Ochre and Ash

Press release

Indigo, held

Kemi Oyelaran

22 May 2026 to 25 July 2026. Main gallery, ground floor.

Large indigo cloths and works on paper that read the city one square at a time.

An adire eleko cloth is a document. Its squares are painted one by one in cassava paste, each with its own pattern and often its own name, and the cloth only makes sense once the whole has been dyed and the paste washed away. Kemi Oyelaran learnt this in her aunt's compound in Itoku, and Indigo, held was the largest exhibition of her work to date.

Oyelaran keeps the grid but changes what goes into it. Eleko for a bus route maps the stops between Ojuelegba and Obalende. Plan of a flat, Peckham turns a London floor plan into twenty five squares of resist. Twelve hairstyles does what it says, and was the work visitors returned to most.

The exhibition closed in July with every large cloth placed. Works on paper from the same period are now in the online viewing room Adire studies.

Notes to editors

Ochre and Ash, 7 Alexander Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos. Open Tuesday to Sunday, free entry.
Press images and interviews: press@ochreandash.ng, +234 908 555 0142.
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