



Tunji Adeniyi-Jones

Violet Obrit Motion

Wingate Studio is pleased to announce *Violet Orbit Motion*, a new, richly layered color etching by Brooklyn-based, Nigerian British artist Tunji Adeniyi-Jones. This is the artist's third project with the studio. The image's chromatically saturated figures and foliage combine to form an intricate composition that appears to pulsate with repeated, cyclical motion. Four figures appear to dance, their arms and legs lifted and lowered, taut and rounded, enact a gestural ritual that is at once reminiscent of West African traditions and an allusion to the rhythmic figures readily associated with Matisse. More specifically, the elegantly etched pale blue lines that accent these bodies likewise make a dual reference. On the one hand they recall the scarification found in Benin sculptures; and, on the other, they extend the floral references made in the artist's recent contribution to the Nigerian Pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale, wherein the composition's linear elements echo the adjacent architectural flourishes of the historic Venetian palazzo that hosted his colossal ceiling painting. Fueled by its dynamic palette of fiery oranges and reds that intertwine with this work's cool blue and indigo tones, *Violet Orbit Motion* features a mystical figure-ground tension in which limbs and leaves dance with and around one another as they fan out from the image's densely configured center, further underscoring the Nigerian cultural traditions at the heart of the artist's practice. In this compressed yet choreographed chaos, West African and European modernist forms combine, as do figure and ground, in the artist's latest, and most vivid print to date that celebrates the power and potential of the Black body. As the artist explains, "Printmaking has developed into a crucial aspect of my practice, and this new print is no exception. Largely inspired by a series of oil paintings I have been making in the studio, this print has enabled me to build off of some existing ideas and push them further."

- Jennie Hirsh, PhD





Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, *Violet Orbit Motion*, 2025
Five plate aquatint etching with spit bite and soft ground on
white Somerset Satin
Signed, dated and numbered by the artist on recto
Plate size 24 x 36 inches (60.96 x 91.44 cm)
Paper size 30 x 44 inches (76.2 x 111.76 cm)
Edition of 30 + 3 AP + 3 PP
Printed and published by Wingate Studio

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Tunji Adeniyi-Jones (b. 1992, London, England) lives and works in New York, NY. The artist's paintings emerge from what he describes as “cultural addition, combination, and collaboration.” His practice is inspired by the ancient history of West Africa and its attendant mythology, and by his Yoruba heritage. Recent solo exhibitions include White Cube (Hong Kong), Morán Morán (Los Angeles, CA), Flag Art Foundation (New York City, NY), Nicelle Beauchene Gallery (New York City, NY), and Charleston (Lewes, UK). He was featured in the 60th Venice Biennale at the Nigerian Pavilion. Adeniyi-Jones's work can be found in the public collections of the Aishti Foundation (Lebanon), Birmingham Museum of Art (AL), Dallas Museum of Art (TX), Institute of Contemporary Art (Miami, FL), Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City, NY), Museum Azman (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), National Museum of Norway (Oslo), Norval Foundation (Cape Town, South African), Perez Art Museum (Miami, FL), Ståhl Collection (Norrköping, Sweden), The Studio Museum (Harlem, NY), and many other public and private collections internationally.

Photo by Christopher Garcia Valle/Courtesy Tunji Adeniyi-Jones