

'Silence' by Ephrem Solomon at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London

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EPHREM SOLOMON SILENCE SERIES 17, 2017 Woodcut , collage and mixed media 80 x 80 cm 31 1/2 x 31 1/2 in
(Copyright The Artist)

Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery presents "Silence," the second solo exhibition of latest woodcut sculptures by Ethiopian artist Ephrem Solomon. This exhibition showcases Solomon's newest work which deals with the idea of mortality, social justice and freedom of expression. Solomon's works are based on urban environment and the people within; wooden sculptures are characterized by their facial expression of different emotions created by etched lines around mouths and foreheads and with eyes that look at some unseen distance, with hope, despair or thoughtfulness. Geometrical shapes fill the background of these wooden structures. The motif of a chair, symbolizing authority of a fictional society recurs in his creations as slippers represent society. "We often do not see the presence of those chairs and slippers in our home. I question their power within the home, their ability to go unnoticed, yet be ingrained in our day to day activities."

This new series is the result of the artist's one-year self- introspection; meditating on concepts of life, death, freedom, and happiness. "I have experienced the silence in death," he explains. "The fact remains that death is the end of life... or at least life as we know it. Death, dying and the afterlife are all shrouded deep in mystery, cloaked in darkness and surrounded by fear and apprehension." He also deals with borders: between travelers, between nations, both in the physical sense and idea. He fights for freedom of expression and stands up against social injustice. In this latest series, chairs are replaced by raised fists and guns, gestures of both violence and defiance.

Ephrem Solomon was born in 1983 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He lives and works in Addis Ababa. He has exhibited internationally, including shows in Ethiopia, Kenya, Dubai and Croatia, Australia and the UK. His works are held in private collections in Dubai, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, and the UK, including the Saatchi Collection.

"Silence" is being presented from January 6, 2018, through February 3, 2018, at Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, 533 Old York Rd, London SW18 1TG, UK.

For details, visit: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/kristin-hjellegjerde-gallery/overview>
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Click on the slide show to have a sneak peek of the artist's work.

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