

Tiwani Contemporary
Registered in England and
Wales no. 07646352

16 Little Portland Street
London W1W 8BP
tel. +44 (0) 20 7631 3808
www.tiwani.co.uk

Barbara Walker As Seen

On view: Friday, 1 February 2013 – Saturday, 23 March 2013

Tiwani Contemporary is pleased to present *As Seen*, Barbara Walker's first major solo show in London. This exhibition will present new large-scale drawings as well as existing work depicting 'unidentifiable' males. Executed with charcoal and graphite, these portraits raise questions about societal constructs and examine how identity has come to be understood as an accumulation of images and cultural representations. *As Seen* captures nuances of Walker's practice in the way she selects, interrogates and scrutinizes anonymous male identities in her native city of Birmingham and as well as abroad. Walker's work is largely informed by her observations of life in urban landscapes and her commitment to giving voice to the anonymous young men she observes, as seen in *Dinkies*, 2012, - a Soweto born visual artist that Walker met in 2008 whilst on residency at leading visual arts organisation The Bag Factory, in Johannesburg.

Walker's portraits indirectly reference writer Malcolm Bernard's book *Fashion as Communication*, in which he asserts that "fashion and clothing are ways in which inequalities of social and economic status are made to appear right and legitimate and therefore acceptable." Using clothing and hairstyles of black males as her starting point, this ongoing body of work allows the viewer to consider alternate spheres in which identities are formed.

Her work is also of a personal nature and shaped by her own experiences with raising her son Solomon. *As Seen* also includes works from the series titled *Louder Than Words*. The artwork *My Song*, 2006 is inspired by the stop and search procedures experienced by her son by the West Midlands Police.

Working primarily in drawing and painting, Barbara Walker's practice touches on class and themes of representation, power and belonging; exploring how social and political realities manifest through cultural praxis and underpin the contemporary society around us.

About the Artist:

Barbara Walker studied at the University of Central England in the 1990s, gaining a first class honors degree in Art and Design. Her work has been included in a number of international exhibitions and she has also presented solo national shows of her drawings and paintings. Recent exhibitions include: Deptford X, London (2012) Fehily Contemporary, Melbourne (2012), The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall (2011), New Art Exchange, Nottingham (2010) East International 09, Norwich (2009), Vane Contemporary, Newcastle upon Tyne (2009), The Bag Factory, Johannesburg (2008), Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham (2008), Unit 2 Gallery, Metropolitan University, London (2006). Her work is in private collections: Birmingham Collective, UK, The Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK and in several private collections in South Africa, UK and the US. Barbara Walker lives in Birmingham.

Tiwani Contemporary

Tiwani Contemporary will focus principally on contemporary artists from Nigeria, from across Africa and its Diaspora as well from the Global South. The gallery's aim is to present the works of emerging and established artists to a London institutional, corporate and private collector base. In addition to its commercial activities, Tiwani Contemporary intends to present a dynamic and innovative public programme that will include publications, talks, panel discussions, curated projects and events within the gallery space as well as in collaboration with other partners in London and across the UK.

