

...AND IT BECAME
REALITY

GROUP EXHIBITION OF SCULPTORS



15th-21st
AUGUST 2021



Asiegbu **COLLINS**
ODUNGIDE A. Ekpo
Olusegun **ADELEYE**
ELIJAH E. Nwali
Sanusi **ADEOYE A.**

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A catalogue of exhibition

Agama Art Publishing & Agency

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Curator

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

Graphics

Asiegbu Collins

Publisher

Agama Art Publishing & Agency

Printer

Most Higher Than Media

Abuja, Nigeria

Our Purpose

Our intention is to represent artists through exhibitions, events, talks, etc. And to create books, e-Books and catalogues that enhance and promote the huge African art talent in order to bring them to all audiences. We want to use art as a social tool to bring awareness about difficult topics. We want to discuss and explore themes such as child abuse, war, slavery, drugs, rape, human, trafficking, misogyny, etc. We want to capture people's attention within these subjects, stories and ideas that have a massive impact on their lives and dreams. It is essential to listen carefully to how human beings today interpret their voices specially through art.

We want to publish books, e-Books and catalogues about the current established artists that we work with and the new ones that we have trained and encouraged.

Our purpose is also to celebrate and publish young and long established African artists that have never been recorded in order to create an art legacy.

Our Culture

We believe in these artists and their ideas and therefore we think that what we do matters. It takes a lot of hard work and research to represent artists and publish these books, e-Books and catalogues, and we care about these artists, their ideas and talents. We are committed to make a difference and we work with these artists in order to achieve this.

We work in collaboration with different associations, organisations, embassies, galleries and museums. We work together, among other things, to find new talent, encourage established talent, record young and long established artists, set up exhibitions, provide workshops, seminars and talks to underprivileged and disadvantaged artists who want to start or continue their art career.

FOREWORD



Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

And It Became Reality is an exciting exhibition featuring five sculptors from Lagos. All of them are very accomplished artists and each of them will bring different and engaging elements to this theme.

The event opens on 15th August and finishes on 21st August at the beautiful Café De Vie in Maitama, Abuja. The exhibition presents mixed media and metal work from artists.

The theme, *And It Became Reality* explores the idea of death and judgment and how this can bring hope and faith.

Please join us in this wonderful exhibition and enjoy the view!

ABOUT AGAMA ART PUBLISHING & AGENCY

Agama Art Publishing & Agency Ltd. was founded by Susa Rodríguez-Garrido, in 2018 to promote African artist and to encourage them to express their enormous talent and creativity.

Agama art publishing and agency Ltd is an independent publisher and agency that promotes African artist through books, e-Books and catalogues about African art, photography, architecture, sculpture, design and fashion that irradiate creativity, imagination, thoughts and education.

We also represent artist endorsing them through exhibitions, events, seminars, talks, etc. We select and publish the most brilliant African artist, bringing them to life in dynamic ways, prints and digital, for readers all around the world.



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

ABOUT

Café De Vie: Victoria Minaise



Victoria Minaise is the founder of Café De Vie, and an active member of the Abuja community. Café de Vie is one of the best cafes in Abuja, which provides the community with an agora for promotion of Nigerian art, and culture, with a vision behind it full of passion and drive for creating the extraordinary out of the ordinary.

Victoria is a philanthropist par excellence; her DNA revolves around children and women's education and protection. She has been a catalyst of many initiatives through the years, leveraging her human skills in bridging differences and bringing people together around core human issues, generosity and goodness.

She is a graduate of interior designs from the KLC School of Design London, along with her creativity; she is a certified yoga teacher and teaches stretching to help design a well-balanced and healthy *mode de vie*. She speaks Hausa, Fench and Arabic.

Involvement with charity

She has worked alongside leading organisations as well as diplomats, government officials stemming from a worldwide network of ambassadors. Her passion of "give back" encompasses the many charity organisations she is involved with, to endlessly inspire and empower those who are yet to shine.

Her journey with charity organisations began in 2005, in Abuja, where she led the facilitation of funding for underprivileged communities. She utilises her platform and influence within the expat community and reaches out to wealthy Nigerian businessmen and women keen to make a difference.

Her passion and interests have always been innately drawn at impacting lives and developing a better livelihood for those in need. This expedition all began with her first visit to Kubwa, to a foundation known as Daughters of Charity, run by Irish nuns, who assist and tend to children with severe autism and afterwards, she has participated in several outreaches such as:

- Skill acquisition for the disabled in Karmahjiji.
- Room expansion for surviving twins orphanage baby home.
- 1girl1Pen, a scholarship initiative to get girls back to school.
- Advocacy for reusable pads to schoolgirls and teenagers.

