

An Educators' Resource for:

Making & Unmaking
An exhibition curated by
Duro Olowu

19 June — 18 September 2016



● **Making & Unmaking** **An exhibition curated by Duro Olowu**

Duro Olowu (b.1965) is a celebrated fashion designer and curator whose unique combinations of patterns, colours and textures reveal his early influences living between Nigeria and Europe, and extensive travel around the world. His exhibition brings together works by more than 70 international and UK-based artists working in diverse media, placing antique West African textiles and Bauhaus tapestries amongst contemporary works and new commissions.

Individually, the works address themes that include portraiture as well as representations of beauty, gender, sexuality, innocence and the body. Collectively, they reveal a common thread that Olowu describes as a ‘process of personal ritual experienced by artists in creating their work’. *Making & Unmaking* is the next in a series of artist-selected shows at Camden Arts Centre.

● **Suggested Tour**

- Look around Gallery 1, think about how many artworks are within the room, each has a story to tell. If the pieces could talk to each other, what would they say? Focus on finding connections in colour, pattern, texture, form and medium.
- In Gallery 2 you’ll find artworks that carry ideas of form and function; ceramics, jewellery and textiles. Suggest the idea of wearable artwork and discuss how wearing something can be a powerful expression of personal identity. What do uniforms or clothes say about you? From here, enter the Reading Room to explore Duro Olowu’s own designed wearable pieces.
- In Gallery 3, find an object or artwork and stand as far away from it as possible, what do you see? What stands out? Many of the pieces express the body in different mediums. Do the materials have any meaning or associations?

● **Key Themes**

Power, Ritual, Textiles, Representation, Portraiture, Process, Curating, Labour, Identity, Symbolism, Technique, Tactile, Texture, Pattern, Form



Cover: Ijebu Yoruba, ‘Aso Olona’ woven textile, c. 1950
Collection of Duro Olowu
Courtesy of Duro Olowu
Photo: Turi Kirknes

● Activities

- Find an artwork that interests you, list 10 words to describe what you see, swap words with someone else.
- Moving through the different gallery spaces in the exhibition, make a map of your journey, collect and make a record of as many lines, tones, patterns, textures and forms as you can. Add questions others taking your route should think about. What can you learn from your map about the way that you are looking at art? What questions does the map raise for you?
- Many of the artists in the show have used various techniques, processes and materials to convey an idea through making. Use your hands to wrap, bend, fold, grip, weave, trace or scrunch an imaginary material to make something. What does it look like? Would you wear it? How big or small is it? Ask a partner to guess what you have you made from your actions. Now unmake it using the same actions!
- Many artworks use different materials and processes to represent and connect with the body. Can you weave together different parts of your body with a piece of fabric? Find a piece of fabric. Alter, become and adapt yourself to the fabric. Wrap around your fingers, tie between your toes, fold behind your ears, curl around your elbows. How are you representing your body?



Above: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye
Tie The Temptress To The Trojan, 2016
Courtesy of Corvi-Mora Gallery, London and
Jack Shaiman Gallery, New York

Planning your Visit

● Camden Arts Centre offers a range of activities for school groups including:

- Ceramic and Mixed Media artist-led workshops for Primary, Secondary and SEN groups
- An Educators' Tour for each exhibition
- Free 10 minute exhibition tours led by our Education Team
- Use of our Drawing Studio free of charge for self-led visits (bookings can be on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays, subject to availability)

Lunch

Groups are welcome to use the Drawing Studio (subject to availability) and Camden Arts Centre's garden to have their lunch.

Staffing

Adult to child ratio (not including Camden Arts Centre staff) must be:

1:5 for under 5 year olds

1:10 for 6-11 year olds

1:15 for 12-16 year olds

1:20 for 16-18 year olds

Parking

Disabled parking is available for disabled visitors. Please telephone the bookshop on +44 (0)20 7472 5500 to book this space.

How to find us

Camden Arts Centre is based in North London on the corner of Finchley Road & Arkwright Road
Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 6DG

camdenartscentre.org

+44 (0)20 7472 5500

Underground: Finchley Road, Hampstead.

Overground: Finchley Road & Frognal.

Bus: 13, 268, 82, 113

Keep in Touch

Join the Educators' Information mailing list via our website for regular updates and resources. Please note that photography of the exhibition is prohibited but we encourage you to share images of your activities using #CACeducation #duroolowu #makingandunmaking

Blogs

CAC Education Blog: camdenartscentre.tumblr.com

Youth Collective Digital Scrapbook: cacyouthcollective.tumblr.com

For more information and bookings please contact Amelia Martin
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