



Press Release

Motunrayo Akinola: Knees Kiss Ground

Dates: 8 March – 9 June 2024

South London Gallery, Fire Station Gallery 4

The South London Gallery's 13th Postgraduate Artist in Residence, Motunrayo Akinola, presents *Knees Kiss Ground*, an exhibition of new work made during his six-month residency. The show draws upon his background of studying architecture to explore nostalgia, faith and belonging.

Motunrayo Akinola (b.1992) is a London-based artist who uses images of the home and everyday objects to explore comfort and belonging. He is interested in the function and materiality of these objects, and how they can trigger emotions and memories.

Akinola's interest in attitudes towards migration stems from his dual upbringing in London and Lagos, Nigeria. His research throughout his residency has delved into post-colonial power dynamics and the psychology of ownership. By noting subtle gaps in cultural knowledge, his work aims to come to a new understanding about the possession of space.

Akinola spent some time studying architecture before moving into art. He is interested in ideas around existing within different kinds of spaces. For this exhibition at the SLG, Akinola subverts the architectural features of the gallery. He has created an immersive installation constructed entirely from corrugated cardboard to replicate the exact dimensions of a shipping container and rearranged the gallery lights into a symbol of the cross for a work titled *Following White*.

Several light works will feature in the space, exploring the relationship between light and religious or spiritual rituals. These works also make reference to Biblical associations of light as a revelatory presence.

Akinola will present a participatory performance on Friday 31 May at the SLG.

ENDS

For further press information, images and interviews please contact
Anna Jones, Head of Communications: anna.jones@southlondongallery.org
Miranda Yates, Communications Coordinator: miranda@southlondongallery.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Address and Opening Hours

South London Gallery, Main Building
65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH

South London Gallery, Fire Station
82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ

The gallery is open Tuesday – Sunday.
www.southlondongallery.org

Social Media

Twitter: [@SLG_artupdates](#)

Instagram: [@southlondongallery](#)

Facebook: [South London Gallery](#)

TikTok: [southlondongallery](#)

About Motunrayo Akinola

Motunrayo Akinola is a London-based artist who uses images of the home and everyday materials to explore comfort and belonging. He creates sculptures, installations, sound and drawings. He studied at RA Schools, graduating in 2023. As a British-born Nigerian who has spent time in and now feels comfortable in both countries, Akinola's work exposes the nuanced differences between the two places.

About the Residency

The South London Gallery Postgraduate Residency is an open submission six-month residency that provides an early-career artist with a rare opportunity to produce a new body of work, which is then exhibited at the SLG. The residency is open to artists who have completed a BA, and have undertaken a period of self-directed, peer-led or postgraduate study in the year prior to the residency. This can include alternative, peer organised and non-accredited programmes from an institution, collective or art school in the UK as well as an MA, MFA, PGDip, MRes.

The residency includes a studio space, mentoring, and a solo exhibition in one of the SLG Fire Station Galleries. The fee is £5,000 and there is a £4,000 budget to produce new work. *The Postgraduate Residency is supported by the Paul and Louise Cooke Endowment.*

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and two permanent gardens.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a programme for looked after children.