

BODE

THE BRIGHT WOMEN

"The Bright Women" is a body of glass portraits depicting the artist herself, her older sister, and their mother. Nearly ten years after her move to the United States from Nigeria, Layo Bright reflects on the relationship between her and the women in her immediate family, as they navigate their respective lives in different locations of the world while staying connected. **Layo Bright's** (b. 1991 in Lagos, Nigeria) Bloom series celebrates resilience and identity, created through intricate handmade glass portraits of women within her community. These new works explore the intersections of identity, migration, cultural adaptation, visibility and resistance.

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



Layo Bright

Bloom Mum in Vibrant Green and Ocean Blue, 2025

Kiln formed glass and mirrored glass

38.1 × 27.9 × 15.2 cm

15 × 11 × 6 in

\$ 9,750.00

[View detail](#)



Layo Bright

Bloom Sister in Rosy Red and Burnished Plum, 2025

Kiln formed glass and mirrored glass

38.1 × 29.2 × 15.2 cm

15 × 11 1/2 × 6 in

\$ 9,750.00

[View detail](#)



Layo Bright

Bloom self-portrait (Make America America Again) after

Langston Hughes, 2025

Kiln formed glass and mirrored glass on frame

38.1 × 30.5 × 12.7 cm

15 × 12 × 5 in

\$ 9,750.00

[View detail](#)

LAYO BRIGHT

Bloom Mum in Vibrant Green and Ocean Blue, 2025



Kiln formed glass and mirrored glass

38.1 × 27.9 × 15.2 cm

15 × 11 × 6 in

\$ 9,750.00

Image 1/7

Description

Bright's Bloom series celebrates resilience and identity, created through intricate handmade glass portraits of women within her community. Made during her artist residency at The Corning Museum of Glass (NY, USA), these new works explore the intersections of identity, migration, cultural adaptation, visibility and resistance.



