

Tonye Ekine (b.1992)



Tonye Ekine's practice examines societal issues and personal dilemmas through figurative works that weave emotion, persona, and identity into a dialogue between heritage and the contemporary. A recurring motif throughout his practice, the mask, anchors as both a formal and conceptual device. Drawing on the Yoruba Bronze Head from Ife, Ekine reanimates familiar visual symbols and interrogate ideas of value, belonging, and history.

With a background in design, Ekine approaches the canvas as a blank file, directing scenes, selecting characters, and composing gestures with intention. His process is influenced by life drawing, advertising, film, and everyday conversations, blending fragments into larger, thought-provoking narratives. Moving between drawing and painting, finished and unfinished, his work invites audiences to "unpuzzle" meaning while reflecting on their own roles within a wider, shifting social ecosystem.

Ekine completed an MFA in Drawing at Camberwell College of Arts in 2022. Tonye's work has been featured in leading editorial publications including *Harper's Bazaar*, *The Guardian*, and *Artiq*, amongst others.

Ekine lives and works in London, UK.



Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *We belong together*, Studio Kind, Devon,
2025 *When the Dawn Delays, We Rise Anyway*, The Art House, Wakefield.
2024 *One of Us*, Steingold Contemporary, London.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2026 Group Show, New Art Exchange, curated by David Sinclair.
2025 *When the Dawn Delays, We Rise Anyway*, The Art House, Wakefield.
Echoes of Identity: A Contemporary Narrative, The Barbican Centre.
Power in the Archive: Reframing Black British Histories and Futures, Black British Art, London.
INGRAM PRIZE, Finalist Exhibition Group Show, Unit 1 Gallery, UK, curated by Jo Baring.
2024 *Voices of Black Artistry*, Christie's, London.
RBA Rising Stars, The Royal Society of British Artists, London.
The Art of PR, Coningsby Gallery, London.
INGRAM PRIZE, Finalist Exhibition Group Show, Unit 1 Gallery, UK, curated by Jo Baring.

Prizes, Fairs, and Residencies

- London Original Art Fair (2026)
The Art House, Wakefield, Sculpture and Print Residency (2025)
Ingram Prize (2024 & 2025) [Finalist]
Venice Biennale Fellowship (2024)
Camberwell Most Outstanding MA Student in Drawing Pathway (2022)