

The Akoje Residency is delighted to present *Nine Voices*, an exhibition showcasing the work of nine artists selected for the 2024/25 Akoje Residency, a not-for-profit programme delivered in partnership with The King's Foundation and Qatar Museums. This fully funded residency offers a rare opportunity for artists to step away from the demands of daily life and immerse themselves in focused creative development.

The selection panel reviewed more than 250 applications. From this diverse and highly competitive field, nine artists were chosen, each bringing a distinctive perspective and a compelling artistic vision. The 2024/25 cohort comprises Oliver Enwonwu, Kelly Omodamwen, Olawunmi Banjo, Minenkulu Ngoyi, Oshorenoya David Francis, Beya Gille Gacha, Nelly Ating, Maryam Al Tajer, and Zainab AlShibani.

Based at Coachford Cottage on the Dumfries House Estate, the residency provided a peaceful and supportive environment for reflection, exploration, and making. The Ayrshire landscape, with its quiet rhythms and sense of stillness, offered the conditions for ideas to unfold organically, allowing the artists to deepen their practices in ways often difficult to achieve amid the pace of everyday life.

During their residency, the artists travelled to new towns and cities, visited galleries and museums, and encountered works that sparked new lines of inquiry. They engaged with different cultures and creative communities, both locally and through the diversity of the cohort itself. These shared experiences fostered dialogue, encouraged the exchange of ideas, and formed connections that extend beyond their time at Coachford Cottage.

As a fully funded programme, the Akoje Residency gave each artist the freedom to experiment, whether by testing new materials, returning to skills they wished to refine, or pursuing ideas previously set aside. Free from financial pressure and time constraints, the residents were able to take creative risks, develop new processes, and strengthen confidence in the direction of their work.

The works presented in *Nine Voices* mark moments of exploration and growth. They carry traces of landscapes walked, journeys undertaken, materials tested, and the quiet hours spent shaping emerging ideas. Together, the exhibition reflects artists who have been given the rare opportunity to pause, reconsider, and move forward with clarity.

Across the exhibition, display strategies play a central role in shaping how the works are experienced. Kelly Omodamwen's terracotta sculptures are presented within a grounded, material-led installation: placed on simple box plinths finished in stone and terracotta tones and set within beds of sand, the works appear to emerge from a shared, elemental landscape. This arrangement emphasises stillness, material connection, and presence, bringing distinct artistic voices into dialogue through a common physical ground. Elsewhere, seventeen sketches by Oshorenoya David Francis are presented as a vision—memo board, interwoven with ticket stubs, entrance passes, and train tickets collected during the

residency. This evolving archive traces movement, observation, and fleeting moments, revealing how travel, encounters, and everyday experiences feed directly into artistic development. Nelly Ating's print works are displayed using a hanging method inspired by traditional darkroom practices, recalling the way photographs are suspended to dry. Reflecting the artist's photographic background, this approach foregrounds process, sequencing, and material sensitivity, bridging photographic tradition with contemporary printmaking. Maryam ALTajer's works are suspended within the space between sculptural obelisk forms and arranged in gentle semi-circular arcs. Hanging away from the walls, they introduce air and movement into the gallery, allowing the works to respond subtly to space and to the presence of the viewer. This installation emphasises flow, balance, and spatial dialogue, offering a sense of openness rather than fixed containment.

Akoje Residency is proud to share the outcomes of the 2024/25 cohort. *Nine Voices* speaks to what becomes possible when artists are offered time, space, and meaningful support to focus fully on their creative journeys.

The works on display are available for purchase. Proceeds directly support the Akoje Residency and help sustain opportunities for current and future artists. We are also seeking to expand our network of donors and partners. If you are interested in supporting the programme, please contact info@akojegallery.com.

Works List



Kelly Omodamwen, Uvbi, Terracotta, 56x35x24cm



Kelly Omodamwen, Reflection "self portrait", 2024, Terracotta, 41.5x26x22cm



Kelly Omodamwen, Ovbialeke II, 2024, Terracotta, 65.5x16x11cm



Olawunmi Banjo, Rebirth II, 2024, oil on canvas, 76cm x 60cm



Olawunmi Banjo, Rebirth I, 2024, oil on canvas, 76cm x 60cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Okhanya ebumnyameni I, Charcoal, aerosol, & acrylic on paper, 106x73cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, umkhuleko we sikoshi I, Silkscreen, charcoal, aerosol & acrylic on paper, 108x73cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, MaNombali emanzini, Charcoal & acrylic on paper, 74x55 cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Okhanya ebumnyameni II, Okhanya ebumnyameni II, 99x68cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Umgidi we'Sikhoshi, charcoal, acrylic and aerosol on paper, 109x72cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Melusi, Silkscreen, charcoal, aerosol, & acrylic on paper, 77x57cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Umuthi omkhulu, Charcoal, acrylic and silkscreen on paper, 74 x54 cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Studio Window, Charcoal, acrylic and coffee stains on paper, 102.5x73cm



