

BERJ

Take What You Need. And Then Some.

Curated by Kukua Kweku-Badu
Berj Busua, Busua, Ahanta, Ghana

6 March - 4 May, 2025

Take What You Need. And Then Some is a group exhibition that presents African notions of temporalities through the work of contemporary artists Adjoba Marie, Akpene Enyonom, Ewuresi Archer, and Patience Kofuma Annan.

Reflecting on Okwui Enwezor's inquiry on "how we think historically in the present" when talking about the contemporary, the artists, whilst working within present contexts, draw from the engagement of the past to the now and its evolution, in an attempt to stake a claim about what that time entailed, and their own positions in history. Their works provide us with elements of answers that point to a multiplicity of ways of being in time — in particular, to the awareness of what it is to be in the present whilst being alert to the presence of other kinds of time. They present a rhythm of events that consciously bend time and space to match our ancient history with the present and the future.

Our ways of being and doing have never been time-bound but have always enjoyed boundless and timeless spiritual connections between us and nature. Those ways are informed by the discernment of our ancestors, whose strength of spirit guides us to resist the imperialist forceful severance from nature and the supernatural, and continue to be one with our ecology's enduring time. Operating from this premise, to even nominate the relevance of one historical entity to another is to declare them to be contemporaneous. Thus, this exhibition is less linked to historical inquiry. At its heart is a profound interest to create a sort of contemporary moment that reflects the institution's position for the spectator who will see them.

The exhibition posits that that time can move in circles, spirals, and echoes; that it can pause to listen; that it can remember. The artists featured in "Take What You Need. And Then Some" have their own relationship with time and place, their own memories, histories, and premonitions of a future in the process of being created. As the artists navigate their personal journeys, the gallery transforms into a sacred space where multitudes of pictorial contributions converge to create a visual narrative that transcends time.

Curatorial Statement by Kukua Kweku-Badu.