

PRESS RELEASE

***No Room For Fear* opens in London during Art Week 2019**

(London, United Kingdom, October 1, 2019) Inspired by the prophetic words of late Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, the art exhibition *No Room For Fear*, co-curated by SMO Contemporary Art and the Black British Female Artists Collective (BBFA) is being hosted by leading international law firm, Hogan Lovells in London, from October 1 – 30, 2019.

October will be a critical month for Britons as they face a watershed moment with BREXIT. At the same time, Black History Month is a time to celebrate cultural diversity and recognise the important contribution of people of African and Caribbean descent in the UK.

No Room For Fear, showcases the work of Adelaide Damoah, Ayesha Feisal, Carleen de Sozer, Chibuiké Uzoma, Enam Gbewonyo, Gabriel Choto, Justina Kehinde, Kenny Adewuyi, Kelani Abass, Olumide Oniadipe, Sanaa Gateja and Tyna Adebowale, with intertwined cultural roots spreading across Britain and Europe to Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Jamaica.

Through their paintings, drawings, sculpture, tapestry, mixed media works, spoken word and performances, these artists celebrate the power of their rich diversity, while fighting all forms of discrimination, and tackling socio-political issues.

No Room For Fear opens during the annual *London Art Week* which attracts thousands of visitors to enjoy the best of art at the Frieze Art Fair, the 1.54 Contemporary African Art Fair, the design fair PAD, the Bonhams Modern & Contemporary Art Auction, and over a hundred art events happening across the city.

"*No Room for Fear* creates space for this commonality to be experienced in one space, to share one breath and to form one powerful statement," commented exhibition co-curator Enam Gbenwonyo, Founder of the Black British Female Artists' Collective, and one of the exhibiting artists.

"Whether we look to the United States where the *Black Lives Matter* movement is coming at a time when racial tension has peaked yet again, or we consider South Africa, where black on black hate crimes have increased, our artists' work is a powerful positive force calling for a more globally inclusive world," said Sandra Mbanefo Obiogo, exhibition co-curator and Founder of SMO & Artistic Director of Contemporary Art.

"Celebrating African art and culture is a crucial part of our commitment to respect Africa, one of our four key pillars. We regularly host African art exhibition in our London and Johannesburg offices, to provide a platform for talented artists from the continent to showcase their work and give them much deserved exposure to international audiences", concluded Andrew Skipper, Partner and Head of Africa Practice at Hogan Lovells and Advisory Board Member of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington DC.

The Exhibition runs from October 1 – 31, 2019, and is supported by Hogan Lovells.

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For more information, please contact Moni at info@smocontemporaryart.com