

## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Iona Rowland  
T: 020 3653 0896  
E: [iona@parkerharris.co.uk](mailto:iona@parkerharris.co.uk)

### ADELAIDE DAMOAH: GENESIS

2 October – 30 October 2018, 1 Bedford Avenue, London



Adelaide Damoah by Femelle Studios (2018)

**Genesis** will see British artist **Adelaide Damoah**, member of the **Black British Female Artist Collective**, present a new and ambitious body of work exploring sexuality, gendered subjectivity and race. Simultaneously referencing and inverting Yves Klein's 1960 performance *Anthropométrie de l'époque bleue*, which saw the artist use female participants as malleable 'printmaking tools', Damoah has instead assumed the role of living paint brush, using her own body to make painterly gestures, exerting her power as a black female artist. The shift from male director to female protagonist has enabled Damoah to redefine how the black female body is portrayed, deconstructing stereotypes as a means of reconstructing wider socio-cultural narratives. The artist has cited David Hammons and Ana Mendieta as key influences in the production of **Genesis**.

The exhibition, which comprises paintings, prints and performative works, will be accompanied by a dynamic events programme, including a live streamed performance by Adelaide Damoah, democratising the way in which the work is consumed, but also interrogating the complexities of internet culture and how we connect through performance. Though the work itself is complex and multi-faceted, it has been built around a minimal palette of black and gold. Speaking of this decision, the artist explained that “*black and gold have been used both for aesthetic and metaphorical reasons. Black is evoking skin colour, but also absence as a lived experience. Meanwhile, gold is referring to Ghana's historical source of wealth which gave it its colonial name (Gold Coast).*”

**Genesis** is supported by **MTArt Agency**, under artist agent **Katrina Aleksa**, renowned for providing platforms for the most exciting up and coming international artists.

“*This year saw the much needed rise of support towards minorities, whether that’s related to gender or skin colour in our industry. Art should be inclusive and represent everyone. Adelaide’s oeuvre positions her as an inspiring visual role model who is challenging the status quo in performance art. We hope for this exhibition to celebrate a fairer future.*” **Marine Tanguy, MTArt Agency**

The exhibition is presented in association with **Bloomsbury Festival**, a five-day celebration of the area’s pioneering creativity, built around an inspiring programme of arts, science, literature, performance, discussion and reflection. The overarching narrative around **Genesis** is congruent to that of the 2018 Festival, which follows a theme of **Activists and Architects of Change**. This year marks the centenary of The Representation of the People Act 1918, which permitted women to vote for the first time. Whilst not all women (or indeed all men...) had the vote, it was a crucial moment in the campaign for equality and democracy. Bloomsbury has rich history of activism and is as radical now as it has ever been.

Ahead of the launch of **Genesis**, Adelaide Damoah will be exhibiting in **Muse, Model or Mistress**, an all female exhibition at **Gallery Different, London** (23 - 28 September 2018), which looks at the ever-evolving portrayal and perceptions of women in society, and specifically in the arts.

#### Exhibition Information:

Title: Adelaide Damoah: Genesis  
Dates: 2 – 30 October 2018  
Address: 1 Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 3AU  
Opening Times: Mon-Fri from 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am-3pm  
Admission: Free  
Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road/Goodge Street  
Website: [adelaidedamoahart.com](http://adelaidedamoahart.com)  
Twitter/Instagram: @AdelaideDamoah/ @adelaidedamoah #Genesis

- Ends -

## Artist biography

**Adelaide Damoah** is a British artist of Ghanaian descent working at the intersection of painting and performance within the context of race, identity and sexuality. Her debut exhibition *Black Brits*, took place at Charlie Allen's Boutique, London, UK in 2006, subsequent to which she has exhibited in group shows at Opera Gallery, Budapest, Hungary (2009); Bargehouse Gallery, Oxo Tower, London, UK (2015) as part of the AACDD Festival; and Latham Watkins LLP, London, UK. In 2017 her work was selected for both national and international group exhibitions including: *A Seat at the Table*, 198 Gallery, London, UK; *Dispersed*, Nubuke Foundation (+Chale Wote), Ghana; *UNFOLD* Festival, London, UK; *Article 10*, Amnesty International, London, UK; *Gallery of Small Things* (Bisi Silva), ACDF Festival, Lagos, Nigeria, and in 2018 she presented work in *We Face Forward* at Bonhams, London and *Little Africa Des Gosses. Marrakesh Off the Tracks* as part of an artist residency in Marrakesh, Morocco. Solo exhibitions include *Supermodels*, Nolia's Gallery, London, UK (2008); *Solo Presentation*, National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) Mayfair, London, UK (2009); and *This is Us*, Camden Image Gallery, London, UK (2015).  
[adelaidedamoahart.com](http://adelaidedamoahart.com)

## Notes to editors

### Adelaide Damoah – Art Discussions

Alongside her visual arts practice, **Adelaide Damoah** conducts regular interviews with artists and creatives, looking specifically at how they have navigated, and overcome challenges. The interviews offer guidance, support and inspiration for artists at the start of their career. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### MTArt Agency

Founded in 2015, **MTArt** is the first international artist agency representing the world's most exciting up and coming visual artists. Their key focus is on investing and supporting artists by covering studio costs, selling works, implementing cultural & commercial partnerships and offering press exposure. Every month, the agency reviews 200 portfolios innovative, selecting artists who demonstrate new techniques, inspiring content and strong visions.

### Bloomsbury Festival

**Bloomsbury Festival** is five-day celebration of the area's pioneering creativity. Presenting an inspiring programme of arts, science, literature, performance, discussion and reflection, each October the Festival shines a light on the radical imaginations, institutions, and 11,000 residents that shape contemporary Bloomsbury. Bloomsbury Festival will return, **17-21 October 2018**.

### Ashby Capital (1 Bedford Avenue, London)

**Ashby Capital** are a close-knit team of experienced individuals with a deep understanding of the property market and impressive connections. We seek out the best real estate opportunities and work together with some of the industry's most respected companies to create high-quality properties and maximise the value of our assets. We take a long-term approach and make well-considered decisions, but are nimble enough to act quickly to secure the best opportunities.

## The Black British Female Artist Collective

The **Black British Female Artist Collective** was created to provide a platform for female emerging artists of diaspora to showcase their works. The collective host exhibitions, lectures, discussions and cross-cultural exchanges, nationally and internationally.