

pipe|ine

Emmanuel Awuni: *Walk*
17 November - 17 December, 2022



Emmanuel Awuni, *Nirvana (detail)*, 2022

Pipeline is delighted to present the second in its inaugural series of exhibitions, with Emmanuel Awuni. The exhibition *Walk*, centres upon the notion of movement, and the impulse to stride forward without hesitation. In Awuni's multidisciplinary practice, which traverses sculpture, performance, painting, and music, no method or medium is placed above another. Instead, Awuni dissolves the hierarchical structures we have come to expect and elevates his materials, transforming found objects into something that has never been seen before.

An essential aspect of Awuni's practice is music. Awuni is profoundly interested in the transference of energy through music, and the power of its vibrations to elevate a crowd. A

work comprising sound and image footage provides the driving energy of this exhibition. Previously recorded in the basement of Pipeline and projected downstairs, the footage captures a musical and visual crescendo in a celebration of love that represents the vital engine of Awuni's art.

Installed on the ground floor, the work *Rise and Show no Fear* (2022) was initially created as a site-specific installation for Notting Hill Carnival in collaboration with PM/AM and Harlesden High Street galleries in London. This piece speaks to the collaborative nature of Awuni's practice and the dialogue of communities. In his paintings, the saturation of Awuni's palette and flurry of brushstrokes echo the tension and heightened awareness of breathing, not just the free-flowing of breath but also laboured or held breath.

While Awuni's paintings occupy a space of abstract freedom, his sculptures are rooted in reality. A ceramic head, floating in a sink that is filled with resin, offers a tangible representation of the Black body. Awuni draws particular influence from Caravaggio's famed *David With the Head of Goliath* (c. 1610), in which the dangling head of Goliath is replaced by the artist's own self-portrait. This painting was a plea for mercy, made by Caravaggio as a gift for the Cardinal Borghese who had the power to pardon him for murder. For Awuni, his series of ceramic heads are equally personal. They confront the viewer with the living, breathing Black figure. As inescapable physical markers, these works assert their reality and the space that they occupy.

Emmanuel Awuni (b.1993) was born in Accra, Ghana and lives and works in London, United Kingdom. This year he completed his MA degree at The Royal Academy of Arts, following his BA at Goldsmiths University of London (2017). Awuni's had his first solo exhibition in 2021 at Harlesden High Street, followed by a second solo exhibition at Sundry in May, 2022. Awuni's work has been included in a number of group exhibitions: Nir Altman, Munich (2022); Sadie Coles HQ, London (2021); Royal Academy of Arts, Winter/Summer Exhibitions (2020) and Harlesden Highstreet (2020). Walk is presented in tandem to an exhibition at PM/AM where Awuni currently is participating in a duo show, 'Emmanuel x Emmanuel'.

Previous to his exhibition, Awuni chose to introduce his practice with the work, *Nobody Loves the Head of a Dandelion* (2022). Awuni views this work as a recent pivotal piece in which the two essential parts of his practice—painting and sculpture—meet.

35 Eastcastle St
London, W1W 8DW

Press and General Inquiries:

Maria Zambrano
info@pipelinecontemporary.com
+44 77241456 48