



Tiwani Promotions Ltd
Registered in England and
Wales no. 07646352
VAT Reg. No. GB129254217

Thierry Oussou

Timelines

22 June 2018 - 25 August 2018

Tiwani Contemporary is pleased to present *Timelines* – a solo exhibition by Thierry Oussou, who is now represented by Tiwani Contemporary. *Timelines* is his first solo show at the gallery and in the UK. In his pictorial work, Oussou reflects on the relationship between past and present, and envisions how painting can function as a repository for culture. The large works on paper presented in this exhibition illustrate the artist's on-going interest in mining the past (languages, traditions and objects) for inspiration.

Oussou paints exclusively on black paper and favours large-scale formats. The paintings showcase his distinctively gestural style with drips, scratches, splatters and calligraphic marks. Distorted figures, faces, objects and symbols float freely against the dark background of the paper. Much of the work in this exhibition was inspired by drawings and scriptures Oussou observed in his immediate environment, such as charcoal wall doodles made by playing children in his hometown of Allada, Benin; and chalk markings recording remittances on the walls of his grandfather's atelier. Oussou is interested in commonplace, everyday life drawings – the kind that is barely noticeable yet ubiquitous, and highlights drawing's nature as a universal human endeavour, a shared visual language of expression.

The artist cultivates a keen interest in the physical properties of paper, such as colour, shape and texture and often presents his pictorial works alongside sculptural installations using tree branches and twigs. Carefully arranged on the floor, they evoke the highly stylised and visual manifestations of cuneiform languages, and nod to the transformative process by which natural organic matter becomes artistic support.

About Thierry Oussou

Thierry Oussou was born in 1988 in Allada, Benin and is currently based in Amsterdam. He has participated in residencies at Arthouse Foundation, Lagos (2017) and Rijksakademie, Amsterdam (2015-2016). In 2016, Oussou was awarded the first Jacqueline van Tongeren Fellowship at Rijksakademie V. B. K. and was nominated for the Dutch Royal Award for Modern Painting. Recent exhibitions include: Berlin Biennale (2018); Cobra Museum, Amstelveen (2018); Stevenson, Johannesburg (2018); Garage Rotterdam, Rotterdam (2018); Cargo in Context, Amsterdam (2017); No Man's Art Gallery, Amsterdam (2016); Bradwolff Project Space, Amsterdam (2016); Witteveen Art Space, Amsterdam (2016); Stevenson, Cape Town (2015); SESC, Belenzinho, São Paulo (2015); Mòsso, Brussels (2014).