

CHRISTIE'S

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SAY IT LOUD: VISIONARIES OF SELF SECOND ITERATION OF SAY IT LOUD SERIES CELEBRATING THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL BLACK ARTISTS



JOHNSON EZIEFULA (B. 1998)

Gloria's Trip to Paris
acrylic and charcoal on canvas
44 3/4 x 35 1/2 in.
Executed in 2021

NEW YORK – Christie's, in partnership with visionary curator Destinee Ross-Sutton, is proud to announce the second edition of **Say It Loud: Visionaries of Self** from August 5-19. The exhibition will also be accompanied by a robust schedule of educational programming including a compensated course on business skills for artists hosted by Christie's Education. In continuing the *Say it Loud* exhibition series, Christie's aims to provide a necessary and ongoing global platform for the amplification and celebration of individual Black artists' distinct perspectives, narratives and lenses.

This year, **Say It Loud: Visionaries of Self** will feature 32 works to be presented in an online auction format, complemented by an exhibition at Christie's New York galleries, with 100% of proceeds going directly to the artists and their representatives. A portion of remitted proceeds will go toward funding the BLACK ARTIST COLLECTIVE, a foundation founded by co-curator Destinee Ross-Sutton to help promote and support in particular young and emerging African and LGBTQ+ artists of color. This next iteration showcases an exceptional international mix of returning talent — **Nelson Makamo, Khari Turner, Joshua Michael Adokuru, Isshaq Ismail, and The Love Child** — alongside a new selection of 17 emerging and established mid-career artists such as **Gherdai Hassell, Sarah Dahir, Hebru Brantley** and acclaimed artist **Zanele Muholi**. Consisting of predominantly figural works, this tightly-curated grouping unites a rich diversity of individual

voices, creative practices, and a myriad of cultural and social experiences through stimulating renderings of the human form.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by a robust schedule of educational programming including a compensated course on business skills for artists hosted by Christie's Education.

Among the highlights of the exhibit is **David 'Mr. Starcity' White**, an American multidisciplinary visual artist whose work spans a diverse range of media. As an advocate of emotional well-being and mental health awareness, Mr. Starcity channels the healing power of art to uplift spirits and inspire positive change. The work presented in this exhibition, *A Lucky Man* is a sculpturally textured work that is both vibrant and rough — it is intended to bring joy, and encourage viewers to show appreciation and affection to one another, but also to serve as a metaphor for the difficult environment from where the subject may have come.

Below the scratched surface of the subject's face is an almost imperceptible glimpse of colorful amoeba shaped, abstract patterns, giving the viewer insight into the world of those affected by trauma, mental illness and systemic stigmas, hinting at the notion that there is more to someone than what is superficially perceived. With an imbued sense of sympathy and understanding for others, viewers are encouraged to love and embrace one another, literally giving flowers in abundance — to man, or woman — as a gesture of love, completely void of romance or judgement.

Artist **Ronald Jackson** is represented in the sale with *On a Vintage Summer Day*. Jackson's work features individuals from his imagination, used to represent African-American ancestors, typically from the time of the great migration of Black Americans from the South (1900s-1970s). He reflects on contemporary issues through the lens of past experiences — archived from the stories that are passed down from previous generation.

Jackson is a self-taught artist who uses his practice as a means to process and understand the influences on his life and how they compel from within a greater sense of humanity towards others. In his portraits, subjects are masked as a way to disrupt the normal gaze upon an individual and to suggest an element of mystery — they entice the viewer's curiosity and leads them to explore more than an identity, but rather, a story.

The exhibition also features two works by **Johnson Eziefula** including *Gloria's Trip to Paris*, the first piece from his latest body of work, "Home away from Home." Delving into the relationship between migration and cultural hybridization, this series reveals how hybrid identities are born out of globalization. Gloria, the subject of the present work, is mentally present in Paris; she lays comfortably on a bed gazing out at the viewer, having just put down a French novel, Honoré de Balzac's *La Cousine Bette*. By highlighting the interrelationships between the subject's African origin, and her obvious interest in French and Western culture, Gloria exists in different cities and environments simultaneously. Eziefula's work beautifully captures how diverse and conflicting cultures can coexist harmoniously.

Eziefula specializes in drawings and paintings using various media including charcoal, acrylic and pastel on paper and canvas. His works balance and bridge the gap between reality and his imagination, while addressing the themes of cultural hybridity, Blackness, pop-culture, identity, personality and human psychology. He aims to depict his observations, personal encounters, and curiosities through the combinations of color, shapes, portraiture and symbolism. Eziefula views art as a coping mechanism and an instrument to awaken social consciousness and self-awareness in his quest to achieve his vision for a better world.

Christie's is committed to addressing systemic racism and discrimination in our society and creating a more diverse, socially engaged organization. It is our responsibility now and going forward to listen, understand, acknowledge, take action and celebrate the rich histories and the future promise that these artists represent. Throughout the past year, Christie's has continued to reflect and has consulted with external experts, and has engaged with the larger arts community through philanthropic and educational projects. We acknowledge there is still much work to be done, and will continue along the crucial journey towards creating permanent change — both here at Christie's and more broadly throughout the art world.

