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Harold Offeh: Mmm, Gotta Try a Little Harder, It Could Be Sweet

Contributions by Lubaina Himid

Contributions by David A. Bailey

Contributions by Sepake Angiama

Contributions by Anna Khimasia

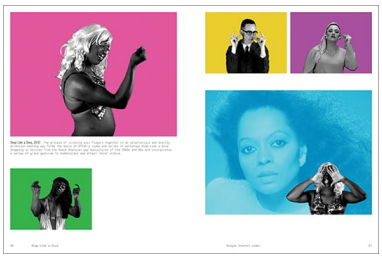
Edited by Guy Haywood

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- Explores Harold Offeh's practice from the early 2000s
- Includes a preface by artist Lubaina Himid
- Accompanies an exhibition at Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, from November 2025 to March 2026, the first major exhibition of Offeh's work at a UK institution

Mmm, Gotta Try a Little Harder, It Could Be Sweet is the first institutional solo exhibition of work by Harold Offeh in the UK. This fully illustrated book documents two decades of video, performance and collaborative projects by the artist, as well as a new series of photographs depicting Offeh re-performing works in his archive. Offeh's work interrogates our acceptance of social, political and racial models in society, often drawing inspiration from mainstream music, film and media. The title of the exhibition is taken from lyric by the British band Portishead and corresponds to three thematic sections of the exhibition: *Mmm*, a new multi-channel sound installation, *Gotta Try a Little Harder* considers Offeh's use of performance as an investigative tool and *It Could Be Sweet* looks at the artists participatory and collaborative works on themes of desire, utopianism, queer identity and acts of resistance. The book includes a preface by Lubaina Himid and new essays by Sepake Angiama, David. A. Bailey, Anna Khimasia and Harold Offeh.

Born in Zanzibar in 1954, **Lubaina Himid** is a British painter who has dedicated her thirty-year-long career to uncovering marginalised and silenced histories, figures, and cultural moments. Himid is deeply engaged with the problem of the lack of representation of Black and Asian women in the art world, and she has been committed to showing the work of underrepresented contemporaries. Himid lives and works in Preston, UK and is a professor at the University of Central Lancashire. She was awarded the Turner Prize in 2017 and was made a CBE for services to art in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours. She has exhibited extensively in the UK and abroad.**David A. Bailey** MBE, is a British Afro-Caribbean curator, photographer, writer and cultural facilitator, living and working in London. Among his main concerns are the notions of diaspora and black representation in art.**Sepake Angiama** is the artistic director of the institute for international visual arts which is home to the Stuart Hall Library in east London, a rich resource for a globalised discourse on the curatorial and artistic practice of artists and curators from Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Diaspora. iniva's primary focus is to centre the voices of African, Caribbean, Asian & Diaspora artists and their communities**Anna Khimasia** is an independent educator, curator and cultural worker. Her curatorial focus is contemporary art, performance and alternative practices with a commitment to inclusion, diversity and equity. She received her Ph.D. from the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture here at Carleton University (2015).**Guy Haywood** is Curator & Exhibition Manager at Kettles Yard, and is responsible for the development and delivery of exhibitions and artistic projects. He also oversees the management and care of the collection. Since joining Kettle's Yard he has been involved in organising over 40 major exhibitions, projects and commissions. His interests lie in 21st century contemporary art and culture with a focus on performance and interdisciplinary practices.







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