

Adegbola Gallery Presents Aaron Kudi

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, 2026



May 13- 17, 2026

Booth 17

Press assets [here](#)

For immediate release: Adegbola Gallery presents Aaron Kudi at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, 2026, marking the gallery's first presentation at the fair. The booth features a new body of work by the Nigeria-born artist, who lives and works in London and is completing his MFA at the Slade School of Fine Art, London, in June 2026.

The presentation centers on paintings that explore what it means to remain psychologically and morally present in a world marked by suffering. Informed by Gethsemane, the works paint the residue of suffering through silence, dread, endurance, and the strain of continued witness. Across the presentation, pain appears as something absorbed, carried, and lived with,

leaving its weight on the surface.

Working on glazed tarpaulin and cotton duck canvas, Kudi builds his surfaces through liquid metal, ink, enamel, and acrylic. Layering, settling, cracking, and erosion shape each composition, guided by a sustained attention to process, repetition, and restraint. His paintings develop through close observation of material behavior, in which pressure, control, and release remain in active relation.

Set within antique gold frames, the paintings enter into deliberate tension with the European institutional structures that have historically shaped how painting is framed and received. At the same time, Kudi's practice draws ancestral visual knowledge into conversation with the formal language of international abstraction. This places the work within a broader modernist history shaped through non-Western perspectives, bringing local systems of knowledge into dialogue with abstraction.

Titles such as *Pillars of the Firmament*, *Syllables for a Midnight Vigil*, and *Hymn to the Heavy Root* extend the presentation's interest in time, transformation, and interior states.

Presented by Adegbola Gallery, a Lagos-based gallery with a program grounded in research, historical continuity, and rigorous curatorial thinking, the booth reflects the gallery's commitment to artists whose practices are shaped by material intelligence and sustained inquiry.

About Adegbola Gallery:

Adegbola Gallery is a Lagos-based gallery founded in 2025. The gallery presents a focused program of exhibitions and projects centered on artists whose practices are research-led and materially rigorous, with particular attention to questions of space, history, and perception. Within the primary market, Adegbola Gallery supports artists at key moments of development through solo exhibitions, curated group shows, and longer-term project-based collaborations. On the secondary market, Adegbola Gallery excels at highlighting the works of 20th-century modernists, who are foundational to Nigeria's contemporary art scene.

About the artist:

Aaron Kudi (b. 1993, Bauchi, Nigeria) lives and works in London. He holds a BSc in Psychology and an MSc in Social and Behavioral Sciences from University College London, before turning to art, first working in sculpture and later developing his painting practice. His work is shaped by scientific observation, spiritual attentiveness, and formal analysis. Working across glazed tarpaulin and cotton duck canvas in liquid metal, ink, enamel, and acrylic, he creates large-scale abstract paintings that bring ancestral visual knowledge into conversation with international abstraction. He is currently completing his MFA at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. Recent residencies include Thread, Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Senegal, and the British School at Rome.

Notes to editors:

VIP & Press preview:

Wednesday 13 May 2026, 11 am – 7 pm

Thursday 14 May 2026, 11 am – 4 pm

Public opening:

Thursday 14 May 2026, 4 pm – 8 pm

Friday 15 May 2026, 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday 16 May 2026, 11 am – 7 pm

Sunday 17 May 2026, 11 am – 5 pm

Location:

Starrett-Lehigh Building
600 W. 27th St
Manhattan, New York

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Adegbola Gallery

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