

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sakhile&Me presents solo exhibition of new works by Adelaide Damoah

Radical Joy is the artist's first solo exhibition outside the UK.

December 2, 2021

Frankfurt/Main, Germany – Sakhile&Me is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Adelaide Damoah outside the United Kingdom. Titled “Radical Joy,” the exhibition opens on 2 December 2021 and runs until 29 January 2021.

British-Ghanaian artist Adelaide Damoah works at the intersection of painting and performance within the context of colonialism, identity, sexuality and spirituality. Her practice involves using her body as a “living paintbrush” to paint or print onto various surfaces. Initially inspired by a desire to subvert Yves Klein’s “Anthropometries,” in which he directed a group of women to cover their nude bodies in his signature Blue paint and then imprint themselves on white paper, Damoah prints her body onto surfaces, thereby remixing Klein’s original performance through her own identity and encouraging discussion about female representation, feminism, sexual stereotypes and art history.

In “Radical Joy,” Adelaide Damoah extends her body print work into a playful and thoroughly explorative space, plunging into the realm of both sensory and sensual expression. The exhibition includes works on paper and on canvas as well as a triptych on wooden boards, each work being adorned with illuminated pigments peering out of blackness, soft and muted in parts and starkly sharp and vibrant in others. The works are layered in multiple soaks of dye and raw pigment and the compositions collectively reveal a sweeping release, mirroring Damoah’s conscious decision to rest and heal her mind by immersing herself in color.

Until 2020, the focus in Damoah’s art making was to direct her curiosity towards investigative practices, allowing herself to delve into culturally significant social and historical issues, such as the continual consequences of the epistemic violence of colonialism and intersectional feminism. As a consequence, much of the artist’s art making - both in terms of her performance and studio work - is by its very nature dark and heavy, even if the end result is aesthetically pleasing. This is apparent in the look and feel of the work and in the often heavy atmosphere of some of Damoah’s performances.

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"Radical Joy" introduces another approach in the artist's practice, diverting from her usual reds, blues and golds as she meditates on poetry, writing and music. She indulges in a space of play and sensuality, reveling in florescent pinks, yellows, purples and blues. In Damoah's words, "I made a conscious decision to rest and heal my mind by immersing myself in color. Color, process and poetry became a means of escape into my inner world and I began making very different body print works to my usual in that my entire colour palette changed drastically from black, gold, red, blue and white. I became obsessed with hot pink, ultramarine and cobalt blue, fluorescent and deep purple, yellow and orange."

Adelaide Damoah cites Judy Chicago, Jean-Michel Basquiat, David Hammons, Yves Klein, Sokari Douglas Camp, Rachel Ara and Ana Mendieta among her main influences. She is a founding member of the Black British Female Artists (BBFA) Collective and the Intersectional Feminist Art (InFems) Collective. Damoah currently is an academician at the Royal West of England Academy and lives in London, UK.

About the gallery

Sakhile&Me is a contemporary art gallery and research space based in Frankfurt, Germany. Founded in 2018 by Sakhile Matlhare and Daniel Hagemeyer, Sakhile&Me works with both young and established international artists, curators, and researchers and intentionally prioritizes the African continent and its diasporas with the goal of drawing attention to contextual specificity in and through art – in content, artistic medium, and genre. Sakhile holds a doctoral degree in Sociology from Northwestern University and wrote her dissertation on how contemporary artists work alongside art curators, historians, gallerists and other experts in the gatekeeping process within and beyond the rubric of contemporary African art. Daniel holds a Master's degree in Communications from the University of Sydney. The gallery is committed to building a strong art program that invests in its artists' development and encourages audiences to come to a deeper appreciation and understanding of their work.

Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm; by appointment.

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Image Material

Adelaide Damoah. 2019. Portrait. **File:** <https://www.sakhileandme.com/img/exhibitions/adelaide-damoah-radical-joy-2021/adelaide-damoah-large.jpg> **Caption:** Adelaide Damoah

Adelaide Damoah. *The pain took me to another place with the pleasure and it was a magical beautiful creative womb space*. 2021. Pigment on canvas. 120x183cm. **File:** <https://www.sakhileandme.com/img/artists/adelaide-damoah/adelaide-damoah-the-pain-took-me-to-another-place-with-the-pleasure-and-it-was-a-magical-beautiful-creative-womb-space-large.jpg> **Caption:** Adelaide Damoah: The pain took me to another place with the pleasure and it was a magical beautiful creative womb space (2021).

Adelaide Damoah. *Softly, gently, slowly*. 2021. Pigment and ink on hand made khadi paper. 83x198cm. **File:** <https://www.sakhileandme.com/img/artists/adelaide-damoah/adelaide-damoah-softly-gently-slowly-large.jpg> **Caption:** Adelaide Damoah: Softly, gently, slowly (2021).

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