

Unveiling Perspectives. Group Show
MJ Torrecampo, Deng Shiqing,
Ayobola Kekere-Ekun
On the occasion of *START* Genoa 2024

The group exhibition "Unveiling Perspectives" in Genoa, held during the opening evening of *START*, celebrates a diverse range of artistic voices, featuring the captivating works of **MJ Torrecampo** (1992, Philippines), **Deng Shiqing** (1992, China), and **Ayobola Kekere-Ekun** (1993, Nigeria). Each artist, while unique in their stylistic approach and cultural background, converges in a shared exploration of identity, memory, and the human condition. Together, their paintings weave a rich tapestry that invites viewers to journey through different worlds, perspectives, and emotional landscapes.

MJ Torrecampo: The Intimacy of Everyday Life

MJ Torrecampo's art is rooted in the intimate portrayal of daily life. Using delicate and often ephemeral mediums, Torrecampo captures fleeting moments that resonate with universal experiences of nostalgia and longing. Her works are characterized by a tender attention to detail and an ability to find beauty in the everyday. Focusing on the subtleties of human interactions and personal spaces, Torrecampo's pieces evoke a deep sense of familiarity and introspection. Her paintings invite viewers to slow down and appreciate the quiet, often overlooked details that make up our daily existence.

Deng Shiqing: A Bridge Between Tradition and Modernity

Born in China, Deng Shiqing's artistic journey has been marked by a relentless pursuit of innovation and self-expression. After mastering the formal yet often restrictive aspects of traditional Chinese painting, she embarked on a transformative journey, first to Beijing and then to New York City. It was in these bustling, idea-rich cities that she found freedom by embracing new forms of artistic creation. This is reflected in her distinct fusion of Eastern and Western influences, resulting in a bold exploration of the surreal while posing relevant questions about social, cultural, and artistic issues.

03.10.2024 – 28.02.2025
Opening **October 3 h6 pm**
C+N Gallery CANEPANERI
Via Caffaro 22 r – 16124 Genoa

Ayobola Kekere-Ekun: Stories of Resilience and Empowerment

The vibrant and intricate works of Ayobola Kekere-Ekun are a celebration of resilience, identity, and empowerment. Using a meticulous *quilling* technique, Kekere-Ekun creates detailed portraits that explore themes of femininity, strength, and the African diaspora. Her art is deeply personal yet universally resonant, drawing on both historical and contemporary narratives to comment on social issues and human rights. Kekere-Ekun's use of bold colors and intricate patterns not only captivates the eye but also conveys the complexity and richness of the stories she tells. Her works stand as a testament to the power of art as a tool for social commentary and change.

Together, the works of MJ Torrecampo, Deng Shiqing, and Ayobola Kekere-Ekun create a rich, multifaceted dialogue. While their individual practices stem from diverse cultural and stylistic contexts, they are united in their exploration of what it means to be human. The exhibition at C+N Gallery CANEPANERI in Genoa during the opening evening of *START* is not just an art show, but a convergence of voices offering profound reflections on identity, memory, and the intricate tapestry of life. Through their diverse yet interconnected works, Torrecampo, Shiqing, and Kekere-Ekun offer viewers a unique opportunity to engage with art that is both deeply personal and universally meaningful.

This exhibition promises to be a fascinating journey through the eyes of three extraordinary artists, each offering a unique perspective, yet collectively inviting us to reflect on the shared human experience.

MJ Torrecampo (b. 1992, Philippines) is a painter, graduated from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL, with a BA in Painting and a Minor in Art History, and later earned an MA in Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. The artist lives and works in Florida. MJ Torrecampo's art embraces the concept of a (re)construction of reality, grounded in rational and sociological analysis. In 2023, she was a finalist for the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art, with the exhibition held at the Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, Florida. In both 2022 and 2023, MJ Torrecampo's works were showcased at the Untitled Art Fair in Miami, USA.

Deng Shiqing (b. 1992, China) earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, and her Master of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. She has received several prestigious awards, including the 2019 International Biennial Portrait Competition, the Chubb Fellowship, and the Terra Foundation Residency in Giverny, France. Among the prominent exhibitions she has participated in are The Armory Show 2024, Tang Contemporary in Hong Kong, C+N Gallery CANEPANERI in Milan, Parasol Projects in New York, Art Basel Miami, Enjoy Art Museum in Beijing, the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art in Wisconsin, and Sotheby's New York, among others.

The painter invites us into a world that continuously oscillates between the real and the absurd. Her work is rooted in artistic practices that date back to her youth, when she learned the rigid, fundamental elements of traditional, often nationalistic, Chinese painting. Over time, after relocating to Beijing and later to New York, she began incorporating more imaginative qualities into her work. From these autobiographical and geographical explorations of place and identity, she delves into broader commentaries on today's world.

Ayobola Kekere-Ekun (b. 1993, Nigeria) is a contemporary visual artist from Lagos, Nigeria. She earned both her B.A. and M.A. in Visual Arts from the Department of Creative Arts at the University of Lagos, where she specialized in Graphic Design. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Art and Design at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, while also serving as a lecturer in the Department of Creative Arts at the University of Lagos. Among Awards and Recognitions there are Absa L'Atelier Award (2021), The Future Awards Prize for Creativity (2018), Dean Collection 20 St(art)ups Grant (2018), Rele Art Foundation "Young Contemporaries" Grant (2016), University of Lagos Convocation Prize (2014), United States Consulate General 'Women's History Month' Art Contest (2012).