

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dennis Osadebe Solo Booth at UNTITLED ART, Miami Beach
“Figures of Playful Rebellion” presented by Christopher Moller Gallery

Fair Dates: December 2 - 6, 2020
Online VIP Preview: Tuesday, December 1 at 11am EST



Dennis Osadebe, *Play Time War*, 2020, 44.4 x 30”,
Archival Pigment Inks and Acrylic on Canvas.

November 20, 2020 (New York, NY) - Christopher Moller Gallery is pleased to present a solo booth of works by Nigerian artist, Dennis Osadebe, for the 2020 virtual edition of UNTITLED, ART Miami Beach. The exhibition, entitled *Figures of a Playful Rebellion*, features six new mixed-media paintings and a bronze sculpture. This body of work explores how play can bring people together, challenge apathy and injustices in the world and use joy as an act of resistance. UNTITLED, ART Miami Beach will take place as an Online Viewing Room, designed by Artland, from December 2–6, 2020, with a VIP Preview on Tuesday, December 1 at 11am EST.

Known for his works that encourages people to rebrand tradition in a way that reflects the transforming world, Osadebe formed this series by deconstructing the power of play for the potential of our future. Osadebe’s practice is loaded with provocative surrealism, meaningful

symbolism, and playful humor. *Figures of a Playful Rebellion* asks what shifts could come from an adventurous showcase of beliefs, one that challenges feelings of apathy and hopelessness as its result.

Using flattened planes, minimalist geometric shapes, and bold colors, Osadebe introduces us to a cast of young characters, all of whom are performing different forms of joyful action, such as swinging, playing with toys, and standing on a chair. In the work, *Play Time War*, we see a quintessential boyhood scene; playing with an endless array of toy cars, planes, guns and books. The child is wearing a space helmet, which is an homage to Osadebe's Nigerian culture, as the wearing of a mask is believed to give transformative powers and accessibility to another dimension. The use of the mask and the work itself explores escapism; how it can be used as an act of rebellion against negativity. In *Figures of a Playful Rebellion*, we begin to understand play as a contrast to the tone of protest we have become accustomed to.

Osadebe utilises the raw, universality that the act of play occupies, being an apparatus that is accessible to all. The artist transports us back to our childhood to re-frame the power of this innate method of communication of play to think about real change, serving as a reminder that the future is worth playing for. UNTITLED, ART Miami Beach is available for viewing at: <https://untitledartfairs.com/miami-beach>

About Dennis Osadebe

Dennis Osadebe is a Nigerian mixed-media artist best known for his vibrant post-pop style. Osadebe's style is a unique blend of digital processes which he uses to create canvases that are subsequently layered with acrylic paint. With his characteristic use of flattened planes and bold colours, the artist creates what he refers to as a "NEO" visual style, one that is "modern, bright, expressive and provocative".

About Christopher Moller Gallery

Founded in 2007, Christopher Moller Gallery deals in Contemporary Art, specialising in art from the African continent. Located in Cape Town, South Africa, the gallery hosts regular exhibitions, and participates in both local and international art fairs. The gallery program features an emphasis on painting, but is also known for select presentations of sculpture and photography.

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