

Camden Art Centre  
Arkwright Road  
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camdenartcentre.org  
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Zeinab Saleh

*Softest place (on earth)*

10 September – 23 December

Preview: Thursday 9 September

Zeinab Saleh (b. 1996, Kenya) is a London-based artist whose interdisciplinary practice takes the form of painting, drawing and video. Drawing on VHS tapes of home video footage and music that has personal significance to her, Saleh's work offers a glimpse into a past world and places personal histories at its core.

Drawn to working in charcoal, quick lines evoke fleeting and transient memories, whilst acrylic attempts to hold the intangible in form. A softness and tenderness imbues her paintings, using muted colours and fluidity of line and form. For Saleh, *love* is at the core of her working process. Fragmentary imagery and surfaces are held together by an emotive process of discovery and rediscovery as she uncovers stories and hidden memories in the family archive; as paintings take form they are enlivened by intimate conversations with her close relatives. Saleh's work offers a backdrop of accumulated personal histories, holding an aura that links the personal to the collective, weaving her personal family stories with those of others.

Her studio-based practice is intimately intertwined with a community-building element; she co-founded Muslim Sisterhood with Sara Gulamali and Lamisa Khan - an artistic collective working within photography, fashion, publishing and events to create an inclusive community that centres Muslim women.

Zeinab Saleh (b.1996, Kenya) lives and works in London. She received her BFA from Slade School of Fine Art in 2019. Recent group exhibitions include *Nour el Ain*, Karma International, Switzerland (2021), *After image*, MAMOTH, London (2020), *Zeinab Saleh and Yuko Mohri*, CONDO London, mother's tankstation London, (2020), *A patch of green in London*, Cookhouse Gallery, London (2019). Saleh co-founded Muslim Sisterhood; recently they have featured in the 26th Photoworks Journal; have been spotlighted in Vogue; their work has been exhibited at V&A Lates; they have hosted community-based workshops including tile glazing, belly dancing and self-defence.

Saleh is one of two recipients of Camden Art Centre's Metroland Studios Residency, a 6-month studio residency that forms a new partnership between Camden Art Centre and Metroland Cultures.

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### **Notes to editors**

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### **Camden Art Centre**

Camden Art Centre in north London (Registered Charity Number 1065829) is a place for world-class contemporary art exhibitions and education. Founded by artists in 1965, it continues to be a space for the most vital and diverse mix of practices and ideas, with an international reputation for supporting artists at key points in their careers, championing excellence and fostering an open and inclusive environment of ambition, innovation and risk. Through a regular programme of exhibitions, artist residencies, off-site projects, performances, talks and educational projects, we ensure that Camden Art Centre remains one of the UK's most dynamic and respected spaces to see, make and talk about art and ideas.

Camden Art Centre has a long and proud history of nurturing talent, supporting a remarkable cohort of emerging artists in recent years from both the UK and the rest of the world, including Emma Hart, Christian Nyampeta, Ruth Ewan, Jennifer Tee and Haroon Mirza. Often providing their first institutional show in London, Camden Art Centre offers the necessary space, flexibility open-endedness and support for emerging artists to develop their practice; providing an environment in which risk-taking is encouraged within an ethos of learning and debate.