

Contemporary Rooms at EoTLA

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Ground Floor, 210 Hornsey Road, London N7 7LL England

Leo Asemota *The Prime Mover's will on the Architect*

25 September 2010 – 19 February 2011

Opening preview: Saturday 25 September 2010, midday to 4pm

The Contemporary Rooms at EoTLA are delighted to make this announcement of a new installation by Leo Asemota on his return to London after a year away on residencies in Liverpool (with excursions to Hiroshima and Kyoto) and Amsterdam to advance the second phase of "The Ens Project".

The *prime mover* in the title for this exhibition refers to "Eo ipso", 'the original or primary force behind' *The Ens Project*. Through drawings, photographs, video recordings and observations with his key materials: orhue (kaolin), coal and palm-oil, the presented works offer insight on 'the force' at work on Asemota, nurturing his instincts and imagination in his approach to an art where the idea is absolute. Also included are an assortment of found objects, photographs, printed matter and documents that are an added fillip to Asemota's process of knowing his idea, encompassing themes embodied in the project's main focus on the human head and in describing aspects of the culture, history and rationale from which "The Ens Project" is being forged.

Leo Asemota began working on "The Ens Project" in the spring of 2005. Its "First Principles", was evolved over six stages completed in 2008 and comprise a body of work informed by pre-colonial Kingdom of Benin's rich culture of art and ceremony, the Victorian age of Empire building and Walter Benjamin's treatise on art and its technological reproducibility. The ongoing second phase is focused on "The Handmaiden" a character central to the activities in the project's third and final phase: "Eo ipso" a multi-media live art work based on an ancient and contemporary Edo cult of the head.

Exhibitions of works from *The Ens Project* include solo shows: *The Handmaiden; Amsterdam S.E.* (2010) at CBK Zuidoost, Amsterdam; *The Handmaiden; Liverpool* (2010) at Metal, Edge Hill Station Liverpool; *Testimony* (2009) at BookArts Bookshop, London; *The longMarch of Displacement* (2008) at St. Paul's Cathedral, London; *ens memorialis* (2008) at the National Portrait Gallery London; *A Circle in the (w)Hole* (2007) at Exit Gallery, London; *After Walter: A transmission in two acts* (2007) a performance interpretation of the Walter Benjamin's essay on Resonance 104.4FM and *Misfortune's Wealth* (2006–2007) in the Contemporary Rooms at EotLA. Group shows and screenings include *Africa Reflected on Video* (2009) at Netherlands Media Art Institute, Amsterdam; *One's History is Another's Misery* (2009) at Stedelijk Museum (Bureau Amsterdam) from Autocenter Berlin; *Living Landscapes* (2009) at Aberystwyth University and *Emerging Discourse Part 2: Performance and Mimicry* (2008) at Bodhi Art New York.

For more information please contact Sally Fischer

Exhibition opening times:

Monday – Friday always by appointment between 8am - 8pm

Saturdays: 11am – 4pm

Closed on Sundays

For appointments:

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