



Nuances, Accra no.7, 2012

Andrew Esiebo: *Pride*

10 January – 8 February 2014

Private View: Thursday, 9 January 2014, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tiwani Contemporary presents *Pride*, an exhibition by Nigerian photographer Andrew Esiebo on barbershops across 8 West African cities (Lagos, Cotonou, Accra, Abidjan, Monrovia, Bamako, Dakar and Nouakchott). The selection includes images that have never been exhibited and is Esiebo's first solo exhibition in London.

Pride is a photographic investigation of the relationship between hairstyles as well as individual and collective identities. The exhibition positions four bodies of work as interlocutors to explore lapses in current narratives about African males.

Urban Aesthetics (2012) explores the exterior landscapes of the barbershops, which 'marry the rhythms and soul of the street,' through hand painted shop signs with shiny colours, utensils and diverse male hair cuts. *Nuances* (2012) is a collection of similar symbols and iconography of global culture found within the interiors; *The Barbers* (2012) captures the men in their work environments and *Style* (2012) is a focus on social identity through hair styles in relation to their African and global blackness.

Using the language of the gallery's architecture, Esiebo will create a site-specific installation, especially for the exhibition. This installation proposes a new relationship between the works on view as well as the works in relation to the viewer, by oscillating the attention between the optical and physical experience.

Pride unveils the aesthetics of barbershops, its iconographies as well as its symbols to highlight the social, spiritual and mystical impact of hair in African society. Beyond the documentary aspect, *Pride* is a reflection of the coexistence of tradition and modernity.

About the artist

Andrew Esiebo, was born in Lagos, Nigeria and is a member of the Lagos' collective Black Box. His practice focuses on new creative territory and integrating multimedia practice with the investigations of themes such as sexuality, gender politics, popular culture, migration, religion and spirituality. Recent exhibitions include 'Before: Nigeria' Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, France (2013); 'Made in China', Institute Francias Mauritania, Nouakchott, Mauritania (2013); 'Na Go. Aesthetics of African Charismatic Power' Padova, Italy (2012); and 'The Progress of Love' of Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria (2012). His work has featured in biennials and festivals including the Biennale Cuvee, Linz, Austria (2013); Photo Quai Biennial in Paris, France (2011); Sao Paulo Biennials, Brazil (2010); Lagos Photo Festival (2010); the Chobi Mela V Photo Festival in Bangladesh (2009); African Photography Encounters in Mali (2009); the Guangzhou Triennial in Beijing, China (2008); and the Noorderlicht Photo Festival in Netherlands (2007). He is winner of 2011 Musée du Quai Branly Artistic creation prize and in 2010, he was selected for the ' Dream Team of Road to Twenty Ten' project, where 16 journalists and photographers were selected to provide alternative stories from the World Cup in South Africa. In 2008, Esiebo was a resident of Gasworks' International Fellowship Programme, London.

Tiwani Contemporary cordially invites you to join them at the opening on:
Thursday 9 January 2014 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

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Andrew Esiebo: *Pride* will run from 10 January – 8 February 2014 at Tiwani Contemporary

Notes to Editors

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Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday; 11am -6pm; Saturday 12pm – 5pm

Tiwani Contemporary, founded in 2011 and based in the heart of the Fitzrovia gallery district, focuses on contemporary artists from Africa, including Nigeria, its diaspora, as well as from the Global South. The gallery's aim is to present the works of emerging and established artists through solo, group and thematic exhibitions to a London institutional, corporate and collector base. In addition to its commercial activities, Tiwani Contemporary presents Art Connect, a dynamic and innovative public programme of events, panel discussions and curated projects within the gallery space as well as in collaboration with other partners in London and across the UK. The programme is developed in collaboration with The Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos and generously supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation.