

LEO ASEMOTA
ENS MEMORALIS

A performance

Thursday June 26, 2008
18.45 - 19.30

MAIN HALL
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
St. Martin's Place
London
WC2H 0HE

(Free. Limited capacity; no bookings taken)



PRESS RELEASE

Leo Asemota - *ens memorialis* - a performance

National Portrait Gallery

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EOTLA London is proud to announce Leo Asemota's performance, *ens memorialis – Essence of Memory* at the National Portrait Gallery in London on Thursday June 26, 2008 at 7 pm.

Centred on a photograph of Queen Victoria in the Gallery's Collection and featuring a new sculpture titled "All Originals Article" along with his primary materials orhue (kaolin) and coal, Asemota will be presenting an extraordinary performance in the Main Hall. Fusing poetry by Rudyard Kipling, an Edo praise song in honour of Oba Ovonramwen, ruler of the pre-colonial Kingdom of Benin and an excerpt from Walter Benjamin's landmark essay "An Artwork in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility" this event offers a profound meditation on the portrait as a signifier of history, memory and cultural identity, while bringing emphasis to themes of authenticity and authorship.

ens memorialis is the first in a series of performances by Asemota that will be taking place at specific sites in London over the summer. Some of the locations include the arc of the Victoria Embankment and the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral in a production recalling Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897. These public presentations continue "The Ens Project" Asemota's longstanding work which is in the sixth and final stages of its development. Encircling the human head as the key concept, the project is an exploration of identity and singularity under the influence of globalization. Different stages in the project have been the subject of exhibitions, symposia, monograph and radio show.

Leo Asemota is a London based artist. Born in Benin-City in the Midwest of Nigeria, Asemota initially trained in film and photography at the London College of Printing between 1995 and 1999. Working in artistic expressions most cohesive to his ideas, Asemota's practice has evolved to include sculpture, drawing and performance some of which has been seen at the British Museum, ICA London, National Portrait Gallery and Zoo Art Fair with solo shows at The Fount Gallery, EOTLA and Exit Gallery at Claire de Rouen books in London.

The performance will begin at 19.00.

Free. Limited capacity. No bookings taken.

For further information please call 020 7306 0055 or visit the Gallery in person.

National Portrait Gallery, St. Martin's Place, London WC2E 0HE

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