

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Christie's, MOWAA uplift global creatives with fundraising auction

September 11, 2023



*In support of Nigeria's impending Museum of West African Art (MOWAA), the global company will soon sell works provided on behalf of renowned artists of color during London's Frieze Week. Image credit: Christie's*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British auction house Christie's is teaming up with a group of established names to amplify West African art.

In support of Nigeria's impending Museum of West African Art (MOWAA), the global company will soon sell works provided on behalf of renowned artists of color during London's Frieze Week. With programming taking place next month, units will be auctioned as part of Christie's "20/21" series, which spotlights art from the 20th and 21st centuries.

"The London art community is coming together this October to celebrate 20 years of Frieze Art Fair and the city's unique and pivotal position within the global art ecosystem," said Anthea Peers, president of EMEA at [Christie's](#), in a statement.

"Christie's collaboration with MOWAA for our London sales epitomizes the vibrancy of the capital, highlighting the international vision of artists whose works have been so generously donated to support this seminal institution in West Africa," Ms. Peers said. "We are delighted to showcase these works within our Frieze Week programming."

### Cultural showcase

American painter Kehinde Wiley and British painter Tunji Adeniyi-Jones are just two of the many artists to donate works to the initiative thus far. Others include British-Nigerian fabric artist Yinka Shonibare, British-Ugandan painter Lakwena Maciver and Nigerian visual artist Victor Ehikhamenor.

MOWAA is currently under construction in Benin City, Nigeria.



*The new museum will open in 2025. Image credit: MOWAA*

Proceeds stemming from next month's event in The Regent's Park from Oct. 11-15, 2023 go toward creating the city's cultural ecosystem "based on the art of the past, present and future," according to a Christie's statement.

Besides building MOWAA, funds raised resources will go toward the presentation of the Nigerian Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, an exhibition opening next year in Italy curated by British historian Aindrea Emelife.

Sales from the aforementioned works will also benefit the city's planned 20-acre Creative District, inclusive of the Rainforest Gallery. The dedicated space designed by the Dakar-based architecture firm Worofila will showcase modern and contemporary art, in addition to historic exhibitions.

"MOWAA is thrilled to partner with Christie's during this year's Frieze London," said Ms. Emelife, in a statement.

"Through the generosity of artists and collectors, we are able to bring a collection of incredible works to auction," she said. "This will directly benefit core parts of our mission and creative initiatives from providing critical infrastructure and programming to supporting contemporary creatives and cultural heritage specialists in West Africa.

"I am deeply grateful to all of the artists for their advocacy and support."

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art is also looking to uplift an underrepresented group, hosting an exhibition showcasing the work of women fashion designers from the last 120 years ([see story](#)).

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