



**Claudette Johnson**  
**I Came to Dance**

£18.95

One of the most arresting figurative artists working in Britain today, Claudette Johnson (b. 1959, Manchester, UK) creates larger than life studies of black women that are both intimate and powerful.

Modern Art Oxford's major show of her work is the artist's first major institutional exhibition in almost three decades and included approximately 30 paintings and drawings in pastel, paint, ink and charcoal from the early 1980s to 2019.

Throughout her career, Johnson has continued to redefine the space assigned to images of black women. Musing that "it is a very small twisted space that is offered", Johnson invites her sitters to "Take up space in a way that is reflective of who they are."

The texts in this exhibition catalogue offer fresh insights into her practice and the dynamic impact of her event at the First National Black Arts Convention organised by the BLK Art Group in Wolverhampton, 1982. Also included is an interview with Johnson and archival materials.

"Claudette Johnson's work is rooted in her African heritage. Her talent is as powerful as it is obvious." — Steve McQueen (1992)

Published on the occasion of the exhibition, Claudette Johnson: I Came to Dance at Modern Art Oxford (1 June – 8 September 2019).

**Key Selling Points**

— Johnson's talk and seminar at the First National Black Arts Conference in 1982 is recognised as a formative moment in the Black Feminist Art movement in the UK.

— Exhibited widely including at Tate Britain (London), ICA (London), and The Bronx Museum of the Arts (New York).

— Artworks in notable collections such as Tate (London), Arts Council Collection (London), and Manchester Art Gallery, among others.

— This book features a special text by Turner Prize and Academy Award winning artist-filmmaker, Steve McQueen.

**Product Details**

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