

# TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

## *A Conscious Relation: body/mind/movement*

Virginia Chihota, Alicia Henry, Joy Labinjo, Wura-Natasha Ogunji, Dawit L. Petros, Umar Rashid, and Leo Robinson

06 February - 22 March 2025



Tiwani Contemporary is pleased to launch its 2025 exhibition program with a group presentation featuring recent works by Virginia Chihota, Alicia Henry, Joy Labinjo, Wura-Natasha Ogunji, Dawit L. Petros, Umar Rashid, and Leo Robinson.

The exhibition features recent works by the artists ahead of their upcoming solo and group presentations, and commissions of new work this year. *A Conscious Relation: body/mind/movement* invites viewers to consider sovereignty not just as a political condition but also as a deeply embodied experience. The matter of sovereignty relates to the ways in which their bodies, histories, and cultural narratives are both shaped by and resist dominant societal structures. Whether through the negotiation of identity, the reclamation of heritage, or the embodied experiences of movement and displacement, the works in this exhibition engage with sovereignty as a complex and multi-dimensional concept.

In celebration of artist Alicia Henry, who passed away in October 2024, the exhibition features her signature modular wall-based sculptures including *Untitled (cluster)* (2019) and *Untitled* (2019-2020), largely figurative formations, crafted from hand-embroidered, stitched, and dyed fabrics, sometimes leather, felt, linen, hessian, wood, and card elements. Henry's work, which addresses identity, social relations, and kinship, is an essential part of the show's dialogue about the complexities of belonging and personal autonomy.

# TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

Upper Gallery: Virginia Chihota, Alicia Henry, Joy Labinjo, Wura-Natasha Ogunji

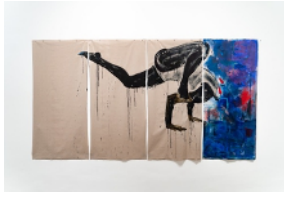
- Virginia Chihota's *Miganhu yodimbuka (Boundary lines have started breaking)*, 2022, is a large-scale serigraphic piece from *The Womb Refused To Be Told* series (2022), which engages with themes of spiritual and psychological resilience, featuring abstract representations of the artist's own lived experience and subconscious world.
- Wura-Natasha Ogunji's practice examines the impact of motion and mobility on the body and psyche, with her 2023 painting, *Keep Your Head In The Clouds* reflecting on freedom of movement through minimalism and embodied performance.
- Joy Labinjo's *Terra Firma I* (2022), part of the *Terra Firma* series, marks her first exploration of self-portraiture. The work addresses the cultural significance of the Black female nude and Labinjo's empowering assertion of autonomy through unapologetic depictions of her body in diverse, provocative poses.

Lower Gallery: Alicia Henry, Leo Robinson, Umar Rashid, Dawit L. Petros

- Leo Robinson's, *The Singularity (Portal Interior)* (2023) and *Mineral Unconscious* (2023), traces his exploration of myth, ritual, and journey through figurative imagery.
- Umar Rashid's painting, *Blackness can't live in three dimensions if it tried. Nero and the Harlem Knights enter the Equus Cosmica for real, this time* (2022) animates a futuristic scene with a cohort reckoning with the interwoven realities of the past, future and present time.
- Dawit L. Petros' photographic work, *Single Cube Formation No.2, Santa Barbara, CA* (2011) and the wall-sculpture *Strategic Withdrawal, Central Sector, 1900, Number 3* (2023), interrogate the relationship between African histories and European modernism. Petros engages critically with colonial legacies, cartographic representations, and the geopolitical complexities of the Horn of Africa.

# TIWANI CONTEMPORARY

List of works



Wura-Natasha Ogunji  
*Keep Your Head In The Clouds*, 2023  
Ink, acrylic on linen  
4 panels, double sided  
215.9 x 406.4 cm  
85 x 160 in  
(WNO 027)



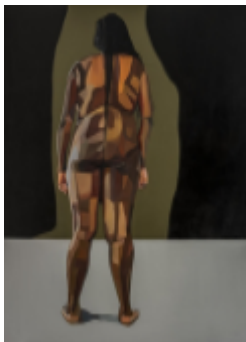
Leo Robinson  
*The Singularity (Portal Interior)*, 2023  
Digital print, watercolour. Felt tip, pencil, thermal printed photo, collage  
64.5 x 89.2 cm (framed)  
25 3/8 x 35 1/8 in (LRO 076)



Alicia Henry  
*Untitled (cluster)*, 2019  
Acrylic, graphite, charcoal, thread, paper, cardboard  
Variables  
(AHE 070)



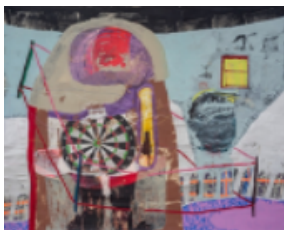
Leo Robinson  
*Mineral Unconscious*, 2023  
Watercolour, acrylic, pencil, coloured pencil, collage, thermal-printed photographs on paper  
64.5 x 89.2 cm (framed)  
25 3/8 x 35 1/8 in (LRO 077)



Joy Labinjo  
*Terra Firma I*, 2022  
Oil on canvas  
250 x 180 cm  
98 3/8 x 70 7/8 in (JLA 101)



Umar Rashid  
*Blackness can't live in three dimensions if it tried. Nero and the Harlem Knights enter the Equus Cosmica for real, this time.*, 2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
182.9 x 182.9 cm  
72 x 72 in (URA 055)



Virginia Chihota  
*Miganhu yodimbuka (Boundary lines have started breaking)*, 2022  
Serigraphy on linen canvas, Unique  
229 x 286 x 3 cm 90  
1/8 x 112 5/8 x 1 1/8 in (VCH 201)



Dawit L. Petros  
*Single Cube Formation No.2, Santa Barbara, CA*, 2011  
Archival digital print  
76.2 x 91.44 cm  
30 x 36 in  
Edition of 5 + 1AP (#2/5)  
(DPE 061)

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Alicia Henry  
*Untitled*, 2019-2020  
Mixed media (acrylic,  
dye, cotton, linen,  
thread and dye)  
250 x 110 cm  
98 3/8 x 43 1/4 in  
(AHE 011)



Dawit L. Petros  
*Strategic Withdrawal*,  
*Central Sector, 1900*,  
*Number 3*, 2023  
Stainless steel, mirror  
polish  
109.3 x 57.7 cm  
43 x 22 3/4 in  
Edition of 3 plus 1  
artist's proof (#1/3)  
(DPE 121)