

# Kemi Onabulé

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Kemi Onabulé works across a wide range of media drawing on her rich Greek, English and Nigerian heritage to present us with a diverse awareness that spans history and the present whilst also looking to the future. She voyages through landscape, exploring our relationship to the natural world and our current ecological predicament. The work portrays places and people who seem untouched, almost otherworldly, harmonious and at one with the landscape they inhabit. Onabulé draws on the depiction of people from ancient cultures, seeing humans and souls as more symbolic rather than individualistic. She expands on the idea of the everyman, of universal, collective experience across large oil paintings, works on card and monotypes on paper. Onabulé's mark making is intuitive, depicting figures in landscapes standing, or lying, in verdant forests and scorched plains amid fronds of foliage and long shadows. There are mountains and rivers, skies and wildfires.

Her works straddle longing and irony, exploring how we have lost our way with regards to our relationship to the natural world and asking questions about how we might find our way back.

"I am interested in the cheapening of that beauty, that's what we are experiencing, I wanted to describe it."

Kemi Onabulé (b. 1995, London, UK) lives and works in London, UK.

## Education

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2016

BA (Hons), Fine Art: Painting, Wimbledon College of Art

## Solo Exhibitions

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2025

NADA, Sim Smith, New York, USA

2024

*False Spring*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

*All The Land Is Spoken For*, Sim Smith, London, UK

2023

*The Lunatics*, Guts Gallery, London, UK

2022

*Arcadia*, Sim Smith, London, UK

2020

*Arrival on the Beach*, Guts Gallery, London, UK

## Selected Group Exhibitions

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2024

NADA, Sim Smith, Miami, USA

*Conversations*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

*Body of Work*, Mrs Gallery, Maspeth, USA

*Summer Auction*, Art On A Postcard, London, UK

*Hovering*, Capsule Venice, Venice, Italy

*Arcadia And Elsewhere*, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA

2023

*Looking Like Fire*, Sim Smith, London, UK

Frieze London, Night Gallery, London, UK

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Art Brussels, Sim Smith, London, UK

2022

Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, Oliver Projects, London, UK

*Shrubs*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

*Synthesis*, Saatchi Gallery X Delphian Gallery, London, UK

*Matches Struck Unexpectedly In The Dark*, One Room Gallery, London, UK

*Paper*, Beers Gallery, London, UK

2021

Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, Oliver Projects, London, UK

*Saw It Hang Down There*, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany

*Reality Check*, Guts Gallery, Anderson Contemporary, London, UK

*Into The Light of The Present Day*, Oliver Projects, London, UK

*Underpinned by Movements of Freighters*, The Florence Trust, London, UK

*Cluster-Phobia*, Newington Green Meeting House, London, UK

*Get A Load of This*, Daniel Raphael Gallery, London, UK

*For The Many Not The Few*, Guts Gallery, London, UK

2020

*Untitled (But Loved)*, Bosse & Baum, London, UK

*In Response*, The Viewing Room, London, UK

*FNB Art Joburg*, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany

2019

*They Catch Feelings, I Catch Bodies*, Sim Smith, London, UK

2016

*Wimbledon College of Art BA Degree Show*, London, UK

2015

*The Contemporary Portrait*, Thompson's Gallery, London, UK

## Awards and Residencies

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2023

Goodeye Projects, London, UK

2022

Focus Foundation, Mas Le Heras, Girona

2021

Jackson's Painting Prize, Shortlisted

2017

Hix Award, Shortlisted

Ingram Young Artist Prize, Shortlisted

2016

Clyde & Co Art Awards, Shortlisted

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