



# State of the Art: Sola Olulode

Anna Walker 14 October 2021



**Nigerian artist Sola Olulode is inspired by her identity as a queer Black artist. She spoke to us as ARTPOWHER Contemporary presents her new body of work**

**How would you describe your art?**

I would describe my artwork as an exploration of the feelings behind relationships through colour and material in figurative painting.

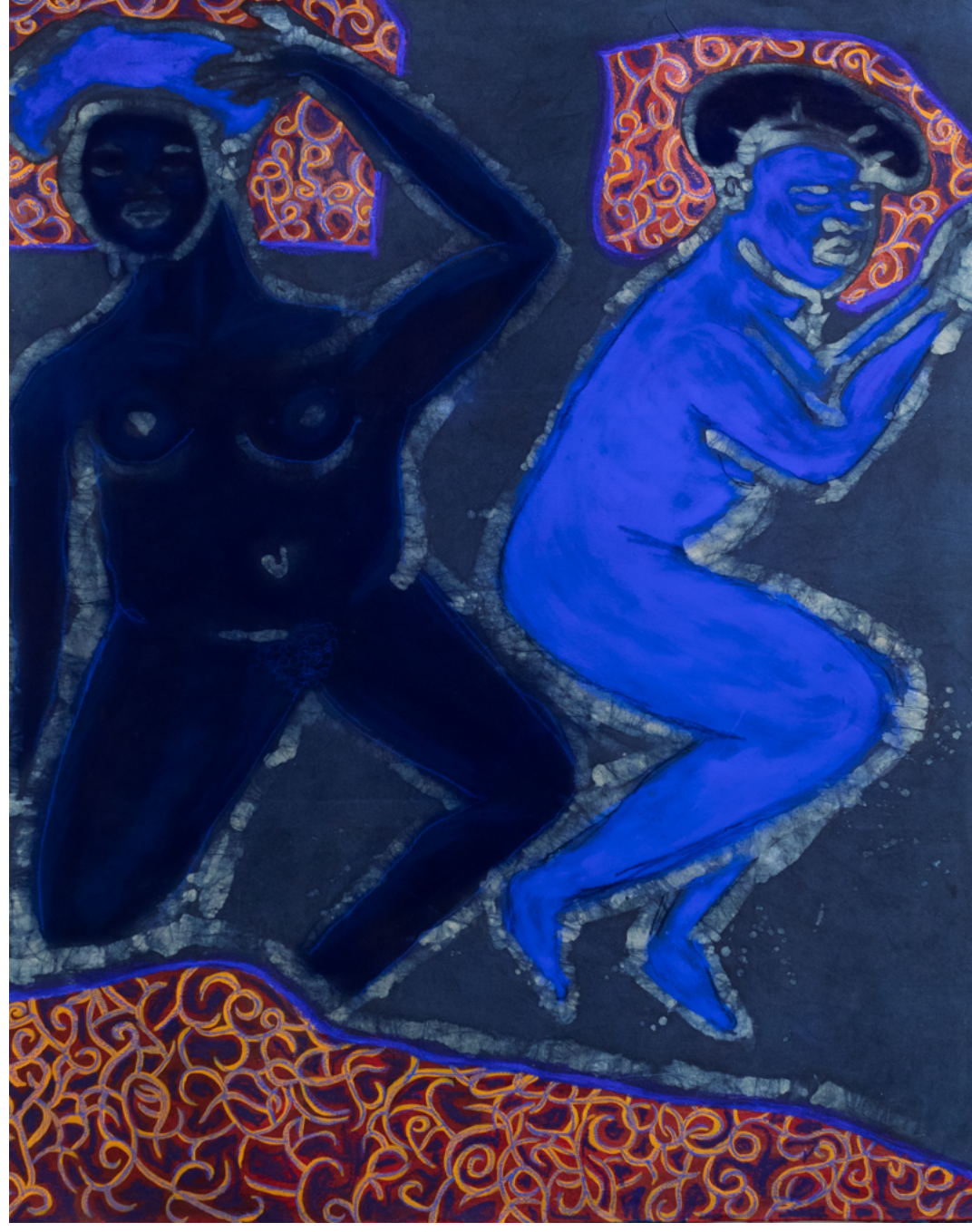
**Who or what are your main influences?**

The relationships that I have experienced and witnessed throughout my life inspire a lot of my work. Although the work is not autobiographical I can only explore the feelings that I have felt myself in the work.

**Could you tell me a little about the influence of Yoruba Adire textiles on your work?**

When I began to explore the use of dyes in my work I was particularly drawn to the history of indigo dyeing and it's connection—and my own—to Nigeria.

That's how I came to become fascinated by Adire and the traditional methods of resistance dyeing. I began to incorporate the methods they used to create patterns for textiles as a way to expand of the materiality of my figurative paintings.



*Asleep In The Heat, Copyright: ARTPOWHER Contemporary (courtesy of ARTPOWHER Contemporary)*

**You work across many mediums, from textiles to pastels and painting. Do you have a favourite?**

I think my absolute favourite medium to work with will always be oil paints. There's something about the richness of colour that you get from the paint that I love so much, as intense colour plays such a huge role in setting the tone for my work.

**What can viewers of your new show with ARTPOWHER Contemporary look forward to?**

Viewers of my presentation at [ARTPOWHER Contemporary](#) can expect to see a new experiment with how to hang a painting from me. I've always wanted to take my work off the standard frame and hang it in a more interesting way as I'm fed up with the stiffness of a stretched canvas.

I think the wooden bars that I've chosen to hang my works with are great for this bed theme. For me when I look at them I see the painting extended, I see the bars as the frame of the bed. The way it hangs looser brings it back closer to the textiles that have influenced my work.



*Goodnight Kiss, Copyright: ARTPOWHER Contemporary (courtesy of ARTPOWHER Contemporary)*

**How did you come to the title of your presentation, “I Love Sharing The Bed With You”?**

The title came quite simply to me as I thought around the reasons why I enjoyed creating these scenes of couples in bed and what it was about this particular setting for couples that resonated with me. In my personal life laying in bed with a loved one is my happiest place.

Visit [ARTPOWHER](#) to learn more and you can see more of Sola's work at their [website](#)

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