

## Stephen Friedman Gallery

The British Museum  
Yinka Shonibare: Cowboy Angels  
19 July 2019

The British  
Museum



Yinka Shonibare CBE (b. 1962), *Cowboy Angel V*. Woodcut with collage of Dutch wax batik fabric, 2017. © Reproduced with permission of the artist.

*Cowboy Angels* comprises a set of five woodcuts with a collage of Dutch wax batik fabric by British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE. Recently purchased by the British Museum with the help of the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, they are the first work by the artist to enter the Museum's collection. Shonibare was born in Britain in 1962 and grew up in Nigeria before returning to London to study art. His work is concerned with cultural identity, colonialism and post-colonialism in a globalised world.

In these artworks, Shonibare combines imagery of angels, representations of African masks, cowboy tropes of the American West, and his signature waxprint fabrics. Each print contains a cowboy with angel wings and a face substituted by a canonical type of African mask, with the word 'Angel' written above. Shonibare says they are 'a reflection on the zeitgeist at a time of xenophobia, racism and the election of Donald Trump'.