

SUMMER DREAMS CAN'T WAIT

Cornelius Annor | Kingsley Dzade | Isshaq Ismail | Jin Junjie

Sphephelo Mnguni | Deborah Segun | Kwaku Yaro

Exhibition dates 18 July–30 Aug, 2025 (Viewing by appointment only)
Please contact visit@70sqm.com or WeChat: _70squaremetres
Venue 70 Square Metres, G/F, 41 Hengshan Road, Shanghai, China

SHANGHAI—70 Square Metres is delighted to present *Summer Dreams Can't Wait*, a group exhibition by seven artists from China, Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa. The show captures the fleeting beauty of summer through themes of intimacy, impermanence, and silent exchanges that linger between dream and daylight—enhanced by soft lighting, summer mats, and a soundscape of whispering waves and the quiet rustle of summer clothing.

Cornelius Annor's figurative painting blends traditional Ghanaian textiles in *Me Yonko (My Friend)*, which offers a quiet contemplation on the friendship between two young men in elegant attire.

Kingsley Dzade explores food as a cultural narrative. *Can't Wait* depicts a man enjoying his meal while his watchful dog observes from beside the table. The scene hints that collective sharing is central to the values of Dzade's native Ghana.

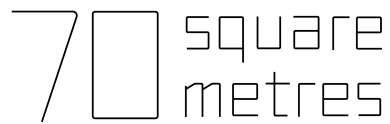
Isshaq Ismail's *Radiant Persona* series, rendered in charcoal, employs his signature “infantile semi-abstract” style, echoing childhood memories of the medium used in his home kitchen.

Jin Junjie uses a “scrape painting” technique inspired by *xieyi* traditions, prioritising emotional essence over form. Works such as *Like a Dream*, *Like an Illusion* and *A Village in the Distance* reveal his process of layering and carving acrylic paint, while *Women Sunbathing on the Beach*, inspired by Picasso's sketches, reduces figures to clean, minimalist lines.

Sphephelo Mnguni's *Izimpende: The Roots* traces the tensions between traditional African culture and contemporary life, as he paints a goat standing in a sunlit yard next to a modern setting.

Deborah Segun's *Soaking It All In* features fragmented female silhouettes emerging from washes of colour like midday mirages with their forms hinting at perpetual rebirth and reflection.

Kwaku Yaro, a self-taught mixed-media artist, weaves Ghanaian cultural narratives with subtle Chinese motifs inspired by his time as an artist-in-residence in Shanghai. His three works using repurposed materials—takeaway bags, iconic “Ghana Must Go” bags, and burlap—are layered on top of African nylon mats and Chinese summer rattan mats.



About 70 Square Metres

70 Square Metres is a new gallery space in Shanghai by gallerist Pearl Lam that houses artist residency programmes and provides an opportunity for emerging non-residency artists to exhibit their work. Located in the historic former French Concession, the new space represents Lam's ongoing dedication to nurturing creativity and promoting underrepresented voices while fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. The residency programme underscores the gallerist's ongoing commitment to strengthening connections between the East and West, as well as other areas of the world such as Africa. Lam believes that art transcends borders with its power to communicate with people of all cultures and nations.

Pearl Lam, Founder of 70 Square Metres, says, "By welcoming artists from various countries, disciplines, and stages in their careers, we create a vibrant environment where ideas and different perspectives flourish. This initiative not only enriches our community but also contributes to the broader cultural landscape. We provide residents with the time, space, and resources they need to dive deeply into their work, explore new mediums, and create innovative and expressive works."

Follow 70 Square Metres



70 Square Metres



70SQM



70SQM



@70_squaremetres



@70 Square Metres

Press Enquiries

Asia:

Charmaine Chan / Associate Director, PR & Marketing
charmaine@pearllamgalleries.com

China:

Liesl Cheng / Director, 70 Square Metres
liesl@70sqm.com

UK, USA and Rest of the World:

Benji Prescott / Scott & Co
benji@scott-andco.com