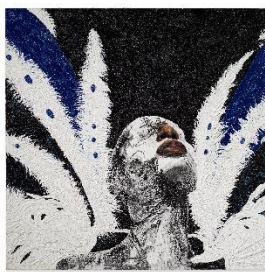
Destinee Ross-Sutton, Curator, commented: *"I am excited to share with you the second iteration of Say It Loud, my collaboration with Christie's highlighting voices in art from the African diaspora. Continuing the contextualization of this narrative allows us to explore the momentum created with last year's show — yet, with a focus on the artists' humanity and perspectives, elevating it beyond the potential "constraints" of the concept of Blackness (for better or for worse!). In turn, this view of Self centers the artist. As we do better in leveling the playing field, the importance of living artists being given the space to safely explore the full scope of their humanity in multiple aspects becomes paramount. Black Artists exist beyond and in some cases in spite of their Blackness."*

Celine Cunha, Founder and Co-Chairman of CSR Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Christie's, remarked: *"We're delighted to be launching the second iteration of Say It Loud in partnership with visionary curator Destinee Ross-Sutton, using the Christie's space and global reach to showcase the work of exceptional Black artists exploring individuality and perception. It was imperative that an uncensored platform be offered to optimize creative expression, and that the artists be empowered to frame their own representation. It was also vital that the artists benefit directly, so in Say It Loud the artists and their representatives are receiving 100% of the proceeds of their sales."*

SALE HIGHLIGHTS



NELSON MAKAMO (B. 1982)
Untitled
78 1/4 x 31 1/4 in.
charcoal and acrylic on canvas
Executed in 2019



KHARI TURNER (B. 1991)
Breathing is my occupation
60 x 60 in.
acrylic, oil, charcoal, sand, ocean water, Milwaukee river water, Lake Michigan water and water from southern Manhattan harbor on canvas
Executed in 2021



JON KEY (B. 1990)
The Man in the Violet Suit (Red No.1)
7 color screenprint with varnish on Somerset velvet white 300 gsm. Produced by Counter Studios, Margate.
29.9 x 59.9 in.
Executed in 2021
This is the sixth of twelve artist proofs aside from an edition of 75.



THEO MIGHTY (B. 1990)
Keep Your Hands Up and Hold On to That Joy
oil on canvas
39 3/4 x 29 3/4 in.
Painted in 2021



RONALD JACKSON (B. 1970)
On a Vintage Summer Day
oil on canvas
49 7/8 x 40 in.
Painted in 2021



MALIKE SIDIBE (B. 1997)
Please Stop the Violence, 2020
39 x 49 in.
C-print on Luster surface paper, printed 2021
Sheet: 39 x 49 in
This work is number four from an edition of ten.



DAVID 'MR. STARCITY' WHITE (B. 1979)
A Lucky Man
acrylic, charcoal, pen, soil and mixed media on canvas
42 x 31 7/8 in.
Executed in 2021



THE LOVE CHILD (B. 1989)
New York Romantics
acrylic and gold leaf on canvas
47 3/4 x 72 in.
Executed in 2021

Opening Reception

Christie's is pleased to welcome you to an opening reception for the second iteration of **Say It Loud: Visionaries of Self**, a tightly-curated exhibition of artworks by emerging and mid-career Black artists, co-curated by the acclaimed Ms. Destinee Ross-Sutton and Christie's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) group. Presenting a rich selection of predominantly figural works, **Say It Loud: Visionaries of Self** aims to amplify each artist's individual voice by highlighting and celebrating their practice, narrative, and creative vision.

We invite you to join us for a stimulating panel discussion moderated by Ms. Ross-Sutton focusing on urgent themes — equitable and inclusive approaches to art history and its teachings, and promoting equality in the market and institutional art world for working artists. The panel will take place Friday, August 6th at Rockefeller Center from 5 - 5:45 PM EST with a cocktail reception at the exhibition immediately following from 6 - 8 PM E.S.T. Tickets can be [reserved here](#).

PRESS IMAGES CAN BE [DOWNLOADED HERE](#)

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About the curator

Ms. Ross-Sutton is an International Curator, Artist Advocate, Art Advisor, and Gallerist. Ross-Sutton has curated and co-curated successful international group exhibitions at renowned institutions such as CFHILL, Stockholm, Sweden and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA). Ross-Sutton recently opened a namesake gallery in Soho, New York. Her inaugural show, BLACK VOICES: Friend of My Mind, is the largest exhibition of emerging and contemporary artists from the African Diaspora ever staged in the United States. Independently, she advises several private institutions and international collectors on acquisitions of contemporary art with a focus on African and African American art. In her curatorial projects, Ms. Ross-Sutton has repeatedly demonstrated her ability to unify diverse subjects and styles. Within her purview as artist manager, she acts as steward, guiding artists careers to fruition. In her eyes, "showing a wide range of opinions, voices, and countless expressions of beauty is essential in a world where compassion and connection is needed now more than ever" (D. Ross, quoted in exh. cat., Black Voices/Black Microcosm, 8 April-9 May 2020).

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: www.christies.com or by downloading Christie's apps. The COVID-related re-opening status of our global locations is available [here](#)

*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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