

## **Tunji Adeniyi-Jones**

### **Tranquil Dive**

February 7 - March 25, 2023

Morán Morán is pleased to announce Tunji Adeniyi-Jones' second solo exhibition with the gallery and his first in Mexico City, titled *Tranquil Dive*, which presents his most recent paintings on canvas and paper. The works in this exhibition veer toward a warmer palette and expansive compositions that measure figure and ground equally so that the narrative becomes further veiled. His stylized aesthetic is still prominent and his figures remain androgynous, at one with their lushly dense landscape, yet in this series the perspective has shifted.

With four large-scale oil paintings on canvas, Adeniyi-Jones images his multiple protagonists as if seen from above (or below, depending on interpretation) rather than from the side-view silhouette employed in earlier works. The effect of seeing a figure's upturned face, shoulders, and arms emerging through thick vegetation implies levitation; these charters are now flying or diving through their environment breaching a canopy of ornamental leaves. In addition to the artist's Yoruban foundation of imagery, there is a nod in these works to the fantastical patterns associated with the Arts and Crafts movement. With a root in Modernism, this movement aimed to combine human ingenuity with nature's spectacle to forward a vision of utopia.

Adeniyi-Jones adds to this "diving" series a grouping of six small-scale paintings and three works on paper. Here, the artist experiments with washes and marks that introduce levity and looseness to his typically mannered images. Influenced by the immediacy of the printmaking techniques that are inherent in creating aquatints and monotypes, these works, in their quick medium application, produce incredibly vibrant and animated scenes – a bit more spare, and very direct in their reading. Inspired by his time spent in Mexico City, as well as the cultural masterworks he encountered, with this exhibition Adeniyi-Jones pays homage to Mexico's historical mural tradition alongside his own cultural heritage.