

ADA \ CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

*BETWEEN THE DOG AND THE WOLF*

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY CECE PHILIPS

15 July – 04 September 2022

Accra, Ghana

Cece Philips, a self-taught visual artist based in London, presents a selection of new canvas works inspired by *The Blue Hour*: the ambiguous time of day between dusk and dawn. *Between the Dog and the Wolf* explores the dichotomy between the known and unknown, real and unreal and the process of joining two polarizing notions which can momentarily disorient our senses.



Cece Philips, *Down by the river side*, 2022, oil on canvas, 40 Inches x 60 Inches  
Image courtesy the Artist and ADA\ contemporary art gallery

*Between the Dog and the Wolf* or *inter canem et lupum* is a literal translation of the French expression: *Entre Chien et Loup* – The Blue Hour. It is understood to be a magical, occasionally ominous time of day, where one cannot tell the difference between what they see and what they think they see.

Taking this notion of folklore and an altered state of consciousness, Philips encapsulates her own interpretations of ambiguity through enigmatic themes and visuals. The exhibition features mystical paintings of architecture and interiors, landscapes and objects seemingly absorbed into the dark tones of the background.

The emotive canvases not only focus on the individuals that dominate the paintings but explore basic natural phenomena such as light and darkness and metaphorical themes, amidst dreamy shades of yellows and blue hues prevalent in all her works. Viewers are confronted with evocative colours, moody images with a hint of lightheartedness and playfulness.

The oil paintings reflect her appreciation for the smooth effect and the rich color the pigment renders, and the freedom to recreate any surface or texture of her choice.

Philip's figures are inspired by archival photographs and materials which she uses as a point of departure to create reimagined narratives of anonymous persons. The artist's female figures are an attempt to communicate her own exploration on the meaning of womanhood, placing emphasis on attire, body language and colours. The characters display an inner strength, which draws viewers in, resulting in vivid and captivating storytelling. Through non-verbal signals, her figures, subtly point at comfort and fear, female rage, madness and internal emotions that are at the verge of bursting out from the canvas.

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## **ABOUT**

### **Cece Philips**

Following a degree in History, Cece Philips (b. 1996, London) did an art course in Florence before spending two years in the advertising industry. Leaving her job to pursue painting full time in Spring 2020, she had her debut solo exhibition I See in Colour at HOME by Ronan McKenzie in April 2021. Philips has been accepted to attend the Royal College of Art, London and will complete her Painting MA in 2023.

Placing her work in the intersection between real and imagined, Philips often uses archival writings and found historical photographs to inspire the figures she paints. Interweaving past and present to imagine these stories, Philips works predominantly in oil paint, exploring how both colour and negative space can be used to amplify these tales. The artist's current body of work explores the relationships between women and power, thinking about how expressions of influence have historically been depicted through cultural signifiers and body language, and how this can be reimagined.

### **ADA \ contemporary art gallery**

Based in Accra, Ghana, ADA \ contemporary art gallery specializes in the work of emerging artists across Africa and its diaspora. Established in 2020 by contemporary African art advisor Adora Mba, ADA is committed to nurturing Ghana and the continent's contemporary art community and to fostering its ties and influence amongst global audiences. Highlighting individual early career artistic practices, the gallery's program includes dedicated solo exhibitions; offsite projects and exhibitions; site-specific commissions; talks; creative partnerships and philanthropic activities with local actors; and international art fairs.

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