



Aubrey Williams, *Time & Shadow*, 1964.
Oil on canvas, 71 x 114 cm. © Estate of Aubrey Williams.

October Gallery at Frieze Masters

9th – 13th October, 2024

October Gallery is delighted to exhibit paintings by **Aubrey Williams** in a first-time presentation of the artist's works at Frieze Masters, London.

Aubrey Williams' distinctive contribution to 20th century British art was last year recognised when Tate Britain dedicated a room to works by this master of painterly abstraction, in their rehang of significant examples of British art.

Spanning four decades — from the 1950s to the 1980s — the selected works highlight the ground-breaking nature of this artist's exploration of themes that include: ecology, cosmology, music and pre-colonial civilisations. Central to October Gallery's presentation are early works from the 1950s and 1960s, including *Summer*, 1956, which was exhibited in *Radical Landscapes* at Tate Liverpool in 2022 and *Time & Shadow*, 1964, which demonstrates the artist's lyrical organisation of form and colour. These works highlight Williams' painterly techniques, and illustrate the manner in which he connected mind and hand to extraordinarily luminous effect. Having spent time among the indigenous Warrau people, in the Guyanese rainforest, Williams had a prescient understanding of the mounting problems impacting environmental and ecological stability that have recently become more widely felt. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, his ruminations on the rapid collapse of previous civilisations became a frequent topic of his canvases, eventually developing into his major body of work titled the *Olmec-Maya and Now Series*.

Born in Guyana in 1926, Aubrey Williams arrived in London, in 1952 to study painting. Throughout his career, he worked between studios in the UK, Jamaica and the US. A true polymath, Williams played an integral part in an explosion of optimistic creativity amongst writers, artists and intellectuals of the diaspora in London during the 1950s and 1960s.

Highly charged and often experimental, Williams' intensely rich work is influenced by many, including Arshile Gorky, a precursor of abstract expressionism; Wilfredo Lam, who references African art motifs and Afro-Caribbean culture; and the American abstract expressionists of the 1950s.

With Williams' paintings and archives accessible in public collections including Tate Britain, London; Arts Council England; Natural History Museum, London; Victoria and Albert

Museum, London, and the Government Art Collection, UK, Aubrey Williams' unique place in British art history continues to be recognised.

About Aubrey Williams

Williams' recent institutional exhibitions include: *The Gift of Art* (2018), the Perez Museum; *Get Up, Stand Up Now* (2019), Somerset House; *Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 50s – Now* (2021), Tate Britain; *Fragments of Epic Memory* (2021), Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO); *PostWar Modern: New Art in Britain 1945–1965* (2022), the Barbican; *Revisiting the Work of Black Artists in Scotland Through New Collecting* (2022), Glasgow Museums; *Radical Landscapes* (2022), Tate Liverpool; *Erna Rosenstein, Aubrey Williams. The Earth Will Open its Mouth* (2022), Muzeum Sztuki; *Aubrey Williams: Cosmological Abstraction 1973-85* (2023-24), Tate Britain; and *Life Between Islands* (2024), Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO).

For information contact Alana Pryce Tojcic and for press images and caption sheet please click the Dropbox link [HERE](#)

About October Gallery

October Gallery has been instrumental in bringing to worldwide attention many of the world's leading international artists, including El Anatsui, Rachid Koraïchi, Romuald Hazoumè, Nnenna Okore, Laila Shawa, Eddy Kamuanga Ilunga, Alexis Peskine and Kenji Yoshida. The Gallery promotes the *Transvanguard*, the very best in contemporary art from around the planet, as well as maintains a cultural hub in central London for poets, writers, intellectuals and artists, and hosts talks, performances and seminars, see <https://www.octobergallery.co.uk>

The rich diversity of art presented is an inspiration to collectors and enthusiasts. Institutions such as the British Museum, and Tate Modern, London, UK; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany; Neue Galerie, Kassel, Germany; the Guggenheim, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, have all collected works from October Gallery.

Founded in 1979, October Gallery is a charitable trust which is supported by sales of art, rental of the Gallery's unique facilities, grants from various funding bodies and the active support of dedicated artists, musicians, writers and many friends from around the world. The Gallery's Education Department is inclusive of all ages from under 5's to PGCE students and delivers a wide range of provision, see <https://www.octobergalleryeducation.com>

Notes to Editors

Exhibition:	October Gallery at Frieze Masters, 2024 Aubrey Williams Solo Booth
Dates:	9 th – 13 th October, 2024.
Venue:	The Regent's Park, Chester Road, London, NW1 4NR
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