

**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
RICHARD AYODEJI IKHIDE: OSMOSIS
30 MAY – 7 JULY 2019**



Richard Ayodeji Ikhide, *Microcosm 1*, 2018
Acrylic ink on paper, 28.5 × 38 cm. Courtesy the artist

Zabludowicz Collection is pleased to present *Osmosis*, an exhibition by Richard Ayodeji Ikhide. Featuring a selection of new drawings, paintings in watercolour and oil, and small sculptures, the exhibition foregrounds Ikhide's attempt to create a personal mythology, one that is deeply informed by the close study of images and objects from the past, and his response to the psychological charge they carry.

Drawing as a continual act of recording and thinking is fundamental to Ikhide's practice. Included in the exhibition are examples of his sketchbooks – compendiums of images that he refers to as his 'books of spells'. Ikhide's pictures weave together depictions of artefacts encountered in museums, books and online archives with vibrant observations made from life.

The importance of a connecting iconology echoing across different historical moments and geographic locations in human culture is a key concern of Ikhide's. Forms and compositional structures from Ancient Egypt and West Africa, Indian miniature paintings, and Renaissance and European masters such as El Greco and Rembrandt combine with influences from more contemporary figures, such as Jean 'Moebius' Giraud (1938–2012), the graphic artist who provided images for cult comic titles such as *Heavy Metal*.

The newly imagined scenarios Ikhide produces are set in what he terms a 'future-past'. Populating these spaces are multiple figures – sometimes in groups, sometimes in isolation as a single subject: children, adolescents, mothers, kings, queens and perhaps even deities. He identifies all the figures he draws as fantastical self-portraits of sorts, exceeding the limits of his regular persona as Richard Ayodeji Ikhide. Reflecting an interest in Carl Jung's idea of the coexistence of the feminine and masculine within the same body, and informed by his own experience of growing up in a supportive matriarchal family, Ikhide's characters are often androgynous. His complex and enigmatic work takes on the challenge of manifesting intangible and open-ended ideas in a tangible, material form.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Ayodeji Ikhide (b. 1991, Nigeria, lives and works in London) completed a BA (Hons) in Textile Design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, followed by a postgraduate diploma at the Royal Drawing School, London. His exhibitions include *Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018*, John Moores University, Liverpool, and South London Gallery, London, 2018; *Best of Drawing Year 2017*, Christies, London, 2017, and *Obscurity*, Somewhere, London, 2015.

Zabludowicz Collection Invites: Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

The Collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day, and it is in constant development. Since 2006, the Collection has been directed by Elizabeth Neilson. In 2007 the Collection opened its main space in London, in a 19th-century former Methodist chapel, where it has worked with artists and curators to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

For any press enquiries please contact:

Francesca May Meale, Sutton PR
+44 (0)20 7183 3577

cesca@suttonpr.com

VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday,
12–6pm or by appointment

Café, Library and Shop

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.
shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

Address:

176 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3PT
+44 (0)207 428 8940

Transport (TFL stations):

Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West

info@zabludowiczcollection.com

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