

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART



MEDIA ALERT: Blanton Museum to Present New Work by Njideka Akunyili Crosby

What: The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin announces *Njideka Akunyili Crosby*, the tenth Contemporary Project in the museum’s rotating series of innovative work by contemporary artists. This intimate exhibition by Nigerian-born, Los Angeles-based artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby showcases four recent works made during the Covid-19 pandemic. Known for her signature photo-transfer technique using images sourced from her native Nigeria and life in the U.S., Akunyili Crosby’s artistic practice embraces her experiences as a Black woman and immigrant negotiating two cultures.

For these four paintings, Akunyili Crosby shifts her past focus on domestic interiors to exterior spaces—and plant life, exploring cultural hybridity through species found in Los Angeles and Lagos, Nigeria, occasionally merging the two to imagine new “cosmopolitan plants.” The monumental work *Still You Bloom in This Land of No Gardens* (above) depicts the artist sitting on her back porch with her young child, surrounded by vegetation. Such lush green foliage is the main subject of three brand-new works in the show, which will premiere at the Blanton.

When: July 23–December 4, 2022

Programs:

As part of the Blanton’s *Curated Conversations* series, there will be an online artist talk with Njideka Akunyili Crosby in October 2022. More information will be made available at blantonmuseum.org/events.

Njideka Akunyili Crosby is organized by the Blanton Museum of Art.

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Image: Njideka Akunyili Crosby, *Still You Bloom in This Land of No Gardens*, 2021, acrylic, photographic transfers, colored pencil, and collage on paper, 96 x 108 in., © 2021 Njideka Akunyili Crosby, courtesy the artist, Victoria Miro, and David Zwirner (photo: Jeff Mclane)

About the Blanton

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

About Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Born in Enugu, Nigeria, in 1983, Akunyili Crosby currently lives and works in Los Angeles. The artist was awarded an honorary doctorate from Swarthmore College in May 2019. She is also a recipient of the 2021 United States Artists (USA) Fellowship and a 2017 MacArthur Fellowship and has received awards and grants including the Prix Canson, 2016; Next Generation honor, New Museum, 2015; Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, 2015; and the James Dicke Contemporary Artist Prize, The Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2014, among others.