Director Caroline Boseley and Bolanle Tajudeen, founder of Black Blossoms, which showcases contemporary Black women and non-binary artists and the Black Blossoms School of Art and Culture, an online learning platform decolonising art education. The show brings together paintings and sculptures by two British artists Roland Lawar and Anthony Laurencin. The exhibition title, taken directly from Lawar's writing, speaks to the central themes of each artists' practice: perception, personal interpretation, lived experience, and materiality.

On the recommendation of Bolanle Tajudeen, STUDIO WEST became familiar with the striking work of Anthony Laurencin and is excited to introduce this noteworthy 'outsider artist' to London collectors and critics. Roland Lawar has received a number of public art commissions and exhibited widely outside of the city, STUDIO WEST is pleased to present a selection of his smaller works once again in a gallery context. Sculptor Roland Lawar has been creating abstract metal sculpture in animated, intertwined forms since 1984. Inspired by his African heritage and spending childhood hours in blacksmiths and carpenters in his hometown of Lagos, Nigeria, Lawar became deeply invested in the limitless potentialities of form and the capacity for material transformation. His work fuses child-like vitality with angular geometry – combining the logical and architectural with the playful and energetic. He incorporates found objects and casts from steel to bring together unique and distinctly contemporary forms reminiscent of British modernist sculptor Anthony Caro. Many works utilize reclaimed steel, breathing new life into 'waste' objects, through cleaning, molding, welding, and painting.

Anthony Laurencin's work is intrinsically rebellious; he creates bold, narrative-led paintings anchored in a strong self-referential style. Having begun his practice only a few years ago, Laurencin has no formal training, and as such, his artistic language is honest and unique. He works on unstretched canvas with multiple layers of acrylic paint, allowing his evolution of ideas to remain visible in the final piece. For this exhibition, some will hang like tapestries while others have been stretched into new forms. Much like Lawar, color is central to Laurencin's painting. Strong palettes

introduce a sense of vibrancy and urgency to the personal subject matter, scenes often drawn from everyday life.

As Seen By Me illuminates a fascinating inter-generational conversation between two artists creating in bold and defiant styles. The exhibition introduces a selection of exciting and previously unseen work to the London art market, inviting collectors, critics and viewers into a dynamic space of interpretation and consideration.

ABOUT STUDIO WEST

STUDIO WEST is an art gallery in Notting Hill founded in 2021 by curator Caroline Boseley. Its annual exhibition and events programme features the work of the UK's most exciting emerging and newly established artists. It endeavours to fully support the artists it works with through mentorship, hosting opportunities, network building and knowledge sharing, nurturing their growth and helping them to build sustained professional careers without requiring exclusive representation. For collectors, it offers the opportunity to learn more about London's vibrant emerging art scene and purchase artwork made by incredibly promising talents.

Since inception, STUDIO WEST's values have remained the same. It aims to engage fully and authentically with the local community, create a comfortable and welcoming space for all visitors, encourage investment in contemporary art created by emerging and newly established artists and, most importantly, always prioritise the needs of the artists' it works with.

The gallery opened in November 2021 with a duo show by Victoria Cantons and Xu Yang and has since hosted multiple group exhibitions, including 'The Reality in Whytch You Create', 'Fancy a Bite?', 'GROUNDWORK', 'SKIN DEEP' and 'The Angel in the House', and three solo shows with Karolina Albricht, Lydia Makin and Brynley Odu Davies respectively. The gallery runs an annual Open Call Exhibition and Art Prize titled 'NOW Introducing' that invites applications from any artist currently studying on or recently graduated from a London based BA, MA or alternative study programme.

STUDIO WEST is becoming known for thoughtful concept-driven exhibitions, authentic community engagement, and offering comprehensive support to London's emerging artists.

STUDIO WEST

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