

## WORKING THROUGH AN IMPASSE

A Solo Exhibition by Ndidi Dike

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Art Twenty One is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Nigerian Artist, Ndidi Dike, which will be open from 17 July 2021 to 25 September 2021

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Art Twenty One is pleased to announce *Working Through an Impasse*, a solo exhibition of new work by acclaimed Nigerian artist, Ndidi Dike. As the first solo exhibition by the artist since 2016, *Working Through an Impasse* brings together eight bodies of work—a mix of immersive installations, paintings, and mixed-media objects, that collectively respond to recent world-affecting issues ranging from the coronavirus pandemic and reckonings over race and political upheaval; to the deleterious effects of capitalism on natural environments and social life in the Global South.

“This is a very personal exhibition. When the pandemic began, I was already developing work for a solo show, and the impact of the virus completely upended my plans. I completely scrapped everything and began anew. With the pandemic came an intense period of anxiety and uncertainty, and I channeled these experiences, feelings, and emotions into developing work that takes a long view in addressing the inadequacies of Nigeria’s health infrastructure, and the lack of preparedness that communities in both the Global South and Global North faced in responding to the pandemic. At the same time, I was struck by the concurrent upheavals, globally, around race and political inequity, as well as the outsized profits reaped by major corporations during this period of extreme economic downturn. It’s all addressed through the complex and large-scale installations and mixed media works in the exhibition. In turn, the exhibition itself is addressed, literally, to the public. In lieu of an artist statement, I chose to appeal to the public by opening the show with an incredibly personal letter to the viewer, inviting them to join me in working through these topical issues, whether it’s by adopting a more ethical worldview, developing community, practice care, or demonstrating kindness.” - Ndidi Dike

Ndidi Dike is a contemporary artist of British-Nigerian ancestry. Although often regarded as a self-trained sculptor with decades of transgressive practice in three dimensions, over the past two decades her work has developed across other media including collage, mixed-media installation, painting, photography, and video. Born in London, she returned to Nigeria to train as a painter and graduated from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, earning a BA degree in Fine and Applied Arts in 1984.

For years, Dike's art has sought to address the most pressing concerns of our time through formally sophisticated and conceptually driven artworks and projects that offer audiences fresh perspectives on the present. Her art investigates the economic, social, and political structures that govern how life is lived in the present and how the past is remembered. We see this through her art's exploration of themes such as pre- and post-colonial culture in Africa, the economic legacy of enslavement and forced migration, and the effects of the extractive industrial complex on life and natural resources in Africa.

### **Caline Chagoury Moudaber**

Founder & Creative Director

**Special Thanks:** Mr Femi Lijadu & Papa Omotayo (A Whitespace Creative Agency)

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Ndidi Dike is a major contemporary British Nigerian artist, who works across a multiplicity of fields, including painting, sculpture, collage, lens based media, video and installation. Born in London, she returned to Nigeria to train as a painter and emerged from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, graduating with a BA degree in Fine and Applied Arts in 1984. Although known internationally as a sculptor, having taught herself to sculpt, with decades of transgressive sculptural practice Dike has periodically revisited painting, weaving materials and meanings through both conventional and experimental processes. In her multiple exhibitions, she has explored the fleeting transformation of the value of human life through global processes of commodification, consumption, and colonisation.

Among various in-depth research themes she has explored the slave trade, in "Waka-Into-Bondage: The Last 3/4 Mile" (Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, 2008); the aspirations of West African Migrants in "Unknown Pleasures and Competing Tendencies", (National Museum Onikan, Lagos, 2012); and the relationship between power, petroleum, and politics in "State Of The Nation: New works and installations" (National Museum Onikan, Lagos, 2016). Using objects as material metaphors, Dike catalyses the multiple singularities in our collective experiences of everyday life through the vibrant prism of visual culture that situates Nigeria within the transnational landscape. Dike now primarily works with a special interest in personal archives and long term research based projects.



Dike's artistic practice engages with global histories to address the pre and post- colonial historic and social-economic legacy of the enslaved and forced migration that relates to and ties in with "Atlantic World Relations". Simultaneously engaging the geo political era of the natural resource extraction industries to investigate the global entanglements of material (dis) possession, postcolonial exploitation in the Global South, focusing on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Other topics include cross-border migration, market aesthetics, consumerism, globalisation, living patriarchy, gender equity, multiculturalism, decolonisation, identity and contemporary politics.

### **ABOUT ART TWENTY ONE:**

Art Twenty One is a space and platform dedicated to contemporary art in Lagos, Nigeria. Located at the Eko Hotel & Suites, the 600sqm space is intended to contribute to and to solidify the growing art scene in Lagos, as well as position this great city as a major force in the international art world. The aim of the art space is to present and promote local and international contemporary art, as well as serve as a catalyst for contemporary art projects and for the interaction of local and international cultural players. In particular, the art space will support local and regional contemporary artists, helping them grow and giving them the tools to position themselves in the local, regional, and international art sphere.

An unprecedented and unique set up in Lagos, the space is designed to make art accessible to a large and growing audience who will be able to engage with a rich and diverse range of contemporary art, cultural practice, and educational art programs.

### **EXHIBITION DETAILS:**

Working Through an Impasse | A solo exhibition by [Ndidi Dike](#)

Date: 17th of July 2021 – 25th of September 2021

Location: Art Twenty One | Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos

### **OPENING HOURS:**

Tuesday-Friday, 10 AM-4 PM

Saturday, 10 AM- 4 PM

For more information, visit us: [www.ArtTwentyOne.ng](http://www.ArtTwentyOne.ng) | [info@art21lagos.com](mailto:info@art21lagos.com)