

**Large Print
Exhibition Guide
A Glittering City:
Ayo Akingbade with
Duchamp & Sons**

19 May– 15 August 2021



Galleries 5&6

A Glittering City: Ayo Akingbade with Duchamp & Sons

Concrete tower blocks, glossy high rises, red buses, trains, traffic lights, pigeons, people in transit: the landscape of everyday life in the city. Artist Ayo Akingbade (b. 1994, UK) creates moving image work that takes London as a site for exploration. This exhibition presents *Fire In My Belly* (2021) alongside *Dear Babylon* (2019), two films that forge conversations on urbanism, gentrification, power and resilience.

How do you come to feel part of a community? For her new commission, *Fire In My Belly*, Akingbade collaborated with Whitechapel Gallery's youth collective, Duchamp & Sons, to explore ideas of place and belonging. Over six months, through workshops, screenings and fieldwork across the city they traced memories of displacement and discussed the meaning of home.

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At Highgate Cemetery, paying homage to the black feminist and activist Claudia Jones (1915–1964), they consider how overlooked migrant legacies can be preserved.

Echoing our uncertain times, the film reveals the challenges faced by young Londoners and their hopeful aspirations for the future. Their voices weave a compelling portrait as they navigate an uncharted road map of the city.

Set in the East End, *Dear Babylon* follows three art students and their investigations on the future of social housing when a fictional bill threatens to push working class tenants out of the capital. Centering activism and filmmaking as constructive modes of resistance, the students interview local residents to record a communal history of their estate.

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