

## Curatorial Statement for Okokume's *Maeum Ties*

Okokume's work embodies a vibrant fusion of pop surrealism and emotional abstraction, creating an ethereal and introspective world. Her pieces, as seen in this collection, capture the delicate interplay between innocence and raw human emotion. The dreamlike compositions blend soft pastel tones with bold strokes of reds and blues, immersing the viewer in a universe where the boundaries of reality and fantasy dissolve.

Central to Okokume's work is her recurring character, a gentle spirit who appears as both a guide and a mirror to inner reflection. Her figures, often faceless or adorned with childlike features, invite interpretation, leaving room for the viewer's emotional projections. The fluidity of her brushwork speaks to movement and transformation, highlighting the transient nature of identity and emotion.

This series pulsates with an almost tactile energy; the deliberate use of layering and dripping paints reinforces a sense of imperfection and fluidity, reminding us of life's fleeting moments. Okokume's art exists as both a refuge and a challenge—offering solace while urging viewers to confront the deeper, more vulnerable aspects of themselves.

In a world overwhelmed by rigid structures and defined narratives, Okokume provides an invitation to embrace the nebulous, to cherish ambiguity, and to celebrate the beauty of imperfection. Her art bridges the universal with the deeply personal, weaving a visual language that resonates with childlike wonder and profound introspection.

-Afrodet Zuri, ARTIVIST Curator