

Artist Resources – Toyin Ojih Odutola (Nigerian-American, b. 1985)



Ojoh Odutola, 2020
Photograph: Tim Smyth

[Ojih Odutola Artist Website](#)

[Ojih Odutola at Jack Shainman Gallery](#)

[Ojih Odutola Instagram](#)

In 2011, [Toyin Ojih Odutola: \(MAPS\)](#) opened at Jack Shainman Gallery as the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery and her first in New York.

[Toyin Odutola: Untold Stories](#) was on view at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis in 2015. The exhibition featured the artist's signature works on paper and incorporated text panels into the complex narrative for the first time.

Take a [virtual tour](#) of *Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Matter of Fact*, which was hosted at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco in 2016.

The Whitney Museum of American Art launched [Toyin Ojih Odutola: To Wander Determined](#) in 2017. Read an [essay](#) written by Rujeko Hockly, assistant curator and Melinda Lang, curatorial assistant and an [interview](#) in Juxtapoz Magazine with Kristin Farr.

[Toyin Ojih Odutola: The Firmament](#) was at the Hood Museum of Art in 2018, featuring her deeply intimate approach to character.

In 2018, [Toyin Ojih Odutola: In This Present Moment](#) was on view at the Seattle Art Museum. Read an [article](#) about the portrait written by Pam McClusky and posted on the museum's blog.

The Frye Art Museum installed Ojih Odutola's work in their [recent acquisition](#) space in 2019, featuring several new works in the museum's collection.

In 2020, Ojih Odutola was commissioned by the Barbican in London to produce a site-specific installation with 40 drawings that intertwine to tell a complex narrative story. *Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Countervailing Theory* was on view at the [Barbican](#) before traveling to the [Kunsten Museum of Art](#) in Denmark and the [Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#) in Washington, DC. Read an interview in [Elephant](#) when the exhibition first opened in London and another in the [New York Times Style Magazine](#) when it opened in New York. Watch a [video](#) about the installation on the Hirshhorn's YouTube channel and watch an [interview](#) about storytelling with Hirshhorn curator Erin J. Gilbert.

In 2021, a [monograph](#) was published of the artist's work entitled *Toyin Ojih Odutola: The UmuEze Amara Clan and the House of Obafemi*. The book centers on an illustrated story of two fictional aristocratic Nigerian families.

[New Work: Toyin Ojih Odutola](#) was on view at SFMOMA in 2022, featuring work inspired by a speculative future of the Anthropocene.

In 2024, [Toyin Ojih Odutola: Ilé Oriaku](#) was on view at Kunsthalle Basel as her first solo exhibition in Switzerland.



Ojih Odutola in the studio, 2017
Photograph: Abigail The Third



Toyin Ojih Odutola (Nigerian-American, b. 1985)

The Firm, 2017-2018

Pastel, charcoal, and graphite on paper

Private Collection; L2024:54.1

Toyin Ojih Odutola was born in Nigeria and moved to Alabama with her family at the age of five. Her drawings and works on paper are rooted in travel and storytelling; she often weaves together complex narratives inspired by art history, popular culture, or her own life. **The Firm** was painted when the artist was building a series about fictional aristocratic Nigerian dynasties that were not impacted by the history of colonialism. In the painting, nine people gather and relax in a richly decorated room. Their clothing, jewelry, and environment point to wealth and status. As the artist said: “What would wealth look like in these countries if they’d been left alone?”

On view November 6, 2024 – February 9, 2025