



Press Release

Christina Kimeze

Dates: 31 January – 11 May 2025

South London Gallery, Main Gallery & Fire Station galleries

The South London Gallery (SLG) is delighted to present London-based artist Christina Kimeze's first institutional solo exhibition, opening at the SLG in January 2025.

Kimeze's paintings depict often lone female figures, immersed in natural landscapes or set within abstracted interiors distilled to focus on patterns or isolated architectural features, such as arched doorways and spiral staircases. The protagonists are based on the artist's friends, family, and sometimes herself, in works which she says, 'belong to a new exploration of the idea of existing between two emotional spaces and the feelings of "otherness" that can arise from this space'.

The work explores themes of interiority, belonging and ideas of home. Evoking the feeling of nostalgia and remembering in her work, at times Kimeze has drawn on memories of visiting her father's home country of Uganda. The scenes she creates are often set against richly coloured foliage, capturing the heat of the country. She is also inspired by a broad range of literary references including a number of Black, feminist 20th-century writers. Unusual surface materials form an important part of Kimeze's practice, lending the paintings a distinctive luminosity and texture created using dry chalks, oil pastel and wet paints applied to suede matboard, paper and canvas.

For her SLG exhibition, Christina Kimeze has created a new body of work to be shown in the Main Gallery. Originally inspired by the resurgent popularity of roller skating in Black communities in London and beyond, they explore broader ideas around movement, flight and freedom. These expressive works evoke sensations of the body moving through space, and how those feelings might be conjured in the mind's eye. In the Fire Station galleries other new paintings and works on paper will be shown alongside a painted folding screen, as well as a newly commissioned tapestry made by Dovecot Studios in Edinburgh.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new, hard-backed catalogue, designed by 'A practice for everyday life'. This beautifully illustrated book will bring together images of paintings made in recent years alongside a selection of smaller works on paper. It offers a space to reflect on Christina Kimeze's practice to date and discover her new body of work, shown for the first time at the South London Gallery. The catalogue will feature an essay by Eleanor Nairne, The Keith L. and Katherine Sachs Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art and Head of Department at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a conversation between the artist and Alayo Akinkugbe, writer, art historian and founder of Instagram platform, @ABlackHistoryOfArt.

Ends

For further press information, images and interviews please contact
Anna Jones, Head of Communications: anna.jones@southlondongallery.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Address and Opening Hours

South London Gallery, Main Building: 65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH
South London Gallery, Fire Station: 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ

The gallery is open Wednesday – Sunday.

southlondongallery.org

Social Media

Instagram: @southlondongallery

Facebook: South London Gallery

TikTok: @southlondongallery_

About Christina Kimeze

Christina Kimeze lives and works in London. Kimeze studied at The Royal Drawing School postgraduate programme 2021-2022 where she was awarded the Sir Denis Mahon award; and received her undergraduate degree at the University of Oxford in Biological Sciences.

Recent exhibitions include: *Women & Freud: patients, pioneers, artists*, Freud Museum, London (2024); *Drawing Biennial 2024*, Drawing Room (2024); *Soulsapes*, Dulwich Picture Gallery (2024); *Present Tense*, Hauser and Wirth, Bruton (2024); *Something other than the world might know*, White Cube, Paris (2023); *Interior*, Michael Werner Gallery, London (2023); and *The Great Women Artists IV*, Residency at Palazzo Monti, Brescia, Italy (2022).

About Dovecot Studios

Dovecot is a world-renowned tapestry studio in the heart of Edinburgh and a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft, and design. Established in 1912, Dovecot continues a century-long heritage of collaboration with international artists to make exceptional and engaging works of art.

Dovecot Studios undertakes public and private textile commissions, with major tapestry projects including collaborations with Chris Ofili, Alison Watt, and Garry Fabian Miller. Also specialising in handcrafted rugs, Dovecot has worked with various artists such as Linder, Jim Lambie, and Nicolas Party. Occupying an extraordinary building, formerly Victorian baths, Dovecot also has an engaging programme of exhibitions and events, which expand the conversation around art, craft, and design.

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station which opened to the public in 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate, and two permanent gardens.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. Its highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a programme for looked after children.

Lead exhibition donor: The Bukhman Foundation

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