

Blain|Southern opens in New York

Press Release
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Blain|Southern announces it will open its third gallery space on W 25th Street in New York this May, with an exhibition by Malian artist Abdoulaye Konaté. This latest announcement from gallerists Harry Blain and Graham Southern is the next step in the international expansion of Blain|Southern, which currently has locations in London and Berlin and off-site projects internationally.

Blain|Southern New York will be housed at 547 W 25th Street, a building designed by renowned gallery architect Richard Gluckman and previously occupied by Cheim & Read. In its search for a New York space, the gallery sought to identify a location in line with its purpose-built spaces in London and Berlin, designed by Caruso St John Architects and Adjaye Associates respectively.

Coinciding with his work in the upcoming Havana Biennial and two years after his Venice Biennale participation, Abdoulaye Konaté inaugurates Blain|Southern New York with a timely presentation of textile-based installations that explore socio-political and environmental issues. Konaté refers to the West African tradition of using textiles as a means of commemoration and communication, balancing observation of global politics with references to his own local, cultural history.

Announcing the New York location, co-founder Harry Blain said:

We are delighted to be opening a space in New York, one of the most important cities in the world for art, to support our artists and programme in the U.S. We have had the privilege of working here for decades with an extensive network of artists, collectors, writers, museums and institutions across the region. This new gallery brings us closer to these important relationships and is an exciting addition to the London and Berlin galleries.

About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern was founded in 2010 by Harry Blain and Graham Southern, with gallery spaces in London, followed by Berlin. Over the past 8 years, the gallery has established a strong, artist-led exhibition programme, exhibiting pioneering new work by contemporary artists as well as, on occasion, placing focus on significant 20th Century artists or art historical movements. The gallery represents an expanding roster of international artists and several artists' estates, including: Avigdor Arikha; Agathe de Bailliencourt; Ali Banisadr; Marius Bercea; Jonas Burgert; Lynn Chadwick; Jake & Dinos Chapman; Francesco Clemente;

Mat Collishaw; Amy Feldman; Lucian Freud; Damien Hirst; Rachel Howard; Michael Joo; Edward & Nancy Kienholz; Joanna Kirk; Abdoulaye Konaté; Moshekwa Langa; Enrique Martínez Celaya; Harland Miller; François Morellet; Ed Moses; Fujiko Nakaya; Pietro Ruffo; Sean Scully; Chiharu Shiota; Yinka Shonibare CBE; Michael Simpson; Joan Snyder; Bosco Sodi; Henning Strassburger; Kishio Suga; Frank Thiel; Liliane Tomasko; Nasan Tur; Bernar Venet; Jeroen Verhoeven; Bill Viola; Tim Noble and Sue Webster; Lawrence Weiner; Wim Wenders; James White; Sislej Xhafa; and Gilberto Zorio.

This year, Sir Charles Saumarez Smith joined the gallery as Senior Director, having been Chief Executive at The Royal Academy of Arts, Director at The National Portrait Gallery and Director of The National Gallery London. He plays an integral part of Blain|Southern's commitment to sustaining the working life and future careers of its artists, making a priority of facilitating new commissions and public loans, as well as museum exhibitions for its artists.

blainsouthern.com

About Abdoulaye Konaté

Work by Abdoulaye Konaté (b. 1953 Diré, Mali) primarily takes the form of textile-based installations that explore socio-political and environmental issues, as well as showcasing his aesthetic concerns and formal language. Konaté questions the way in which societies and individuals, both in Mali and beyond, have been affected by factors such as war, the struggle for power, religion, globalisation, ecological shifts and the AIDS epidemic. Employing material native to Mali, namely woven and dyed cloths, the artist creates large-scale abstract and figurative compositions. Konaté refers to the West-African tradition of using textiles as a means of commemoration and communication, balancing global political and social reflections with a reference to his own local and cultural history.

Konaté first studied painting at the Institut National des Arts in Bamako and then at the Instituto Superior des Arte, Havana, Cuba, where he lived for seven years before returning to Mali. In 2008, he was nominated for the *Artes Mundi 3* prize, Cardiff. He has received several awards, including the prestigious Léopold Sédar Senghor Prize at the *Dak'Art Biennale* in Dakar (1996), the Officier de l'Ordre National du Mali (2009) as well as the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de France (2002).

Konaté's work has featured in numerous international exhibitions. Major group shows include *Pulling at Threads*, Norval Foundation, SA (2018); *Mobile Worlds or The Museum of our Transcultural Present*, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, DE (2018); *The Summer Show*, Royal Academy of Arts (RA), London, UK (2017); *L'Afrique en capitale*, Musée Mohammed VI d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Rabat, MA (2017); *Eva International biennale* in Limerick, IE (2016); *ART_TEXTILES*, The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, UK (2015); *Streamlines: Metaphorical and Geopolitical Interpretations of the Oceans* at Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, DE (2015); *The Divine Comedy, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory revisited by Contemporary African Artists* at the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, DE (2014), SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, US (2014-2015), and National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, US (2015). Recent solo exhibitions include a retrospective at Arken Museum for Moderne Kunst, DK (2016) and *Symphonie en couleur* at Blain|Southern London, UK (2016).

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