

PRESS RELEASE

Chiderah Bosah

A Solemn Chronicle of Believers

December 2 – January 5, 2022, Gallery III, Accra, Ghana



Chiderah Bosah, *Coco (A Multitude and One)*, 2022. Oil on canvas, 127 x 127cm / 50 x 50 in
Image courtesy of the artist and Gallery 1957.

Gallery 1957 is pleased to announce *A Solemn Chronicle of Believers*, a solo exhibition by Nigerian born artist, Chiderah Bosah. Following a four-month residency in Accra, this exhibition exudes simplified realism. The artist finds strength in capturing passing moments while surrendering to fate through resilience against adversity. *A Solemn Chronicle of Believers* continues through the 5th of January 2023.

A true millennial, Bosah's art speaks to the collective experience of the Nigerian youth against the backdrop of today. Across a series of muted yet powerful figurative paintings, the artist traverses

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a viewer through inner dialogue of faith and hope. The show's inspiration sparkled from the Oscar Wilde quote, "We Are All In The Gutter But Some Of Us Are Looking At The Stars' ' as emblematic of Bosah's desire to express communal aspirations.

In *A Solemn Chronicle of Believers*, Bosah investigates internal dialogues with the self through contemporary portraits that examine the human spirit, and how humanity is revealed externally in powerful and captivating expressions. Using a sophisticated palette of saturated yet calming hues, the artist creates quotidian images of people he sees daily in colourful dreamlike voids. With complex form and gesture that highlights repose and elegance, there is a palpable softness and nuance that appears in Bosah's work. In this series the artist deviates from his signature motif of broad white stripes that abstract the gestures of the lower body; this time exploring what it means to include the details that sometimes reveal the subject just as much and often-times more, than they take away. The artist dives deep to the self-affirming expressions of beauty, and adornment while grappling with the daily life of a young Nigerian person in response to the consequent pressure and violence in the country.

Bosah often paints his friends and takes full control of his subjects' gaze by depicting a direct and penetrating gaze. The power of the gaze in Bosah's portraiture works is so strong that it can affect viewers as deeply as if the subject of the portrait were actually staring back at them. He does this by painting his subjects in an intimate glare, which can feel as if we are intruding on a moment between the artist and subject, or between the subject and the recipient of the painting. In this case, this intrusion into the intimate is the exact purpose of this body of work. He draws us into a moment in which we might not otherwise participate in; he envelops the viewers in an intimacy that would not be normally possible. The artist wants us to understand the plight of his community while appreciating the journey towards believing everything will turn out okay.

About the Artist

(b.2000, Nigeria. Lives and works in Port Harcourt)

Chiderah Bosah is a self-taught contemporary visual artist whose flair for art began at a young age by replicating comic books using pencil drawings. Growing up in Enugu, the artist shares the gift of storytelling through powerful visual cues including sketching, photography, drawing and painting. Currently exploring oil on canvas as a medium, Borah's artistic practice spans across figurative representation, simplified realism and portraiture; as a means to depict the resilient lives of his community. The singularity in his style of painting is the pronounced use of muted hues which signify his niche.

Collective Reflections, his first group exhibition with the gallery took place in 2020 in Accra. Previous group exhibitions include *Liminality In An Infinite Space*, African Artists Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria (2020); *Stop, Listen!*, CFHill, Stockholm, Sweden (2021); *Emergence*, Christopher Moller, Cape Town, South Africa (2021); *Untangling The Perils That Tangle Us*, Koppel Projects, Kanbi Projects & Art Council, London, UK (2021); *Intersecting Identities*, Arushi Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2022) and *The Stories We Tell*, Chilli Art Project, London, UK (2022).

Bosah has participated in the following Art Fairs; 1-54 Art Fair, with Gallery 1957, New York, USA, (2021); ArtX Lagos, with African Arty, Lagos, Nigeria (2022); 1-54 Paris, with African Arty, Paris, France (2022); Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Christopher Moller, Cape Town, South Africa (2022). The artist completed a residency with Gallery 1957 in November, 2022 and has been written about in *Featured artists: African Artist on the Rise* on Artsy; *Collective Reflections: Contemporary African and Diasporic Expressions of a New Vanguard* on Something Curated and *Top 7 Exhibitions Showcasing African Art To Watch Out For In 2022* by Casild Art.

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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 three spaces in Accra – one in the Kempinski Hotel and two in the Galleria Mall – and a London outpost in Hyde Park Gate.

Artist: Chiderah Bosah

Title: *A Solemn Chronicle of Believers*

Dates: 2nd December 2022 – 5th January 2023

Opening Reception: 2nd December, 2022 - 6pm-9pm

Address: Gallery 1957, Accra, Gallery III
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