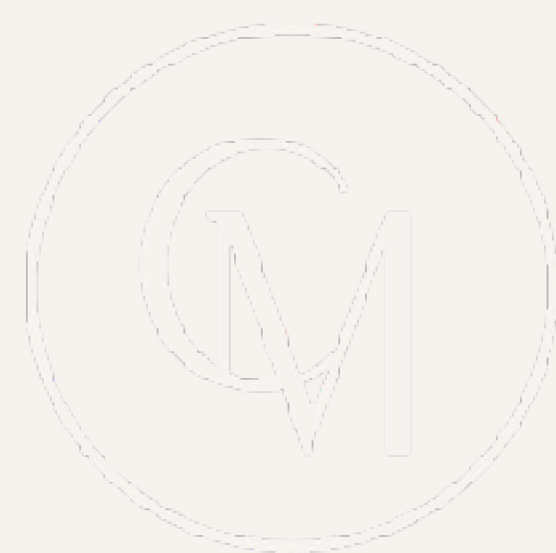




CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

DAVID OLATOYE



GALLERY



INTRODUCTION

David Olatoye is a Nigerian-based contemporary artist known for his hyper-stylised portraits created with acrylic and pen. Since beginning his artistic journey in Lagos in 2011 and enrolling in a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife, Nigeria in 2015, Olatoye has steadily gained recognition for his unique artistic style.

Olatoye's work explores the concept of reconstructed and idealised domestic scenes, examining his fragmented childhood memories and the societal expectations of life in a traditional Nigerian home. He brings a critical perspective to these themes, particularly focusing on the significant role of women in his upbringing.

In his current series, titled "Love and Life," Olatoye delves deeper into his fascination with family and domesticity. The series showcases his intense interest in the power and purpose of cultivating love in one's life, whether it be through friendships, family connections, or romantic relationships. Olatoye emphasises the importance of love as a source of protection and strength during challenging times.

The artist's paintings depict various rooms within a home, each representing different aspects of love and life. From the dining room where families gather for meals, to the living room where shared activities like watching TV or playing games foster togetherness, and the bedroom where romantic love blossoms in private. Olatoye's vivid colour palette and meticulous attention to detail bring these spaces to life, capturing the intensity and significance of each form of love and life force.

Olatoye's signature style combines elements of graphic illustration and painting, with each new collection revealing deeper layers of meaning. His artwork evokes a sense of intimacy, inviting viewers into his world and emphasising the importance of cherishing the sanctuaries of one's life. Despite the allure of material possessions and external glamour, Olatoye reminds us that it is the people and places that nurture us that truly matter.

Drawing inspiration from his strong sense of family and memories of growing up with influential female figures, Olatoye's subject matter resonates with collectors and collaborators. His exploration of leading a meaningful life and fulfilling roles as a loving father, devoted family member, and supportive partner is evident in his confident use of colour and detailed renderings.

Through his fervent artistic expression, Olatoye conveys the depth of his emotions and invites us to appreciate the profound connections and experiences that shape our lives.



G A L L E R Y



WHERE MOMENTS ARE MADE

Pen and Acrylic on canvas
91. x 91. cm (36.4 x 36.4 inches)
USD 6,700 (Excl S.A vat)





DUVETS ARE FOR COLD DAYS II

Pen and Acrylic on canvas
91. x 91. cm (36.4 x 36.4 inches)
USD 6,700 (Excl S.A vat)





DUVETS ARE FOR COLD DAYS I

Pen and Acrylic on canvas
91. x 91. cm (36.4 x 36.4 inches)
USD 6,700 (Excl S.A vat)



MY KNIGHT IS SHINING ARMOUR

Pen and Acrylic on canvas
152 x 122cm (60.8 x 48.8 inches)
USD 10,200 (Excl S.A vat)



BIOGRAPHY

David Olatoye (b. 1995, Ogun State, Nigeria) is a contemporary Nigerian artist whose work explores themes of home, memory, and emotional restoration. After completing a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife, he began developing a distinct visual language rooted in the quiet rhythms of domestic life. Influenced by his upbringing and the strength of the women in his family, particularly his mother, Olatoye has become known for creating deeply personal, introspective works that reflect both the complexities of modern life and the comfort found in familiar spaces.

Olatoye's most sought-after and celebrated body of work is his ongoing series *Love and Life*. This collection brings together the key themes that define his practice: the emotional architecture of home, the sanctuary of intimate relationships, and the tension between external demands and internal grounding. Through this series, Olatoye invites viewers to reflect on the spaces, physical and emotional, that allow us to rest, reconnect, and endure.

Set almost entirely within private interiors, *Love and Life* captures moments of quiet pause: a figure reclining on a bed, a family scene framed on the wall, a sunlit chair left empty. These are not dramatic or monumental scenes. Instead, they honour the significance of the everyday, the dining room, the bedroom, the lounge, as places where love is expressed, and where life is most deeply felt. The series gently asserts that creating space for softness and self-care is not indulgent, but essential.

