

## Remembering Africa



*"Jeremiah Onifadé: surreal figures"* debuts at SITE131 on January 9. (Courtesy of the artist)

While we remain cautiously optimistic about the year 2021, the Dallas art scene is already delivering. Here are the new shows, concepts, and visiting artists you need to know for the winter weeks ahead.

Jeremiah Onifadé has called Dallas home for the past few years, but Nigeria — his birth country — is the inspiration for his first solo exhibition at SITE131. His intriguingly circuitous path to painting began slightly over a decade ago, when he was studying at the Savannah College of Art and

Design after leaving Nigeria. Unable to make ends meet, he enlisted in the U.S. military, then found his way to Texas to continue his art studies at Collin College, eventually receiving a master's in engineering from Southern Methodist University.



Jeremiah Onifadé's *Ibinabo's Red Salmon*, 2020, at

SITE131 founder and curator Joan Davidow was drawn to the dancelike figures that float across Onifadé's canvases. Fourteen paintings comprise the resulting exhibition, "Jeremiah Onifadé: surreal figures" (January 9 – March 27).

Paintings of various sizes line the walls of the Design District gallery, where you may see hints of the Old Masters, particularly Velasquez, Caravaggio, and Titian, who inform the artist's interest in the figure. "Onifadé's work stays with me," Davidow says "It's totally original. His figures are weirdly elegant, moving in space, telling stories totally new to me."