# MORGAN OTAGBURUAGU





Doyle Wham is excited to present **In Bloom**, Morgan Otagburuagu's first solo exhibition worldwide.

Otagburuagu (b. 1997, Abia State, Nigeria) is a self-taught photographer who has made major waves in the fashion and art industries with his unique style of portraiture. In this exhibition, a new series, In Bloom, receives its global debut. These works are of monumental significance to the artist, as they represent a move towards rebirth and re-emergence after a personal tragedy - the loss of both parents in 2021 - which led to a two year hiatus in Otagburuagu's creative journey.

In this body of work, the artist explores the cyclical nature of life and death, and how nature reflects and embodies that process. Flowers are important markers that people associate with both celebrations and mourning, and therefore play a dual role in this series: respect for the past, and hope for the future.

Beyond the personal context of its creation, In Bloom has a powerful societal and political message - that dark Black skin is beautiful. Working in the fashion industry in Lagos, Otagburuagu encounters the realities of colourism on a daily basis, as well as observing how dark skinned women in particular can be stigmatised, and the growing popularity of skin lightening treatments. The artist is committed to combatting this in his work by collaborating with darker-skinned models and always striving to highlight the inherent beauty in Blackness.

Otagburuagu's photographs have been published widely in leading newspapers and magazines worldwide, including The Guardian, The Times, Aesthetica, Afrodysee, Something Curated, Acumen and Vogue Italia. In 2023, Otagburuagu's series Black Warrior was awarded the "Jury's Winner" by the Agora Worldwide Awards.

Every artwork in the exhibition is an edition of 12 with no APs and is priced according to size: £750 (40x60cm); £1400 (60x90cm) & £2000 (80x120cm).



### ABOUT MORGAN OTAGBURUAGU | @THEGINSTARP



Morgan Otagburuagu's striking, experimental imagery celebrates the strength of the Black body and the iridescent beauty of Black skin.

Originally from Abia State, Nigeria, the Lagos-based artist is a master of light whose work is praised by art lovers and industry professionals alike. Otagburuagu's photographs have been published widely in leading newspapers and magazines worldwide, including The Guardian, The Times, Aesthetica, Afrodysee, Something Curated, Acumen and Vogue Italia. In 2023, Otagburuagu's series *Black Warrior* was awarded the "Jury's Winner" by the Agora Worldwide Awards.

### ABOUT DOYLE WHAM | @DOYLEWHAM

Doyle Wham is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2020 and based in Shoreditch, London. The gallery exhibits both emerging and established artists from Africa and across the African diaspora, with a focus on supporting early-career artists. Doyle Wham's core mission is to nurture the development of the African photography scene, from supporting artists to welcoming a new generation of collectors.

In 2023, Doyle Wham's exhibition agenda is broadening to include other mediums alongside photography from time to time, encouraging experimentation and opening up dialogue between creative genres. Doyle Wham's upcoming projects include a group exhibition of African fashion photography masters curated by Roberta Annan and a solo show of vintage prints by Angèle Etoundi Essamba. Alongside its gallery programme, Doyle Wham participates in international art fairs such as Photo London, Abuja Art Week and RMB Latitudes (Johannesburg).

#### MORGAN OTAGBURUAGU: IN BLOOM

DOYLE WHAM, 91A RIVINGTON STREET, LONDON, EC2A 3AY 21ST APRIL - 10TH JUNE 2023

#### CONTACT DETAILS

FOR ANY ENQUIRES, INCLUDING PRESS AND SALES: HELLO@DOYLEWHAM.COM

#### MORGAN OTAGBURUAGU

# IN BLOOM

# ARTWORK LIST



## Eden

Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

## £750 | £1400



**Efflorescence** Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

# £750 | £1400



**Perrenial** Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

# £750 | £1400



## Blush

Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 90x60cm & 80x120cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

£1400 | £2000

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# IN BLOOM

# ARTWORK LIST



## Blossom

Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

£750 | £1400



In Bloom Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

## £750 | £1400



**Flourish** Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

# £750 | £1400



# Bountiful

Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 60x90cm & 80x120cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

£1400 | £2000

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#### MORGAN OTAGBURUAGU

# IN BLOOM

# **ARTWORK LIST**



Living Sculpture Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

£750 | £1400



**Burgeon** Morgan Otagburuagu

2023 | 40x60cm & 60x90cm | Ed. of 12 Photograph printed on Canson Prestige Baryta 340gsm Mounted on 3mm DiBond with an aluminium subframe

£750 | £1400

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