# Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art partners with Tate Modern to spotlight Nigerian modernism on the global stage



The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA) has made a significant leap onto the global art stage, cementing its status as a pivotal institution in the stewardship and promotion of Nigerian art. This development comes with the loan and shipment of five iconic works from its impressive collection to the Tate Modern in London, where they will be featured in a landmark exhibition titled "Nigerian Modernism." Scheduled to open on October 8, 2025, and run for seven months, this exhibition promises to showcase the rich legacy of Nigerian artistic innovation within a global context.

YSMA's collaboration with Tate Modern is a testament to its role as a trusted custodian of Nigerian cultural heritage. It not only reinforces the museum’s scholarly credibility but also broadens the international visibility and influence of Nigerian art. Observers familiar with the museum's initiatives have described the forthcoming exhibition as extraordinary, highlighting its potential to rewrite art history by firmly placing Nigeria at the centre of modernist narratives. For Nigerian art enthusiasts and the wider public, this moment marks both national pride and cultural validation, demonstrating that Nigerian art is integral—not peripheral—to the global modernist story.

The exhibition at Tate Modern will celebrate Nigerian artists who revolutionised modern art around the period of Nigeria’s 1960 independence and beyond. It explores how these artists have fused African and European artistic traditions and techniques to create innovative multidisciplinary forms spanning painting, sculpture, textiles, literature, and poetry. Renowned artists such as Ben Enwonwu and El Anatsui will be featured prominently, showcasing the breadth and depth of Nigeria’s contributions to modernism. This fusion illustrates the dynamic exchange of cultural influences that defines the Nigerian modernist movement and highlights the country’s creative contributions within the broader scope of global art history.

Beyond its role in this international exhibition, YSMA continues to foster a vibrant art scene within Nigeria. The museum itself is poised to open "Collecting Now: Perspectives on Contemporary Art Collecting in Nigeria" on October 26, 2024. This forthcoming exhibition will delve into the endeavors of six influential Nigerian art collectors, including Prince Yemisi Shyllon himself, offering insights into their curatorial perspectives and the evolving landscape of contemporary Nigerian art collecting. Such initiatives further underscore YSMA’s commitment to nurturing and documenting Nigeria’s artistic heritage at both local and international levels.

The partnership between YSMA and Tate Modern sends a clear message to the global art community: Nigerian art deserves to be central in discussions about modernism and cultural identity. This collaboration not only affirms Nigeria’s rich cultural legacy but also challenges long-standing narratives that have often marginalised African perspectives in art history. By bringing Nigerian modernist works to one of the world’s most prestigious contemporary art venues, the exhibition promises to elevate the discourse around African art’s place on the global stage.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[2]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[4]](https://businessday.ng/life-arts/article/collectors-take-centre-stage-as-collecting-now-exhibition-opens-october-26-at-shyllon-museum/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[2]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[4]](https://businessday.ng/life-arts/article/collectors-take-centre-stage-as-collecting-now-exhibition-opens-october-26-at-shyllon-museum/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.timeout.com/london/art/nigerian-modernism), [[5]](https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/events/nigerian-modernism-various/), [[6]](https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/events/nigerian-modernism-various/), [[7]](https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/events/nigerian-modernism-various/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://businessday.ng/life-arts/article/collectors-take-centre-stage-as-collecting-now-exhibition-opens-october-26-at-shyllon-museum/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[2]](https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/), [[3]](https://www.timeout.com/london/art/nigerian-modernism), [[5]](https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/events/nigerian-modernism-various/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://newsmakerslive.org/ysma-takes-nigerian-art-to-the-world-stage-at-tate-modern/> - The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA) has loaned five iconic works from its collection to the Tate Modern in the UK. These pieces will feature in a landmark exhibition on Nigerian Modernism, opening on October 8, 2025, in London and running for seven months. This collaboration underscores YSMA's role as a custodian of Nigerian art and highlights African perspectives within the global modernist narrative.
3. <https://www.timeout.com/london/art/nigerian-modernism> - Tate Modern is set to host 'Nigerian Modernism', an exhibition celebrating the achievements of Nigerian artists from the 1960s onwards. Opening on October 8, 2025, the exhibition will showcase works from artists like Ben Enwonwu and El Anatsui, exploring how Nigerian, African, and European techniques and traditions have fused in their art.
4. <https://businessday.ng/life-arts/article/collectors-take-centre-stage-as-collecting-now-exhibition-opens-october-26-at-shyllon-museum/> - The Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art (YSMA) at Pan-Atlantic University is set to open 'Collecting Now: Perspectives on Contemporary Art Collecting in Nigeria' on October 26, 2024. The exhibition offers insights into the personal and curatorial journeys of six influential Nigerian art collectors, featuring works from Prince Yemisi Shyllon, Kola Aina, Gbenga & Aisha Oyebode, Dotun Sulaiman, Adeniyi Adenubi, and Eyamba Dafinone.
5. <https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/events/nigerian-modernism-various/> - Tate Modern is preparing to unveil a landmark exhibition on Nigerian Modernism in the autumn. The show will celebrate artists who revolutionised modern art in Nigeria before and after national independence in 1960, combining African and European traditions to create new, multidisciplinary forms across painting, sculpture, textile, literature, and poetry.
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