

**Ayobola Kekere-Ekun. *Another Life***

Solo Show

**07.11.23 – 07.01.24**

Curated by **Domenico De Chirico**

**C+N Gallery CANEPANERI**

Foro Buonaparte, 48

20121 - Milano

**Opening November, 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, 6 pm**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**C+N Gallery CANEPANERI** is delighted to present the first solo show in Italy of Nigerian artist **Ayobola Kekere-Ekun**, curated by **Domenico De Chirico**.

The exhibition reveals a new core of the artist's works.

“Between empiricism and partiality, with a particular focus on exploring the intangible and enduring interactions among space and time, gender equality and power, social configurations and popular culture, chauvinism and internationalism, advertising and portraiture, mythology and tangible human condition within the complex and asymmetrically heterogeneous contemporary society, the very young visual artist Ayobola Kekere-Ekun, born in Lagos, Nigeria in 1993 and currently residing in Johannesburg, South Africa, frequently grants herself the subversive possibility of discovering a new world filled with characters and situations close to her everyday life. Generating her art through remarkably fertile and masterful processes, Ayobola Kekere-Ekun perceives technique as a mere three-dimensional manifestation of a harmonious profusion of lines, which, in turn, allow her to shape defined realms of light and shadow, circumnavigating the entire surface on which all of this occurs. Using a paper crafting method known as *quilling*, she creates images and shapes that are always novel and astonishing, evoking the frivolities of selfie culture in conjunction with deeper themes like self-perception, self-determination, voyeurism, escapism, and the authoritative processes typical of propaganda. The diligence of her work indisputably becomes a visual metaphor for the complexity of the subject she perpetually engages with.” –

\*from Domenico De Chirico's Critical Essay

**BIO**

**Ayobola Kekere-Ekun** (b. 1993) is a contemporary visual artist. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria. Her B.A. and M.A. in Visual arts were received from the Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos; where she majored in Graphic Design. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Art and Design at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Ayobola is also a Lecturer at the Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos.

**AWARDS**

2021 Absa L'Atelier Award

2018 The Future Awards 2018 Prize for Creativity; and The Dean Collection 20 St(art)ups Grant

2016 Rele Art Foundation “Young Contemporaries” Grant

2014 University of Lagos, Convocation Prize

2012 United States Consulate General 'Women's History Month' Art Contest

**Domenico De Chirico** is an independent Italian curator. Born in Terlizzi (Bari) in 1983, he lives and works in Milan. He graduated with honors in Foreign Languages and Literatures with a thesis in Comparative History of the Art of European Countries (with a focus on Eastern Europe and in particular on the work of Dan and Lia Perjovschi). From 2011 to 2015 he was a professor of "Visual Culture" and "Trend Research" at the European Institute of Design (IED) in Milan. He collaborates with numerous international artists, galleries, institutions, art fairs, art prizes and magazines. He was artistic director of the DAMA Fair, Turin, Italy (2016-2019). He was also a visiting tutor at Goldsmiths, University of London (2018) and a member of the Network Event for Young Curators, LISTE-Art Fair Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2018). Upcoming projects and research: BIENVENUE Art Fair, Paris, France (associate curator); Prisma Art Prize, Rome, Italy (curator of the 2023 edition of the prize); Swiss Institute, Rome (visiting curator).