

KEARSEY & GOLD



Kearsey & Gold is pleased to present the exhibition *BLACK STAR* by Leonard ‘SOLDIER’ Iheagwam. Curated with Daniel Marchand.

Leonard ‘SOLDIER’ Iheagwam (b.2000, Lagos, Nigeria) is a London based multidisciplinary artist whose work blends Pop Art influences with reflections on his upbringing in Lagos. *BLACK STAR* is the artist’s second solo exhibition in London. The exhibition is a continuation of SOLDIER’s investigation into what African Pop Art could be. The body of work that constitutes *BLACK STAR* is based on an imagined manifesto titled “Afro-Futurism”. The Nigerian cultural landscape, Pop Art and sci-fi culture merge in the future SOLDIER presents us with.

The Afro-Futurist manifesto postulates a dystopian future in which a hope in humanity is rediscovered. The machines and ideologies that promised liberation have betrayed humankind. But in the world that is on the verge of ecological and social collapse hope is found: machines have intertwined with humans; new technologies have merged with ancient wisdom; a new paradigm is reclaiming what has been lost.

‘From the forming of skate collective Motherlan with fellow multi-disciplinarians and friends Slawn and Onyedi, to designing Ezra Collectives outfits for their Mercury Prize winning triumph, his DUKE + DEXTER x SOLDIER project, his striking Passport Series, and collaborating on three album covers with trailblazing Nigerian drill artist ODUMODUBLVCK, the breadth of SOLDIER’s endeavours is both striking and eclectic, illustrating his desire to have a profound impact across creative fields.’ - *Wonderland Magazine*