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Stacey Gillian Abe

Shrub-let of Old Ayivu

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ISBN	9780903696685
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Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	9.25 in x 11.75 in
Pages	208 Pages
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- The first book about Stacey Gillian Abe, the celebrated Ugandan artist, who was listed among the *Forbes Africa* 30 under 30 Creatives
- Featuring her works to date, the book offers profound insight into her moving, vulnerable and deeply symbolic paintings
- Contributors include renowned authors and curators Flavia Frigeri, Serubiri Moses and Catherine McKinley
- An expressive and immersive design that is subtly haptic reflecting Abe's sensitive and meaningful use of materials

The debut monograph of Stacey Gillian Abe's work is created to accompany her first London solo show at Unit London. Featuring works spanning her career to date, the book explores the key themes from Abe's work and delves deep into her expressive and symbolic indigo portraits. Abe's book includes insightful written contributions from Flavia Frigeri, art historian, lecturer and the Chanel Curator at the National Portrait Gallery and Serubiri Moses, renowned writer and curator, alongside a conversation between the artist and Catherine McKinley, curator and author of the critically acclaimed *Indigo: In Search of the Color That Seduced the World* and *The Book of Sarahs: A Family in Parts*. Abe's work reflects her past and her memories, highlighting her personal experiences and her relationships to her community. The autobiographical dimension of her work confronts traditional depictions of the Black body, challenging the colonial lens. Abe creates imaginary spaces that induce a surreal mystical feel while probing unsettling past and present narratives of identity, gender, spirituality and cultural mysticism. Renowned for her indigo skin-tone paintings, the color has become crucial in reshaping narratives surrounding the black body. Through the color, she dives into the past to envision an alternative future for the Black race. To Abe, indigo represents a tribe of people that are not limited to social, economic, cultural, political or historic constraints: 'it is about being unapologetic'.

Born in Kampala, Uganda, in 1990, **Abe** is an internationally celebrated artist. Selected exhibitions include *Song of Songs* (2021) and *In the Round,* Unit London (2022); *The Power of My Hands* at Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2021); *Running – the New Contemporary*, Qingdao Art Museum (2021); *Empowerment*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg Museum (2022) and *The Age of Identity: A Feminine Lexicon*, Salvatore Ferragamo Museum (2022). Abe's 2022 exhibition at Unit London, *Shrub-let of Old Ayivu*, marks her first solo exhibition in the city. The artist has been featured in publications including the *Independent* and the *New York Times*. Along with her numerous awards, in 2018 Abe was listed among the *Forbes Africa* 30 under 30 Creatives.

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