



Olaniyi Rasheed Akindiya (AKIRASH)

Et ∩ Et ∩ [ENTANGLE]

Where: Ro2 Art DOWNTOWN

110 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201

When: January 17 – February 22, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, January 17th, 7-10pm

Contact: Jordan Roth, 214-803-9575 – jordan@ro2art.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ro2 Art is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by Nigerian-born artist Olaniyi Rasheed Akindiya (known as Akirash). Akirash returns to Dallas after a multinational series of performances throughout the African continent. During his January solo show *Et ∩ Et ∩ [ENTANGLE]*, the artist will present new paintings and two installation works and a series of provocative performances. The exhibition will open on Friday, January 18, and run through February 23. A final performance at the conclusion of the show should not be missed.

About The Artist

Olaniyi Rasheed Akindiya, known as **Akirash**, is an interdisciplinary artist. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, he majored in biochemistry until he heard his calling for art. He began to study fine art and applied art at the Institute of Textile Technology, Arts, and Design Oregun – Lagos State, Nigeria. He moved to the Republic of Benin after graduating in 1996, he settling down in Accra, Ghana, in 2001, and traveled to more than 50 countries to feed his hunger for new ideas and techniques, taking part in seminars, biennials, workshops, and both solo and group exhibitions, and earning numerous awards, grants, and fellowships. His work can be found in public and private collections across the world, including those in Africa, Europe, USA, Asia, the Caribbean, and Australia.

In 2000, he founded an art non-profit organization called ARTWITHAKIRASH and the intervention has contributed to the development of communities and allowed many women and children to get off the street. He allows the community to take control of his public art, believing the public will take care of the final result. His projects tend to incorporate performances to educate the community and share experiences.

His project has had a chain effect – children have returned to school, women have taken up creative jobs to take control of their lives, and communities share the knowledge gained and live better lives.

Since 2011, Akirash has resided in Austin, Texas where he lives with his wife and daughter and maintains a studio; however Akirash continues a rigorous traveling schedule, exhibiting and performing across continents several times each year,

Olaniyi R. Akindiya (AKIRASH): *Et ∩ Et ∩ [ENTANGLE]* opens January 17, 2014 (DALLAS, TX)
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Artist Statement

"We humans are never satisfied. We want, and want, and want, without caring who we step on as we strive to achieve our heart's desire. We are all from one tree which spreads its roots and branches all over the world. No matter from which religion, culture, tradition, language, color, race, country, or continent we are from, we are all entangled in the entire problem as well as in the solution to make this world a better place."

– Olaniyi Rasheed Akindiya (Akirash), 2013

About Ro2 Art:

Mother-and-son partners Susan Roth Romans and Jordan Roth operate Ro2 Art, a full-service gallery and consultancy in Downtown Dallas, representing a diverse group of emerging, mid-career, and established contemporary artists, many with ties to the North Texas Region. At present, Ro2 Art focuses on the exhibition and sale of work in all visual media at the gallery in the historic Kirby Building, as well as through public exhibition programs in partnership with Downtown Dallas, Inc., The McKinney Avenue Contemporary, and The Town of Addison. Ro2 Art has been named *Dallas Observer's Best Art Gallery* and was presented with the *2012 Obelisk Award* for small business by the North Texas Business Council for the Arts. Ro2 Art is a proud member of CADD, the Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas.

All works will be on view January 17 – February 20, 2014. Please join us for the opening reception Friday, January 17th from 7 to 10pm at Ro2 Art DOWNTOWN, located at 110 N. Akard Street, between Main and Elm. For more information, visit www.Ro2art.com or call Jordan Roth at (214) 803-9575.

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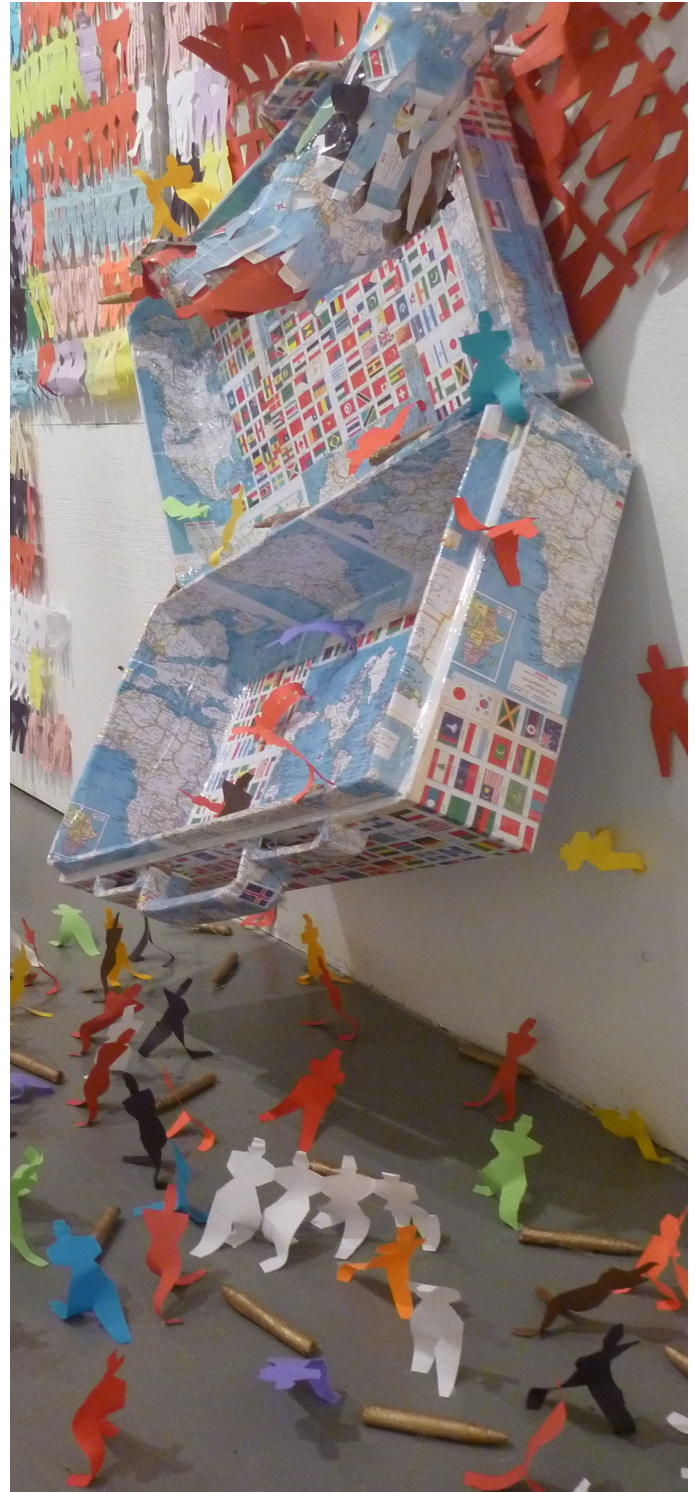


Olaniyi R. Akindiya, *Awaken*, 2013, mixed media (Detail)

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Olaniyi R. Akindiya, *All that Glitters*, 2013, mixed media, 60" x 44"



Olaniyi R. Akindiya, *Where is Home*, 2013, mixed media installation (Detail)

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