

**ADA CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY PRESENTS
IN HONOUR OF NWANYI MBAISE**

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY JOSEPH CHISOM BRIGHT

01 FEBRUARY – 26 MARCH 2023

ADA contemporary art gallery is pleased to present *In Honour of Nwanyi Mbaise* the debut solo exhibition by Nigerian artist JC Bright (b.1994).



J.C. Bright, *Nwanyi Mbaise's Money (I)*, 2021, Oil stick, oil pastel and acrylic on canvas

“For me, it is all about the colours. The colour is the form, it is the emotion, it is the guideline. It is about the subjective deduction upon encountering these primary shades and tones. It is about saying that I am painting with no structure, no configuration and that should be enough.”

- JC Bright

On view from 01 February 2023, Bright engages his viewers with large colourscapes, triggering aesthetic exuberance and enticing one to look beyond the canvas. Driven by momentary fascinations, Bright examines personal relationships and lived experiences through his linear applications of paint and texture within his compositions.

In Honour of Nwanyi Mbaise, is the collection of works from two new series - *Monuments in Honour of Nwanyi Mbaise* and *My Book of Colour Stories*. Bright plunges his practice into discovery, as he playfully manoeuvres within the depths of chromatism presenting his abstract paintings as shrines paying homage to the artist's relationship with his mother.

Each painting serves as an ode and testament to her upbringing that was deeply steeped in Catholicism and her profession as a nurse which naturally fed into his own identity formation. In these works, Bright rethinks traditional notions of religious symbolism and the connotation of the Christian Cross while honouring his matriarch and her life of service and sacrifice.

The second series *My Book of Colour Stories* discusses the pressures placed on African artists to be vocal promoters of their culture on the world stage. Arguably, artists from the West seem to have the creative freedom to succeed without necessarily imbuing deep meaning within their work. Bright uses this series as an emotional diary of his frustration of unequal expression and purposefully rebels against the global perception of what African art can and should look like.

With an education specialising in Art History and Painting as his grounding, Bright recalls his knowledge of the Neo-Plasticism era of Piet Mondrian and the Abstract Expressionists such as Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Franz Kline to implement a spontaneous and unconscious creative method of repetitive, irregular grids. Layering deep reds, blues, yellows and black hues, he engineers and manipulates the timeless balance of primary pigmentations.

In Honour of Nwanyi Mbaise is the artist's invitation to his audience to plummet into his world of colour without fear but merely appreciation for its existence.

Exhibition on view until 26 March 2023.

CONTACT:

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ABOUT JC BRIGHT:

Joseph Chisom “JC” Bright (b.1994) is an emerging contemporary artist born in Jos, Nigeria and raised in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Colour is Bright’s muse, it exists at the centre of his vibrant abstract paintings. With primary colours as his foundation, he creates malleable narratives, exploring themes within African Art History and Abstract Expressionism. He acquired a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts and Design from the University of Port Harcourt and is currently based in Ohio, USA pursuing a Masters in African Art History.

ABOUT ADA CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY:

ADA contemporary art gallery based in Accra, Ghana, specialises 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; philanthropic activities with local actors; and international art fairs.

ADA contemporary art gallery

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