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Saul Hay  
Gallery

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**INVIOLABLE – Joy as a form of resistance**

**New paintings by Linnet Panashe Rubaya**

**19<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Saul Hay Gallery, Manchester is very  
proud to present

**INVIOABLE – Joy as a form of resistance**

An exhibition of new paintings by  
Linnet Panashe Rubaya

## The Artist



Linnet Panashe Rubaya has won high praise for her unique and extraordinary artwork that takes a deeper look at how Black people are represented in modern day culture – incorporating the use of vibrant colours contrasted against Black figures.

Born in Harare in Zimbabwe in 1991 she grew up in London, studied Biomedical Science at University in Brighton and now lives and works in Leeds. She was a recent winner of the prestigious New Light Saul Hay Emerging Artist Award.

Using acrylic paint and drawing from an extensive digital archive across Pinterest, Instagram and a collection of personal photographs, Rubaya creates works that capture moments of intimate engagement and emotions that are distinctively contemporary.

Rubaya draws on cultural, personal, and contemporary references to capture an experience that is distinctly late 20th century and early 21st century. Her figures feature easily identifiable elements of Black culture, such as hair, nails and jewellery, with an intent to trigger discussions of Black representation and identity.

Rubaya credits artists such as Alma Thomas and Albert Irvin as influencing her use of colour as language while building on the figurative work produced by Kerry James Marshall, Barkley L Hendricks, and Amy Sherald, creating a style that is distinct and uniquely hers.



**Bejoice, as in, like, rejoice**

2021  
100cm x 120cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
£4600



**Joy / the light that shines from within**

2021  
86cm x 86cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
£2200

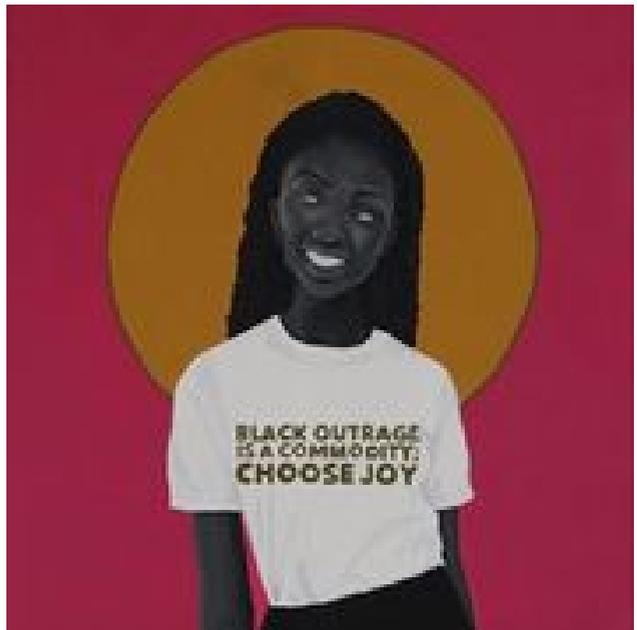


**Sister Sister/  
All we have is each other**

2021  
45.5cm x 50.5cm framed  
Acrylic on canvas  
£1200

**Choose Joy**

2020-21  
45.5cm x 50.5cm framed  
Acrylic on canvas  
£1200



Black trauma has become far too normal, constantly on display throughout all types of media, and I choose to create art that demonstrates that, despite all odds, Black people are not just fighting and surviving, but are also thriving and happy.

The issues that are suffered by our communities under a white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy and whose repercussions are felt most intolerably by Black women, are not who we are. Struggle, pain and sorrow are afflictions but not our identity.

“My work says: ‘Yes I am Black... but what else?’ I want it to force the viewer to engage more sensitively with the subject *beyond* race, with the intent of challenging the damaged human respect that is afforded to Black people and championing of their intricacy and humanity. With my exhibition I want to focus on ‘Black Joy’ in the context of Black women, their identity and resistance in the current socio-political climate.”

### **Linnet Panashe Rubaya, 2021**

**Acclaimed artist Christopher Cook** (2017 New Light Exhibition First Prizewinner, 2019 Sunny Art Prize, First Prizewinner London/Shanghai) who has been mentoring Linnet as part of her Saul Hay Emerging Artist Award says:

"Linnet Rubaya's paintings overwrite black trauma with personal joy, conjuring from collective pain these sensual, sinewy evocations of the ecstasy of human relationships."



**Chosen/ you alone are enough, 2021**

2021  
100cm x 120cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
£4600



### **All of the Tea**

2021  
43.5cm x 48.5cm framed  
acrylic on canvas  
£1200

In selecting Linnet Rubaya as the winner of the Saul Hay Emerging Artist Award at New Light I was first drawn to the strength and confidence of the application of colour and form.

The urgency and contemporary relevance of the people portrayed, and the sympathy and joy of that portrayal struck such a chord. Linnet is clearly an amazing young talent and we are excited to be bringing her solo show to Manchester.

Ian Hay, Director of Saul Hay Gallery



## Through it all laugh with me I

2021  
100cm x 120cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
£4600



**A Mother's Embrace**

2021

100cm x 120cm

Acrylic on canvas

£4600



## Through it all laugh with me II

2021  
100cm x 120cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
£4600

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# **Saul Hay Gallery**

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