

OSARETIN IGHILE
1 TO 20 MARCH 2016



Osaretin Ighile's uses mundane materials such as burnt wood, cut-up plastic crates and metal to create work that is evocative of the pomp, pageantry and historical myths surrounding the deposed ruler.

He is among a generation of artists who no longer view colonialism as a constant source of trauma, drawing on a profound understanding of his culture, his openness to the world and to diversity, as he re-works art historical tropes for a complex investigation of the mutable meaning of artistic border in a global world.

By linking past and present in a visually cohesive context that simultaneously preserve an overall fluency, beauty and humor he encourages us to explore possibilities of how to understand the world, how to contemplate the world and how to express the world. His work has benefited from a growing international awareness of contemporary African art that has advanced so dramatically in recent years, exposing him to greater possibilities for new aesthetic thinking. What often seeps through his work is a playfulness that comes out of the originality of his artistic strategies.

Osaretin Ighile was born 1965 in Benin City, Nigeria. He studied sculpture, painting and performance at Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi (1987), and at the University of Benin (1990), in Nigeria before leaving for the US in early 1990s.

He obtained his MFA (Sculpture) at Queens College, New York in 2011.

Exhibitions include Treasure House, Lagos, 1986; The Burden of an Era, NYC, 2005, Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal, 2008; Africa Now, World Bank, Washington DC, 2009.

He is in several private and public collections in the US and abroad including Blachere Foundation, Apt, France, Treasure House, Lagos; French Embassy, Lagos, Nigeria