

MARUANI MERCIER

Tales for a Stranger

Curated by Azu Nwagbogu

May 25 – July 1, 2023

MARUANI MERCIER Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition, *Tales for a Stranger*, open from May 25 to July 1, 2023 at its expansive, recently converted industrial space called The Warehouse in the heart of Zaventem just outside of Brussels. Curated by the world-renowned Azu Nwagbogu, founder of the Lagos Photo Festival and Art Base Africa, and a recently appointed National Geographic Explorer-at-Large. He is also one of the founding curators of Buro Stedelijk at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, an initiative that bridges the museum with studio practice, academic training, and galleries.

In *Tales for a Stranger*, Nwagbogu explores the evolving global paradigm felt by most who have emerged from the chaos and grief of the last few years, lost by the pandemic. It channels and explores the freedom, vulnerability, and contemporary art's unifying and restorative powers in light of the various global upheavals of recent years. It examines the results of this unrest—the paradoxical familiarity and comfort of sharing with strangers—and compels communal reflection on the tone of recent engagements. The exhibition also highlights the decay of outdated systems and the regeneration and rebirth that immediately follows the end of one cycle.

This exhibition marks another milestone in the gallery's visionary evolution, moving beyond its roots with American painters and sculptors from the 80s to embrace a cross-generational and intercultural conversation across various artistic mediums. It features works by an impressive line-up of artists including Ayò Akínwándé, Anas Albraehe, Ojo Ayotunde, Ofunne Azinge, Cristina de Middel, Jaclyn Conley, Omar Victor Diop, Victor Ehikhamenor, Esiri Erheriene-Essi, Johnson Eziefula, Jeanne Gaigher, Kate Gottgens, Miles Greenberg, Ryan Hewett, Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, Dozie Kanu, Nate Lewis, Neo Matoga, Odili Donald Odita, Emeka Ogbob, Yinka Shonibare, Kasper Sonne, and Alberta Whittle, showcasing a diverse range of mediums, from traditional painting and photography to experimental textile art.

Organized into chapters, each focusing on a unique aspect of the theme, *Tales for a Stranger* invites viewers to experience the artists' deeply personal narratives, spaces where they lay themselves bare and invite new propositions and reflections on their aspirations, fears, and concerns. The exhibition promises to be a memorable journey, capturing the essence of our collective history and inspiring us to explore the power of art to effect change in the world. An opening reception invites the public from 11h to 18h on May 27, 2023.

For any press inquiries, please get in touch with Alana Voldman at alana@maruanimercier.com.

The Warehouse by MARUANI MERCIER
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Thursdays – Saturdays, 11:00 – 18:00
(or by appointment)
Public Opening Event:
May 27, 2023, 11:00 – 18:00