

## Modern Art

Frida Orupabo  
*Things I saw at night*

25 March – 20 May 2023  
Helmet Row, EC1

Modern Art is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Frida Orupabo. This is her first solo exhibition with Modern Art.

Frida Orupabo's works are, in some sense, solutions to problems; the problems being that certain images do not exist and need to be created. Working mainly with collage, but also spanning sculpture and video, Orupabo's work synthesises fragments of bodies to reconstruct narratives and imagine new configurations of subjectivity denied by colonial legacies. More often than not, the figures in Orupabo's images are Black women, although the categorisation of gender, race and family heritage are not only questioned; they become the locus of her explorations. Mining digital archives mostly online, Orupabo's process starts on a small-scale, collaging images on screen, but these often grow into much bigger, life-sized characters in the room. Enlarged, printed in tiles, cut out, and then pinned together, Orupabo's process of combining images retains a hand-made simplicity, which carries within it a sense of possibility for play, experimentation and spontaneity. This liveliness is joined by a depth of difficult emotion held in her subjects – rage, sadness, or desolation, for instance - whose faces stare back, as though to challenge their viewers to a duel. Orupabo's exhibition at Modern Art contains several new and recent wall-based collages, but also includes video work and sculpture, bringing together the multiple facets of her practice and elucidating her ways of thinking through making.

Born in Norway of dual Norwegian and Nigerian heritage, Orupabo began making collages in her early twenties as a means to work through her own complex relationship to home and identity. Later, Orupabo studied sociology and worked as a social worker, and began to publish her archive of collected and reconstructed images on Instagram. Her account, @nemiepeba, began anonymously and quietly as a collection of working images for a small audience, but soon grew in its following. Since her inclusion in Arthur Jafa's exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery in 2017, Orupabo has exhibited widely internationally.

Frida Orupabo was born in 1986 in Sarpsborg and lives and works in Oslo. Selected solo exhibitions include Nicola Vassell Gallery, New York, NY, USA (2022); Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland (2022); Kunsthall Trondheim, Norway (2021); Hours After, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa (2020); Medicine for a Nightmare, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo; The Mouth and the Truth, Portikus, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2019); and A House is a House, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin, Germany (2019). Selected group exhibitions include Kiasma Finnish National Gallery, Oslo, Norway (2022); Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg, Sweden (2021); Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa (2021); Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2020); Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2019), Serpentine Gallery, London (2017). She has participated in the Munch Triennial, Munchmuseet, Oslo, Norway (2022); 34th Bienal de São Paulo, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, Brazil (2021); and the 58th International Art Exhibition, Biennale Arte, Venice, Italy (2019).

For more information, please contact Sam Talbot ([sam@sam-talbot.com](mailto:sam@sam-talbot.com)) or Pascale de Graaf ([pascale@modernart.net](mailto:pascale@modernart.net))

Modern Art

Gallery 1



*The "haunted" house*, 2023  
video installation  
edition of 3 + 1 AP



*THINKING MAKES a Person Sad*, 2023  
CMYK print on anodised aluminium  
59.7 x 66.3 x 31.5 cm  
23 1/2 x 26 1/8 x 12 3/8 in  
edition of 3 + 1 AP

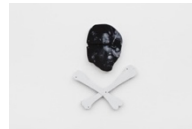


*The Twin*, 2023  
wallpaper  
dimensions variable  
edition of 5 + 2 AP

Gallery 2



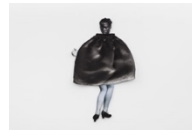
*Leading the Blind*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
235.5 x 185 cm  
92 3/4 x 72 7/8 in



*Ritual*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
76 x 58 cm  
29 7/8 x 22 7/8 in



*Three Legged Woman*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
99 x 148 cm  
39 x 58 1/4 in



*You Better Know*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
197 x 117 cm  
77 1/2 x 46 in



*Eye*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
30 x 60 cm  
11 3/4 x 23 5/8 in



*Sandwoman*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
196 x 145 cm  
77 1/8 x 57 1/8 in



*The Onlooker*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
197 x 65 cm  
77 1/2 x 25 5/8 in



*Leather on skin*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
120 x 82 cm  
47 1/4 x 32 1/4 in



*Car Ride*, 2022  
collage with paper pins on birch  
plywood panel  
97 x 230 cm  
38 1/4 x 90 1/2 in