

GALERIE MITTERRAND

CHIBUIKE UZOMA

TWELVE TICKETS

26 JANUARY > 23 MARCH 2024

OPENING THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH

PRESS RELEASE

Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to present *Twelve Tickets*, Chibūike Ūzōma's debut solo exhibition in France, on view in Paris from 25 January to March 23, 2024.

The title of the show, *Twelve Tickets*, refers to the number of paintings featured in the exhibition. As Ūzōma explains: "They offer twelve opportunities or avenues to approach or examine parallel and intersecting conditions, ideas, phenomena, or internal and external positions — ideologically, theoretically, socio-politically, sensually, and spiritually. However, the paintings themselves are simply busy with their looks and wouldn't do anything unless they were asked to."

Through layers of blurred bodies, gestural marks, paint drips, and texts, Ūzōma's work is revealed in obscurity, allowing each painting to manifest itself gradually before dissolving back into the abstract aesthetic it initiates. Different aesthetic vocabularies simultaneously come into play in this series of works without a linear narrative, coexisting effortlessly among several forms of representation and meaning. The artist lends his work to a rigorous investigation that blurs the limits between figuration and abstraction, restraint and abandon, and between visceral response and historical connotation. Curated by Barbara Newman, this presentation explores the ways in which a painting acts autonomously as a cultural pool of references that activates the subjectivity of the audience.

Chibūike Ūzōma was born in 1992 in Port Harcourt. His multidisciplinary practice spans painting, photography, drawing, text, and video. He received his BFA from the University of Benin (NG), and his MFA from the Yale School of Art (USA) in 2021. In 2018, he was granted the Francis Greenburger Fellowship. Numerous solo exhibitions were dedicated to his works, including *To Kick A Stone*, at Simon Lee Gallery, London (UK) in 2023, *Walk on Water*, Everard Read, Cape Town (ZA) in 2019, and *Nascence* at Omenka Gallery, Lagos (NG) in 2015. His works have been included in many other exhibitions, such as *Retinal Hysteria*, curated by Robert Storr, Venus Over Manhattan, New York (USA) in 2023, *Convergent Evolutions: The Conscious of Body Work*, Pace, New York (USA) and *In Praise of Shadows*, Lyles & King, New York (USA), both in 2021, and *Contemporary Performance*, Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Florida, (USA), in 2019, and *Time Has Gone*, Lagos Photo Festival, Lagos (NG) in 2018.