

For immediate release
Issued 5 October 2020



Surrealism seen through a Black British lens, at the Horniman

An Ode to Afrosurrealism, a new photographic art exhibition (opening 17 October) at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London, explores contemporary relationships with spiritualism, reality and surrealism, through a Black British lens.

The 25-strong photo series is the first collaboration between artist photographers Hamed Maiye and Adama Jalloh, bringing together their interests in surrealism, mythology, identity and symbolism. The exhibition highlights in particular the spiritual bond between twins and the meaning of the number 2 – images of twins are used throughout the series to show the mirroring of reality and surrealism, symbolising union and division. **An Ode to Afrosurrealism** also aims to inspire younger artists to consider different ways of creating art by looking outside the usual canon of spiritual iconography.

Hamed Maiye says: 'In this photo series we pay homage to Afrosurrealism, a visual and literary movement which considers what lies beyond the visible and material world, exploring the reality of the present and creating art that expresses the "otherworldly". We use Afrosurrealism as a visual framework, drawing on mythology and symbolism, as well as our personal experiences as artists, to present new ways to imagine spiritual identity.'

Adama Jalloh says: 'With a history of our stories being told for us and that still being an underlying issue now, Afrosurrealism feels like another way to combat that but also giving freedom in a broader way on how we choose to display our narratives.'

The opening of **An Ode to Afrosurrealism** is part of the Horniman's celebration of Black History Month and the 60th anniversary of Nigerian Independence.

Johanna Zetterstrom-Sharp, Deputy Keeper of Anthropology at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'Hamed Maiye and Adama Jalloh's incredible visual work speaks for itself on issues of representation, spirituality and personal experience. It feels vital to be able to show it in a museum context, where speaking on behalf of others has historically been so central.'

More

An Ode to Afrosurrealism opens on 17 October 2020 and is free to visit. Free entry tickets to the Horniman must be booked in advance at [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk).

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk.

Pictured: Image from *An Ode to Afrosurrealism*, credit Adama Jalloh & Hamed Maiye

Notes to Editors:

With special thanks to: Kashmir Wickham, Indea Lewis, Tamibe Bourdanne, Tunde Awoyemi, Ysaana Paul, N'aami-Li Paul, Georgia Bowen-Evans, Chelsea Bowen-Evans, Jahmaine Johnson, Jordon Johnson, Bianca Saunders, Nadine Mos, Jazz Grant, Jawara Alleyne & The Swiss Church in London.

- **Adama Jalloh** is a photographer living and working in south London. Her work mainly focuses on themes such as identity, race and culture. Adama's aim is to capture moments and tell visual stories that display a level of intimacy, honesty and familiarity that resonates with her but also with those who interact with her work. The memories Adama holds while growing up speaks through the images she takes and has played a vital role with how she's navigated and connected with people and places.
- **Hamed Maiye** is an interdisciplinary artist based in south London. He explores themes revolving around visual archiving, surrealism and portraiture, using painting, photography, sculpture and performance as research tools. Maiye explores cultural anthropology through the use of mythology, myth-making, historical documentation and archiving which influence the production of his work.
- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – the Museum reopened to the public on 30 July 2020. Social distancing and other safety measures are in place, including a one-way visitor route, and visitors should wear face coverings unless they have good reason not to. **Visitors (including Members) need to pre-book at [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk) for a free, timed entry slot.** Some attractions including the Aquarium remain closed. The Horniman Gardens have been open throughout the pandemic and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to [social distancing guidance](#) in the Gardens.
- **Opening times** – the Museum and Café are open from 10am to 5.30pm daily. Visits to the Museum are free but must be booked in advance at [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk). The Gardens are open from 7.15am (Monday to Saturday) or 8am (Sunday and Bank Holidays) until dusk.
- **Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, fish and other animals, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk)
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at [horniman.ac.uk](https://www.horniman.ac.uk).
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. [horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access).
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).