

We are pleased to announce the publication of a limited edition artists' book by Leo Asemota on his performance at the National Portrait Gallery in London on June 26, 2008.

Centred on a photograph of Queen Victoria in the Gallery's Collection, Asemota presented an extraordinary performance in The Ondaatje Wing Main Hall of the National Portrait Gallery that fused poetry by Rudyard Kipling, a praise song from the pre-colonial Kingdom of Benin and an edited sequence from Walter Benjamin's treatise on art, authenticity and reproducibility in an event that offered a profound meditation on the portrait as a signifier of cultural identity, history and memory, authenticity and authorship.

"ens memorialis: Testimony" is a considered and concise biography on the production and is presented in accordion pleated pages – unfolds to a length of 15.5 feet – in a hard back cover housed in a black clothbound hardcover slipcase. Each edition features Asemota's handwriting in pigment ink, drawings in lead pencil which include the seven Marshallings in the performance, drawings in orhue (kaolin) and coal\*, a post-it note, a leaf out of a novel, photocopies, post-card, a piece of ribbon, a unique Polaroid SX-70 Blend colour photograph, newsprint, production handout on letter headed paper and archival colour photographs; affixed to the spine of the slipcase is the Stabilo eraser tipped HB Black lead pencil with which the drawings were made.

\*Pages contain orhue (kaolin) and coal sand particles

## **Leo Asemota | ens memorialis – Testimony**

Clothbound hard back cover: 35 concertina pleated pages

Dimensions: 5.7 x 8.5 x 1.2 in (14.8 x 21 x 3.3 cm)

Language: English, Edo and German

Edition: 10 unique copies, each signed by Leo Asemota

Publisher: EOTLA (2008)

Leo Asemota is a contemporary artist based in London. His multi-facet practice encompass films, photography, sculptures, drawings and performance some of which have been presented at Bodhi Art in New York, National Portrait Gallery, St. Paul's Cathedral, The British Museum and Zoo Art Fair as well in solo shows at Gallery at EOTLA and Exit Gallery in London. He has given talks and lectures on his work at The Delfina Foundation, SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), The British Museum and was Visiting Lecturer at London's University of the Arts in 2007.

To view a copy, please contact EOTLA: [admin@eotla.com](mailto:admin@eotla.com)

Stockists

BookArtBookshop, 17 Pitfield Street, London N1 6HB,

Walther Koenig Books, 80 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0BB

Unbound, the Live Art Development Agency's online shop [Unbound Website](#)

*Overleaf*

Slipcase and cover with title written in lead pencil

Courtesy of Leo Asemota & EOTLA

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London