Olatoye's style is marked by meticulous linework, a precise use of space, and a distinctive palette of pastel hues, dusty pinks, pale greens, soft blues, that lend his compositions a sense of stillness and light. His colour sensibility pays quiet homage to artists such as David Hockney, whose works similarly elevate domestic interiors into poetic spaces of reflection. Yet Olatoye's approach is unmistakably his own: layered with cultural symbolism and emotional resonance.

A recurring motif in his work is the painting within the painting, framed portraits of loved ones that appear on the walls of his interior scenes. These nested images act as emotional anchors, adding a layer of memory and lineage. He also often renders the skin of his subjects with the texture of woven mats, a reference to traditional sleeping mats used across West Africa. In doing so, he symbolically ties the body to themes of rest, resilience, and cultural continuity.

While Olatoye's subject matter is deeply personal and rooted in African experience, the questions he poses are universal: Where do we find peace? How do we reconnect when life wears us down? In a world defined by speed, pressure, and disconnection, *Love and Life* offers a timely and necessary pause. His work resonates globally, not as a divergence from contemporary discourse, but as a vital contribution to it.

Through *Love and Life*, David Olatoye has established a distinct and timely voice within contemporary African art. His work bridges personal history and broader cultural narratives, offering a nuanced exploration of rest, memory, and emotional resilience. In a global context increasingly attuned to mental well-being and the complexities of modern life, Olatoye's practice resonates with a wide audience. His refined visual language, rooted in domestic space yet rich in symbolic meaning positions him as a leading figure among a new generation of African artists shaping the discourse through introspection, clarity, and care.



G A L L E R Y

EXHIBITION HISTORY

2025

Pursuit of Happiness—Group Exhibition, Windsor Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.
INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. - Group exhibition.

2024

RELE Foundation Residency— Artist in residency Exhibition, R2 Space, Rele Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.
INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. - Group exhibition.

2023

LOVE & LIFE Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. – A Solo exhibition.
Tête-à-tête, Duo show, PI Artwork, 55 Eastcastle St, London.
Times are changing, GR gallery, 255 bowery, New York, New York.
INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. - Group exhibition.
RMB LATITUDES ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa. - Group Exhibition.

2022

AUTUMN IS FRESH, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, (June) – Group exhibition.
ART MIAMI, Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, GR Gallery, New York, United States of America
1-54 ART FAIR PARIS, African Arty Gallery, Paris

2021

RONCHINI GALLERY, 22 Dering Street, London, United Kingdom.

2020

PACERS GALLERY, Lagos Nigeria.
RELE YOUNG CONTEMPORARY, Lagos Nigeria.

2019

3D VIDEO ART EXHIBITION, Cultural Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Lfe Osun State, Nigeria.

2018

COMING OUT, Onireke, Ibadan Oyo State, Nigeria.
Nimbuss Gallery, Ikoyi, Lagos Nigeria.
TALES FROM WITHIN, National Museum, Onikan – Lagos State, Nigeria.
CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART, Vernissage, Circle de Lorraine, Brussels.
LIFE IN MY CITY ART FESTIVAL, Enugu State, Nigeria.

2017

LIFE IN MY CITY ART FESTIVAL, Ibandan, Oyo State, Nigeria. ARBICANS, Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo State, Nigeria. MIND (Art Break), Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo State, Nigeria



G A L L E R Y

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GALLERY

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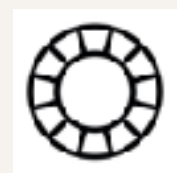
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ACQUISITION PROCESS

- Once you have chosen your favourite piece, please contact our team at info@christophermollerart.co.za to confirm your request and advise on your shipping address.
- Please note, your requested piece and invoice will be valid for 7 calendar days. Once payment has been processed and received, ownership of the piece will be transferred.
- Art pieces will be released to the waiting list after 7 days.
- Shipment date will be confirmed per purchase. Kindly note, artwork will only leave the Gallery post exhibition.
- Kindly note all ZAR prices are excluding 15% SA VAT.
- Kindly note, shipping cost excludes any destination taxes & import charges

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

Our bank (Nedbank) has given us the option to do the credit card transaction via e-payment solution for credit cards. This is a secure product that enables the Gallery to send you a link with the amount pre-populated. It requires you to complete your credit card details. This protects you, in that you don't have to give out your credit card details to a third party, while you complete it online. Unfortunately, this system does not accept American Express or Diners Club credit cards.

Please inform your bank of the transaction in advance and provide them with our Merchant code: 2738375 should your bank reject the request from a foreign country.

This is how it works; You will receive an email with the link from the Christopher Moller Gallery. This will include a PDF copy of the invoice. Please click on the link and complete the transaction by completing your credit card details. Kindly note each link has an expiry date and is valid for 2 days. Once the transaction has been authorised, you will receive a notification that the payment has been successful.

ENQUIRIES | How can we assist?

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VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact us to view in person.

Tuesday - Friday • 10h00 - 16h00

Monday & Saturday • Viewings by Appointment Sunday • Closed

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

VISIT US

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