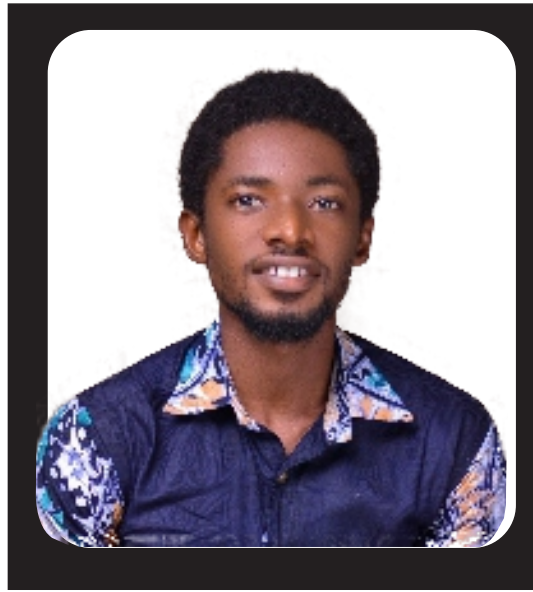
ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

It is important to an artist to be the reason for a visual feast and it is also true that an artist get an inner joy on completion of an art piece.

These sculptures have transformed materials otherwise considered as just metal (dead) into life and the faith and hope they have in this vocation brought them this far.

The theme *And It Became Reality* explores these realities that brought the artists where they are today. The distinct agenda enshrined in the theme is made vivid in the collection of sculptures in this exhibition.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



ASIEGBU COLLINS

Asiegbu Collins is an art degree holder, a full-time Nigerian based artist (sculptor) whose forms of expression centers on appealing to the minds and intuition of his audience. He gained a great deal of experience in his quest from some masters of art. To mention a few, he is inspired by works of Fidelis Odogwu, Steve Ekenusi, Dotun Popola, Dada Adedayo. He aims to initiate conversations about situations, happenings and experiences both individual and society related matters.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As an artist and an African, my works are inclined to document the time I have lived and will live. Furthermore to inspire the contemporaries that will come after me because my inspiration came from what my predecessors have done. With this, the line of history will not be lost and it will give the future an insight of what it was like in the times that have existed before them. My artworks are inspired by experiences and happenings which may sometimes respond to social events. I give my art time to reveal its being to me in a way I can relate to so that my audience can equally connect to my innate thoughts through my rendition.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS



ROOSTER
Mixed media
55cm
2021



ALA (EARTH)
(Reincarnation of Anyanwu Series)
Mixed media
136cm
2021

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



ODUNGIDE A. EKPO

Ekpo is a Nigerian based artist, who holds a Higher National Diploma in Sculpture from the prestigious School of Art, Auchi Polytechnic. He has participated in many group exhibitions both nationally and internationally.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a metal sculptor, I strive to make statements by creating works with metal, junks and discarded materials. In creation, I was created to bear a crown and explore my creativity.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS



RED ANGEL
Metal
92cm
2021



THE BEATS
Metal
62cm
2020

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



OLUSEGUN ADELEYE

Olusegun Adeleye is a graduate of Fine Arts. He is an artist and a musician. His work is incomprehensible and is therefore full of deep significance. He has worked with friends, colleagues and inspired by some of his mentors and masters of arts like Olu Amoda, Adeola Balogun, Lagbaja, the mask man and the likes. My works take a critical view of social, political and cultural issues often rearranging African history and explores the varying relationships between culture and fine arts.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I get inspired by nature and people around me and places where I go which makes me creative in my own way. I compete with nobody, I stand out in the crowd. My works in the past years have used revealing aspects of history which had a profound impact on our culture today, in the current climate where some believe history has no relevance, I find myself continually returning to these aspects that are often hidden or misinformed so my works can be recognised and recorded for posterity.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS



AFTER THE STORM
Mixed media
81.28cm x 63.50cm
2021



HAPPY HOME (BLESSED NATION)
Mixed media
60.96cm x 60.96cm
2021

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



ELIJAH E. NWALI

Elijah Nwali is a Nigerian based sculptor and a creative designer. He holds a degree in art from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University. He got his early art training from Universal Studios of Art, Lagos and the prestigious Auchu Polytechnic. He works with metal scrap, transforming it into alluring pieces of sculpture.

ARTIST STATEMENT

It is known that long after we are all gone, it is the art that will remain to tell about us and the way we have lived. I use welded pieces of metal to capture life and tell stories of societal issues. The idea of bringing bits together to form a whole and tell a stories is always a new challenge and an adventure.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS



THE THORNS WE CARRY

Metal

73.66cm x 73.66cm

2021

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



SANUSI ADEOYE

Sanusi Adeoye Abdullahi (JP) is from Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria. He obtained his NCE in Art Education and HND in Sculpture from the Federal Polytechnic of Auchi, Edo State. He also attended Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto. He curated at B & C Art Gallery, Apapa Lagos State in 2000. His artworks can be found in galleries across Nigeria and abroad.

Sanusi has participated in several group exhibitions nationally and internationally. He has executed many artworks that adorn public spaces and numerous commissions across the world.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My art process draws attention from simple human intimacy and engagement. With this I try to reach my audience's satisfaction and this gives me joy to keep expressing myself through art. Art is life.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS

XENOPHOBIA

Mixed media

62cm

2020



THE BEATS

Mixed media

62cm

2020



THE BEATS, THE SOUND

Mixed media

62cm

2021

CONTACT

If you would like to:

- * set up an exhibition or art event,
- * engage one of the artists for a seminar, talk, presentation or party,
- * have your artwork assessed and valued,
- * purchase artwork.

Please contact:

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

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