

**TANYA WEDDEMIRE GALLERY presents CANDICE TAVARES and MOSES SALIHOU at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair New York 2026 | MAY 13 – 17 | BOOTH 20**



*from left to right*

**MOSES SALIHOU | Quiet Feelings, 2026 | 30" x 22" | Oil on Canvas**  
**CANDICE TAVARES | Inside, 2025 | 24" x 34" | Mixed Media on Panel**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[ New York, New York May 2026 ] Tanya Weddemire Gallery is pleased to present a Duo Presentation featuring Candice Tavares and Moses Salihou at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair New York 2026. This intentional presentation places Tavares and Salihou in dialogue. They both have distinct practices that converge through material, gesture, and emotional depth.

Tavares debuts a new body of work that expands her wood carving practice through the incorporation of glass. By embedding and layering glass within carved wooden surfaces, she introduces tension between opacity and transparency, the wood, signifying permanence, while the glass highlights fragility. The works move between sculpture and painting, where light becomes an active element which shifts how each piece is experienced over time.

In contrast, Salihou's practice is rooted in abstraction, figurative and texture. Working primarily in oil, he builds dense, gestural surfaces that feel both physical and immersive. His compositions prioritize sensation and recognition of familiarity through the abstraction utilized through his impasto technique.

Together, their works create a dynamic exchange between structure and textured works on canvas and panel, the dialogue between carved form and painted surface reflects themes of sensitivity to both the medium and art making process. This presentation also highlights how both artists approach transformation through different visual languages, arriving at a space where the work speaks for itself. It's quality transcends its narrative.

Tanya Weddemire Gallery's participation in the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair amplifies its commitment to artists who push the boundaries of contemporary practice while remaining deeply anchored in authenticity and originality.

### **about Moses Salihou**

MOSES SALIHOU is a Cameroonian artist based in Toronto whose thick, tactile application of paint creates a textural intensity that mirrors the layered complexities of the human spirit. Central to Salihou's practice is his belief that human beings are composites of identities, experiences, beliefs, memories, and emotions. His gestural mark-making intentionally leaves facial features loosely rendered, allowing the portraits to become composites of many rather than the likeness of one. In this way, the viewer is not a passive witness but is invited to participate to recognize, interpret, and locate themselves inside the work. These rich surface effects provide Salihou's paintings with dynamism, movement, and depth capturing the fluidity of identity and personhood. His works vibrate with presence. Salihou has exhibited throughout the United States and Canada, and his work is held in private collections globally including Europe, New Zealand, Africa, Asia, Canada, and the United States. In 2025, Salihou had a sold-out presentation at EXPO Chicago and his work was featured in Art in America's first printed edition of 2025, marking a powerful critical milestone in his career. He will now be showcasing at SCOPE Art Show, continuing his trajectory of high-profile exhibitions and continued sold-out moments across the art fair circuit.

### **About Candice Tavares**

CANDICE TAVARES is a wood artist born and raised just outside of Philadelphia, PA. Her art is a celebration of Black beauty, love and culture that highlights the diversity in our hair texture and styling as well as skin complexion. Candice was formally educated in engineering and pharmacy, but her true passion has always aligned with the freedom of creativity. She was encouraged to experiment with different mediums during Saturday morning art classes and introduced to woodworking while helping her dad build and fix furniture in his woodshop. Years later she was able to combine that knowledge and experience to develop a style of art that felt uniquely hers. Though woodworking has often been classified as a more masculine art form, she does not shy away from using it to depict images of softness and femininity. She sees her art as an opportunity to celebrate Black beauty, history and resilience, while challenging the negative narratives about blackness that she sees perpetuated in healthcare and media. Her art is intended to remind viewers of their inherent beauty and value just as they are, just how God made them.

**VIP OPENING RECEPTION | MAY 13th at 11AM**  
**1-54 ART FAIR | STARRETT LEHIGH BUILDING**  
**600 WEST 27 STREET NEW YORK NEW YORK**

*For more information about [Tanya Weddemire Gallery](#)*

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INSTAGRAM | [@tanyaweddemiregallery](https://www.instagram.com/tanyaweddemiregallery)

ARTSY | [Tanya Weddemire Gallery](#)

The logo for Tanya Weddemire Gallery features the name 'Tanya Weddemire' in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below the name, the word 'GALLERY' is written in a smaller, clean, sans-serif, all-caps font.