Image 2/7



Image 3/7



Image 4/7



Image 5/7



Image 6/7



Image 7/7

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Image 2/6



Image 3/6

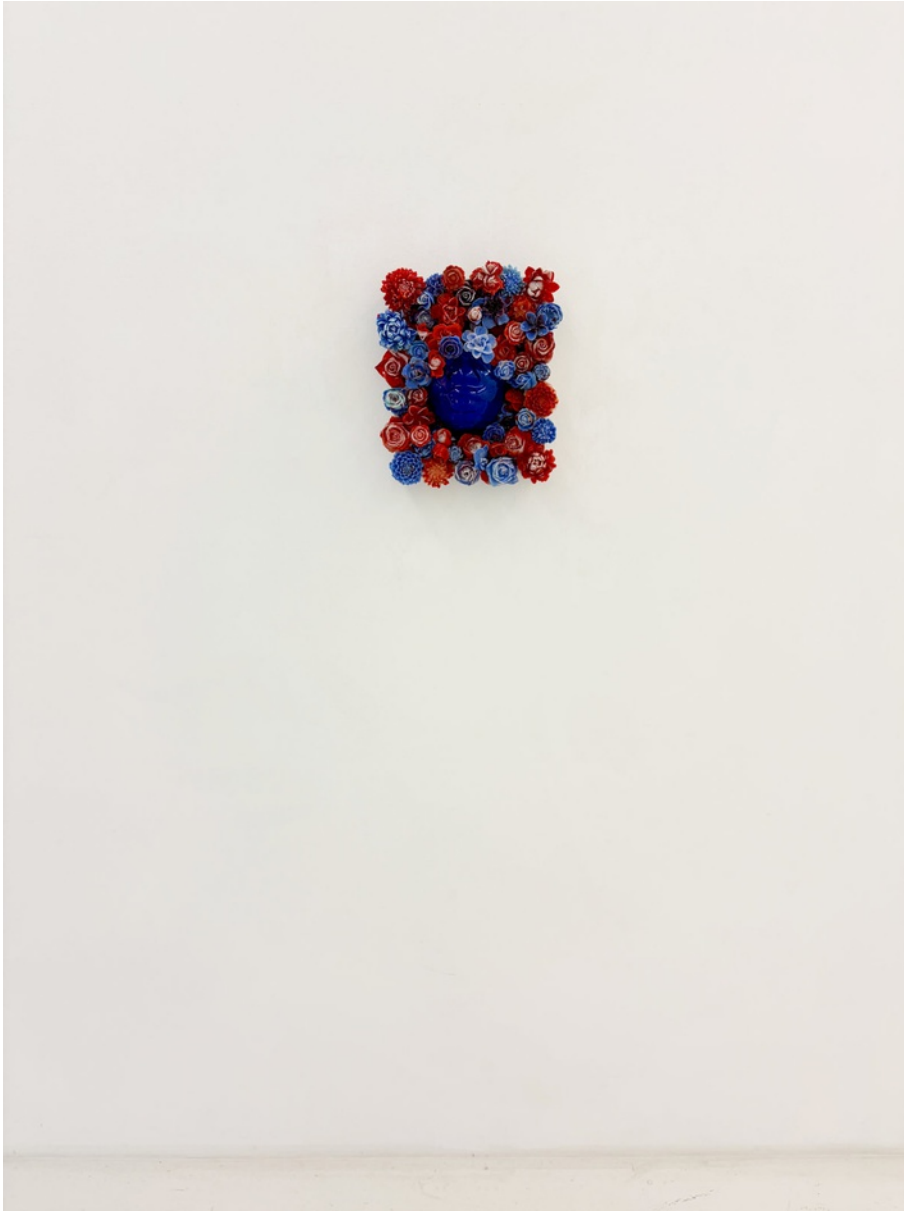


Image 4/6



Image 5/6



Image 6/6

Each woman is navigating distinct circumstances and turning points, transforming into different versions of herself. Bright is interested in exploring these transitional phases of life and transformation which involve embracing change, overcoming obstacles, and finding one's own voice. It is the attribution of fragility that predominantly interests her when working with glass, actively rejecting the misconception of women as fragile. The artist depicts her muses in glass as a testament to their resilience, beauty, strength, grace and fortitude. She is telling a story of resilience, femininity, strength and courage, and rethinks how the portrait has been envisioned in contemporary arts. The blooms that encroach the female portraits are a mix of generic and native flowers from around the world, signifying different parts of the world the women have moved through and dwelled in. The flowers also signify life transitions that have shaped their journey, using the language of flowers to explore the complexities of their stories and how their lives have been shaped so far. Despite the distance between them, the women are connected and continue to bloom in each other's lives. The works speak of connectivity despite separation and distance. Interested in the concept of the artist muse, that for centuries has often depicted women from the male gaze, Bright pushes against this notion by depicting women based on their own terms of autonomy and self determination. The women's portraits have been rendered from life casts that the women sat for, taken by Bright, preserving a record of their likeness. In recontextualising the idea of the portrait through glass portraits of women of the African diaspora, Bright explores their visibility, autonomy and agency despite social and cultural pressures.

Layo Bright (b. 1991 in Lagos, NG) received her LL.B from Babcock University, Ogun State, NG and MFA in Fine Art from the Parsons School of Design, New York, NY, US. The artist's first solo museum exhibition Dawn and Dusk was on view at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT, US (2024). Bright's works have been also featured in solo and duo exhibitions at Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL, US; Flux Factory, Long Island City, NY, US, and AWCA, Lagos, NG. The artist participated at numerous group exhibitions, including at Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE, US; Halsey McKay Gallery, New York, NY, US; Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, US; PM/AM Gallery, London, UK; Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA, US; Lubeznik Center for the Arts, IN, US; Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, NY, US; Bode, Berlin, DE; Welancora Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, US; Anthony Gallery, IL, US, among others. Bright completed art residencies at the Corning Museum of Glass, NY, US; the Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, US; UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, NY, US; Tyler Glass Program, Philadelphia, PA, US. She has been awarded several awards and prizes such as the UrbanGlass Artist Honoree Award (2025), the Ron Desmett Memorial Award for Imagination with Glass (2023), the, UrbanGlass Winter Scholarship Award (2021, 2020); the International Sculpture Center's Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award (2018), and the Beyoncé Formation Finalist Scholarship (2017). Layo Bright lives and works in New York City, NY, US.

Bode is a Berlin and Cape Town based contemporary art gallery that collaborates with an international and diverse roster of contemporary artists working across different media and disciplines. Engaging with their practice in new and unique ways, the gallery works with artists that explore and challenge traditional notions of representation.