



Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, *Triple Dive Red II*, 2023, oil on canvas

Public Private

Pond Society, Shanghai, Part I: 10 June – 20 July; Part II: 29 July – 7 September

Curated by Jareh Das, an independent writer, critic and curator who ‘moves between West Africa and the UK’, the two-part *Public Private* features twelve contemporary painters whose work focuses on the liminal space between public and private; or put more intimately, the inner self and outer projections. The artists on show represent a spread of geographies and approaches, and include Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, Hayley Barker, Dominic Chambers, Hyegyong Choi, Anthony Cudahy, Ulala Imai, Sarah Lee, Jonny Negron, GaHee Park, Sarah Slappey, Caroline Walker and Michaela Yearwood-Dan. The cumulative result aims at being a microsurvey of contemporary painting today, with a focus on how these artists deconstruct the imagery of the past in order to construct a language for the present. Why? As Yearwood-Dan put it in a recent interview for the *Talk Art* podcast, the existing artworld, with its received wisdoms and conditioned behaviours, is designed sometimes to make ‘you feel you can’t be authentically yourself within the art you make’. Das puts forward a set of artists who explore just how far that ‘within’ can go. *Nirmala Devi*