

PearlLam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries debuts at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair 2024 in London with solo exhibition *Terra Mater* by Nigerian artist Alimi Adewale

Stand W19

VIP Preview	Thursday, 10 October, 11am–7pm
Public Hours	Friday, 11 October, 11am–7pm Saturday, 12 October, 11am–7pm Sunday, 13 October, 11am–6pm
Venue	Somerset House, The Strand, London, WC2R 1LA

London—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to announce its inaugural participation at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair 2024 in London from 10–13 October with a solo exhibition of new works by Nigerian artist Alimi Adewale, titled *Terra Mater*. Presenting 12 new tapestry works and 10 new sculptures, *Terra Mater* is a multifaceted body of work that explores the relationship between humanity and nature. The work highlights Earth as a nurturing force, emphasising our deep connection with the planet.

Adewale, born in Lagos, Nigeria, combines painting, sculpture, and installation to explore urban issues and the lives of everyday people in cities. Adewale comments, “*Terra Mater* is a cohesive exploration of the relationships between humanity and the earth. Through raw and expressive paintings, and sculptural forms, I invite viewers to reflect on our place within the natural world and the emotional landscapes that shape our understanding of self.”

The portraits in *Terra Mater* reveal the deep and soulful connection between humans and their environment. Rendered in an expressionist style with exaggerated, distorted features convey raw emotion and psychological depth. The landscapes, on the other hand, are dynamic and lively, mirroring humanity’s shifting relationship with nature. The sculptures in this series are abstract manifestations of the themes explored in the portraits and landscapes, capturing the tactile and visceral qualities of earth itself and echoing the organic forms found in nature and connecting to themes of identity, transformation, and interconnectedness.

“We are delighted to be part of 1-54 London for the first time this year,” says Pearl Lam, founder of Pearl Lam Galleries. “Last year, on a trip to Lagos, I discovered the talent of Alimi Adewale. Desiring to share his work with a global audience, we invited him to be part of our gallery program and we represent him

globally. We're looking forward to showcasing his compelling works in London ahead of his solo exhibition at our Shanghai gallery next year."

About Alimi Adewale

Alimi Adewale was born in 1974 in Lagos, Nigeria. Although he studied mechanical engineering, he developed an interest in art by going to exhibitions. He furthered his extensive knowledge of art after graduating by attending various art workshops around the world.

Adewale uses the mediums of painting, sculpture and installation to explore urban issues and the lives of everyday people in cities. Some of his work examines the impact of excessive urbanisation, rapid modern development, and the growing global economy on society. His practice combines elements of minimalism and abstraction to evoke the dynamism and intensity of the cosmopolitan environment. Most of his work has a profusion of rich textures and, oftentimes, an uncommon sculptural finish, whether utilising photography and oil paint (*Owambe*, 2015) or thick lumps of oil mediums (*House of Assembly*, 2013).

The artist mines the endless possibilities of a particular material to introduce an additional dimension into the work: that of time. Imbued with their own mortality, his sculptures cultivate the experiential function of art compared to traditional African sculptures, creating an oeuvre that is distinctly current and as witty as it is macabre.





About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. Founded in 2005, the gallery plays a vital role in stimulating international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between the East and West.

Following a rigorous programme, Pearl Lam Galleries presents museum-quality exhibitions that reevaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice in Asia. With a thoughtfully balanced roster of Chinese and international artists, the gallery is strategic in its curation, positioning itself as an educator.

The gallery maintains spaces in Hong Kong and Shanghai. With a team of international staff, Pearl Lam Galleries' reach is global, having presentations at major international art fairs including Art Cologne, Art Basel, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

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