

Sweetwater, Berlin

Kayode Ojo

Closer

September 22, 2018 – November 17, 2018

INT: PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO – DAY

ANNA I'm just going to change the film.
Are you okay for time?

DAN Mmm hmm.

ANNA I liked your book. Your publisher
sent me a manuscript. I read it
last night. It kept me up 'til 4.

DAN I'm flattered.

ANNA Is your heroine based on someone
you know?

DAN Yes, she's someone called Alice.

ANNA How does she feel about you
stealing her life?

DAN Borrowing her life. I'm dedicating
the book to her. She's pleased.

ANNA Mmm.

DAN Do you exhibit?

ANNA Sometimes. I have a thing next
year.

DAN Portraits?

ANNA Mmm hmm.

DAN Of who?

ANNA Strangers.

DAN How do your strangers feel about
you stealing their lives?

ANNA Borrowing.

INT: PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO – DAY

ALICE You live here?

ANNA I do now.

ALICE Because you're single?

ANNA Mmm hmm.

ALICE Who was your last boyfriend?

ANNA My husband.

ALICE What happened to him?

ANNA Someone younger.

ANNA You've got a great face.

ALICE Doesn't everyone?

ANNA I suppose so. I just... from the
book somehow I thought you'd be
less...

ALICE What?

ANNA I don't know what exactly, I...

ANNA How do you feel about him using
your life?

ALICE That's really none of your
business.

ANNA You want a drink? I have some vodka
in the fridge; we could have a
drink.

ALICE Just take my picture.

Kayode Ojo (*1990, Cookeville, Tennessee, US) lives and works in New York. *Closer* is the inaugural exhibition at Sweetwater, Berlin. Ojo's previous solo and two-person exhibitions include *Betrayal*, Balice Hertling, Paris (2018); *Kayode Ojo, Zoe Leonard*, Paula Cooper, New York (2018); *Running on Empty*, And Now, Dallas (2018); *Taye Diggs* (with Winslow Laroche), Motel, Brooklyn (2017); *maybe no one will notice*, Guertin's Graphics, Brooklyn (2017); *you gotta keep your head up but you can let your hair down*, 55 Gansevoort, New York (2014). His work has recently been featured in group exhibitions at PS120, Berlin (2018); Salon 94, New York (2018); Ceysson & Bénétière, New York (2018); Balice Hertling, Paris (2017); Martos Gallery, New York (2017); MX Gallery, New York (2017); Lomex, New York (2016); Brennan & Griffin, New York (2016); MINI/Goethe-Institut Curatorial Residencies Ludlow 38, New York (2015). Portfolios of Ojo's work have been published in *Studio Magazine* (2018) and *Texte zur Kunst* (2017). Ojo graduated with a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York in 2012.

Closer takes its title from Mike Nichols's 2004 film, in turn based on Patrick Marber's 1997 play, that documents the tumultuous romantic lives of Alice (Natalie Portman), Anna (Julia Roberts), Dan (Jude Law), and Larry (Clive Owen). Over the course of the film, the characters cycle between infatuation, relationship, affair, and even marriage amongst each other. For the exhibition text of *Closer*, Ojo has selected two excerpts from the film's script, both of which take place in Anna's photography studio. The title image of *Closer* is a film still of Larry, taken from a scene in which he confronts Anna about her affair with Dan.