

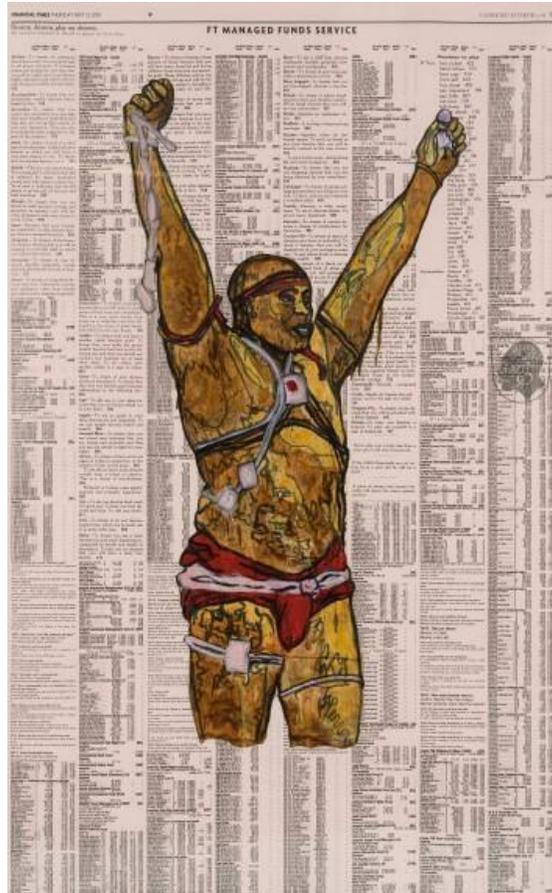
Gallery 1957

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Godfried Donkor

Works on Paper: 2003 - 2021

1st July – 30th July 2021 Gallery 1957, London



Godfried Donkor, *Olympians*, 2018, Oil and Acrylic on Paper, 86 x 212 cm. Courtesy the artist and Gallery 1957.

Gallery 1957, London is proud to present a solo presentation of Godfried Donkor's works on paper from 2003 - 2021, marking his first solo exhibition in the capital for 10 years.

This solo show is an amalgamation of over three decades of working in collage and multi-media composition and spans different themes the artist has explored throughout those years. *'The Madonna'* series, conceived and conceptualised while in residence in Trinidad and Tobago in 2003, marked an expansion of his exploration of the socio-political relationship between Africa and Europe to the Caribbean and her

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complex relationship with a dirty colonial past. *'The First Day Of The Yam Custom'* reimagines an early 19th century depiction of the annual Asante Yam festival in Kumasi, questioning how we interpret African realities based on European imagery and how we regard images of Africa more broadly. Created while in residence Dakar, Senegal - The *'Financial Times'* series, explores the commodification of the black body for entertainment in professional sports - This time taking a close look at the the history of wrestling in Senegal, which is regarded as a national sport. Donkor's choice of collage to explore these themes evokes the hybridity of these experiences of the subjugated within Africa and in her diaspora, representing their constitution of multiple facets and identities cut and pasted together by the artist.

About the artist

Godfried Donkor is a British-Ghanaian mixed-media artist interested in the socio-historical relationships of Africa and Europe. Born in Kumasi, Ghana in 1964, Donkor left at the age of eight, growing up between Spain and England before completing a BA in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins, London and an MA in African Art History at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

Donkor's work is included in international collections such as: Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Smithsonian Museum of African Art - Washington D.C; Studio Museum, Harlem; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Spanish Sports Council Collection; National Collection of Senegal; University of Helsinki; and National Gallery of Botswana.

Selected group and solo exhibitions include: David Adjaye: Making Memory, Design Museum, London (2019); *The First Day of the Yam Custom: 1817*, Gallery 1957, Accra (2017); *Afriques Capitales*, Parc de la Villette, Paris (2017); and *Still the Barbarians*, EVA International Ireland's Biennial, Limerick (2016).

He lives and works across London, UK and Accra, Ghana.

About Gallery 1957

Based in Accra, with a London outpost opened in 2020, Gallery 1957 has a curatorial focus on West Africa. Presenting a programme of exhibitions, installations and performances by the region's most significant artists, the gallery serves as a vital platform, promoting West Africa's presence within the art scene by hosting ambitious exhibitions, providing resources for residencies and participating in international art fairs. Founded by Marwan Zakhem in 2016, Gallery 1957 has evolved from over 15 years of private collecting. The gallery now hosts two spaces in Accra – one in the Kempinski

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Hotel and another in Galleria Mall – and a London outpost in Hyde Park Gate.

Artist: Godfried Donkor

Title: *Works on Paper: 2003 - 2021*

Dates: 1st July – 30th July 2021

Opening: 30th June, 2021 - 6pm

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