Minenkulu Ngoyi, 2025, Inhlanzi, Photopolymer on Hahnemuhle paper, 59x44cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Flipped Chapters, Acrylic on Canvas



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Dumbbell intimacy I, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Dumbbell intimacy II, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Towards making III, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Morning routine I, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Morning routine II, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Morning routine III, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30 cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Dumbbell intimacy III, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30 cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Looked after, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Digging dip, Acrylic and Charcoal on paper, 42 x 30 cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Towards making II,
42x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Towards making I, Acrylic and Charcoal on
paper, 42 x 30 cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, me time, Charcoal on paper, 52x36cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Dumbbell intimacy IV, Charcoal on paper,
42 x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Diggin in bed, Charcoal and liquid charcoal
on paper, 42 x30 cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, We look after each other, Charcoal and
liquid charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Strolling through corners, Charcoal on paper, 42 x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, The curved building in London, Acrylic and charcoal on paper, 42 x30cm



Oshorenoya David Francis, 2025, Code and dialogue, Acrylic and charcoal on paper, 42 x 30cm



Nelly Ating, 2025, Screen print, Edisat I, 77x57cm



Nelly Ating, 2025, Screen print, Edisat II, 77x57cm



Nelly Ating, 2025, Screen print, Edisat III, 77x57cm



Nelly Ating, 2025, Screen print, Edisat IV, 77x57cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, L'INFINIE, Glass beads, organic Cotton, Ndop (royal fabric), 100x50x40cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – wool, Mixed media, 39x14x12cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – charcoal, Mixed media, 42x15x18cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – thistle, Mixed media, 34x12x14cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – egg, Mixed media, 35x13x10cm



Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – deer, Mixed media, 84x47x40cm



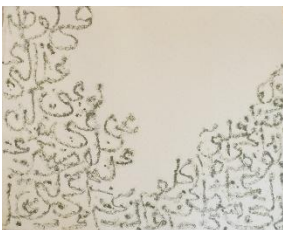
Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – dahlia, Mixed media,
40x12x8cm



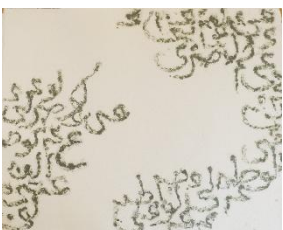
Beya Gille Gacha, 2025, Kò – eye, Mixed media,
48x11x6cm



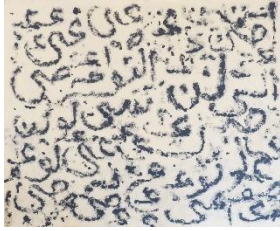
Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Mother, Mixed media on paper,
224x150cm



Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Built Up I, Handmade paper, white and green
paper pulp, 78x62cm



Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Built Up II, Handmade paper, white and green
paper pulp, 78x62cm



Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Afterthought, Handmade coloured paper pulp, 78x62cm



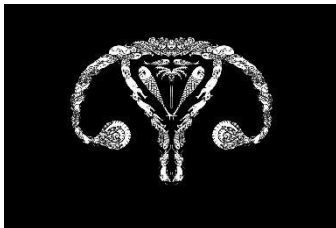
Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Residue I, Mixed media on mesh, paper pulp, 92x36 cm



Maryam AlTajer, 2025, Residue II, Mixed media on mesh, paper pulp, 106x87



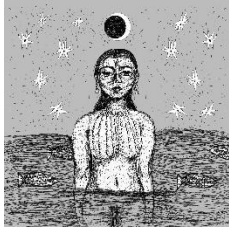
Zainab AlShibani, 2025, Missiles over Al Udeid, Aquatint print, 38x29cm



Zainab AlShibani, 2025, Untitled, Silkscreen print, 112x77cm



Zainab AlShibani, 2025, Arousa عروس , Aquatint print, 50x38cm



Zainab AlShibani, 2025, Untitled I, Aquatint print, 38x29cm



Oliver Enwonwu, 2024, Between What Was and What Will Be, Oil on canvas, 53.75 x 40.5 cm



Oliver Enwonwu, 2025, Duality of Becoming, Oil on Canvas, 58 x 40.8 cm