

A.I.R.

***this my whole hole whole hole this still little
me me me***
Funto Omojola

May 25–June 23, 2024

Opening reception: Saturday, May 25, from 6–8pm

GALLERY II



Funto Omojola, *body no be firewood*, 2024, Archival inkjet print, 24 x 20 inches.

A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *this my whole hole whole hole this still little me me me*, a multimedia exhibition by 2023–2024 Fellow Funto Omojola. In the exhibition, photographic portraits are collected alongside bodily artifacts, like the artist’s hair, to create a reliquary for a pillaged body. Black-and-white self-portraits, in which the artist often appears blurred and distorted, are shown alongside photo album-sized images of the artist’s family in their home space. Informed both by Yoruba understandings of illness as well as violent, colonial medical understandings of disease, Omojola considers what is left after a marked body has been despoiled or wounded, as well as what emerges when their family’s histories of ailment and indisposition are processed through Western belief systems, and arrive at Western institutions as artifacts framed for intimate review and revisit.

Body no be firewood:
oh lovely beautiful body, You!
A vessel, my soul, spirit, torture belonging
Tender but ruggedly commending
Oh lovely beautiful body, you!
Cherished, nourished, fighting, commotion
Every part of you spoke without confusion
Now, we all know the victory you emitted to conquer.
Discombobulated but not destroyed.
Tiny little stitches woven together like “aso oke”
to put you together again lovely body, You!
Painful memories, Yet scares are reminders
Now is the time to unwind beautiful body you!
all bodies deserve to maintain a meaningful purpose of life.
Thanks, to the creator of my beautiful body you!

— Abimbola Omojola, the artist’s mother

Body no be wood
Ara n fẹ̀ simi
The slogan of the body
Ara lile ni ipinlẹ̀ ọ̀rọ̀
The mandate of its goodness
Kàtākàrà, kàràkàtá
Kàrà kó lekoko
The ups and downs
The downs and ups
Healthy it must be.
Ani, oun ni ipinlẹ̀ ọ̀rọ̀
Health, they say is wealth

Èni ba kan lo mo
 Wait not until it weakens
 Wait not until it weakens
 The ups and downs
 The downs and ups
 Àláfià ara
 The body as the harbinger of wealth
 Òun ni ipinlẹ̀ ọ̀rọ̀
 Ká sin gbẹ̀rẹ̀, abẹ̀rẹ̀ ilu òkèèrè
 The doctor's tool, or the Babalawo's needle
 Irin isẹ̀ Ọ̀yinbó,
 Irin isẹ̀ ilẹ̀ Ọ̀òduà
 Deutsche chirurgische instrumente,
 Or the Odùduwà libation
 Kátàkàrà, kàràkàtá
 Kára kó le koko
 The ups and downs
 The downs and ups
 Aisan mabara je
 Disease, not my portion
 Ara n fesimi
 The slogan of the body
 Ara lile ni igbile oro
 The mandate of its goodness
 Kátàkàrà, kàràkàtá
 Kára kó lekoko

— Olabode Omojola, the artist's father

Funto Omojola (b. 1996 Ilorin, Nigeria) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Omojola has done projects with Dia Chelsea, New York; Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh; and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, among others. Their work has been supported by MacDowell, Peterborough; Cave Canem Foundation, Brooklyn; Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams; Millay Arts, Austerlitz; and the Poetry Project, New York.

A.I.R. Gallery is wheelchair accessible via ramp. There are accessible toilets in the venue. There is comfortable seating with backs. Free tap water is available. The venue is nearest to the F train at York St (0.2 miles) and the A train at High St (0.5 miles). The nearest wheelchair accessible trains is the B, Q, R at Dekalb Av (1.1 miles) and the 2, 3 at Borough Hall (0.8 miles). The roads immediately surrounding the gallery are cobblestone. The nearest accessible parking garage (for an hourly fee) is two blocks away at 100 Jay St. No ID necessary for entry. Please contact info@airgallery.org for more information.



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