

NIGHT GALLERY

2276 E. 16th Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

nightgallery.ca

Cornelia Smith, "5 Artists on Our Radar This June," *Artsy*, June 1, 2021.



Art

5 Artists on Our Radar This June

Artsy Curatorial and Artsy Editorial Jun 1, 2021

“Artists on Our Radar” is a monthly series produced collaboratively by Artsy’s Editorial and Curatorial teams. Utilizing our art expertise and access to Artsy data, each month, we highlight five artists who have our attention. To make our selections, we’ve determined which artists made an impact this past month through new gallery representation, exhibitions, auctions, art fairs, or fresh works on Artsy.

Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola

B. 1991, Columbia, Missouri. Lives and works in New York.



Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola

Oduduwa #100, 2021

False Flag

\$30,000 - 40,000

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In his recent solo exhibition “by Fire by Force” at False Flag in Long Island City, Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola presented a new series of all-black durag paintings. These action paintings consist of several durags stretched across wood frames, layered, tied, and twisted into abstract compositions that recall the recycled bottle-cap wall hangings by Ghanaian artist El Anatsui. Their titles are derived from Yoruba orisha—deities that straddle the mortal and celestial realm—and are thematically rooted in the practice of ancient and contemporary rituals. Akinbola’s work is currently featured in “Market,” his first solo show with Night Gallery in Los Angeles.



Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola
Power Figure #006, 2021
Night Gallery



Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola
Divination Object #13, 2019
False Flag

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Akinbola frequently uses durags as a painterly medium. As a first-generation American who grew up between Missouri and Nigeria, Akinbola has grappled with differing cultural perceptions of Blackness, and through his work he seeks to reconcile these two parts of his identity. “In the conversation about Black art the categories are either indigenous / tribal / ‘primitive’ art as they call it, or contemporary African art, and then you have African American art,” Akinbola has said. “The art world really separates those spaces. But I feel like in my practice I’m really trying to bring all of that together.”

In addition to his notable durag works, Akinbola makes sculptures out of found objects, wood, palm oil, and Torino brushes, which feature prominently in his “Chopped and Screwed” series. The artist is also currently featured in the group show “New York Rising,” hosted by *one* and Artsy.

—Cornelia Smith