



James Barnor, *AGIP Calendar Model*, 1974.
Digital C-type print. 48 x 48 cm. Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof.

October Gallery at Art Dubai 2023
Contemporary: Booth E12 | Modern: Booth M6
1st – 5th March, 2023
VIP Preview: 1st and 2nd March, 2023

October Gallery, London, is pleased to participate at Art Dubai 2023 for its 16th edition, with a selection of new and recent works by international artists. For the Contemporary section (Booth E12), the gallery brings together striking pieces by **El Anatsui**, **Jordan Ann Craig**, **Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga** and **Alexis Peskine**, and will present a solo show of works by acclaimed photographer **James Barnor** at the Modern section in Booth M6.

Alexis Peskine presents new and recent works for the first time at Art Dubai in their **Contemporary** section. Peskine creates breathtaking composite images rendered by hammering nails of different gauge, with pin-point accuracy, into wood stained with coffee and mud, followed by applying gold and copper leaf to the nails. The artist's practice addresses questions of the Black Experience and references Congolese wooden effigies, the *Minkisi* power figures. Nails, in both ancient and contemporary African cultures are associated with objects of immense symbolic and spiritual power. For Peskine, the nail represents transcendence; it expresses pain as well as the force of resistance.

Also on view will be works by **El Anatsui**, whose metal wall sculptures have provoked a storm of international attention with institutions and audiences over recent years. Anatsui will be represented by two vibrant prints from the *Circular Series*, one in deep blue and the other in gold, that were developed with Factum Arte, Madrid. The artist's practice has always been rooted in the discovery of new media. These mesmerising prints were developed from Anatsui's metal wall sculptures, which are worked on by a team of assistants who crush, fold and pierce the bottle-tops on tables and on smaller flats of wood. The repetitive and relentless force exerted on these surfaces over many years has resulted in a landscape of textured relief embedded in the worktops. These wooden surfaces were delivered to the

studios of Factum Arte to serve as the primary source materials for this series of works on paper.

Alongside these intriguing prints, vivid hard-edged paintings by **Jordan Ann Craig**, which reference the artist's indigenous Northern Cheyenne culture, will be exhibited. Craig plays with colour, abstraction and optical illusion, often drawing upon the bold horizontal stripes of Cheyenne composition as well as the repetition of shapes, such as the triangle or square grid. Craig's abstract paintings and prints expand the definition of Native American art, and how culture is transmitted.

Another highlight will be new and recent large-scale paintings by **Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga**, whose work explores the seismic shifts in the economic, political, and social identity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have been taking place since colonialism. Internationally recognised as one of the most interesting young contemporary African talents, Kamuanga's work has been shown across Africa, Europe, and the United States. The first international monograph on Eddy Kamuanga was published by Rizzoli in collaboration with October Gallery in October 2022.

For the **Modern** section, October Gallery presents a solo booth by Ghanaian photographer **James Barnor**, whose masterful career has spanned six decades of continual development, working as studio portraitist, photojournalist and Black lifestyle photographer at large. Since the 1950s, Barnor has documented many of the major social and political changes occurring in Accra and London. His images comprehend both individual experience and the zeitgeist of the burgeoning African diaspora of the 60s, 70s and beyond. A solo exhibition of Barnor's work formed part of last year's Les Rencontres d'Arles, LUMA Foundation, France, and his iconic photography is currently displayed in the Africa Fashion exhibition at the V&A, London, until 16th April, 2023.

Notes to Editors

Alexis Peskine will be present at the fair from the evening of 1st March and available for interviews.

For press images and a caption sheet click the Dropbox link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fo/7zxatu3gkchnq4s4pvntl/h?dl=0&rlkey=injm8bkm7l38adv6w3sjtd4xd>

October Gallery, in central London, was founded in 1979 and was one of the first galleries in the UK to present contemporary art from all around the world. Currently in its 44th year, October Gallery has nurtured and developed the careers of some of the most innovative and exciting artists of our time, exhibiting artists from Africa, the Middle East, Oceania and Asia. The gallery is particularly known for exhibiting contemporary art from Africa and has been instrumental in bringing to international attention many of Africa's leading artists of today, including El Anatsui, Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, Nnenna Okore, Owusu-Ankomah, Rachid Koraïchi and Romuald Hazoumè.

Exhibition:	October Gallery, London at Art Dubai, 2023. Contemporary: Booth E12 Modern: Booth M6
Dates:	3 rd – 5 th March, 2023
VIP View:	1 st and 2 nd March, 2023
Venue:	Madinat Jumeirah Conference & Events Centre, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud St, Al Sufouh 1, Dubai.
Opening hours:	Public days: 3 rd – 4 th March, 2–9pm; 5 th March, 12–6pm
Admission:	https://www.artdubai.ae/visitor-information/
Gallery Website:	www.octobergallery.co.uk
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