



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

ESTHER ADEBAYO

CULTURE CLASP

16th - 24th July 2021

Café de Vie
Abuja, Nigeria



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A Catalogue of Exhibition
Agama Art Publishing & Agency

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CURATOR

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

GRAPHICS

Olorunyemi Kolapo (cover)

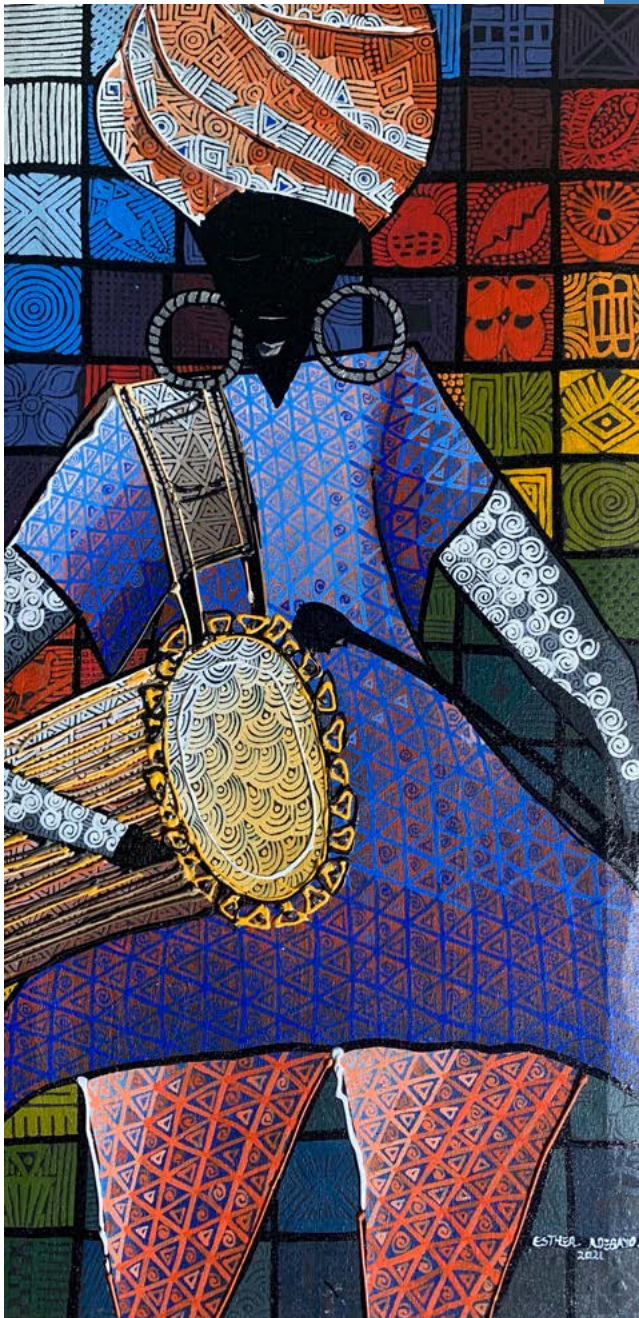
Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

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 with 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, especially 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 talent. We are committed to make a difference and work with these artists in order to achieve this.

We work in collaboration with Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN). 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 female artists who want to start or continue their art career.

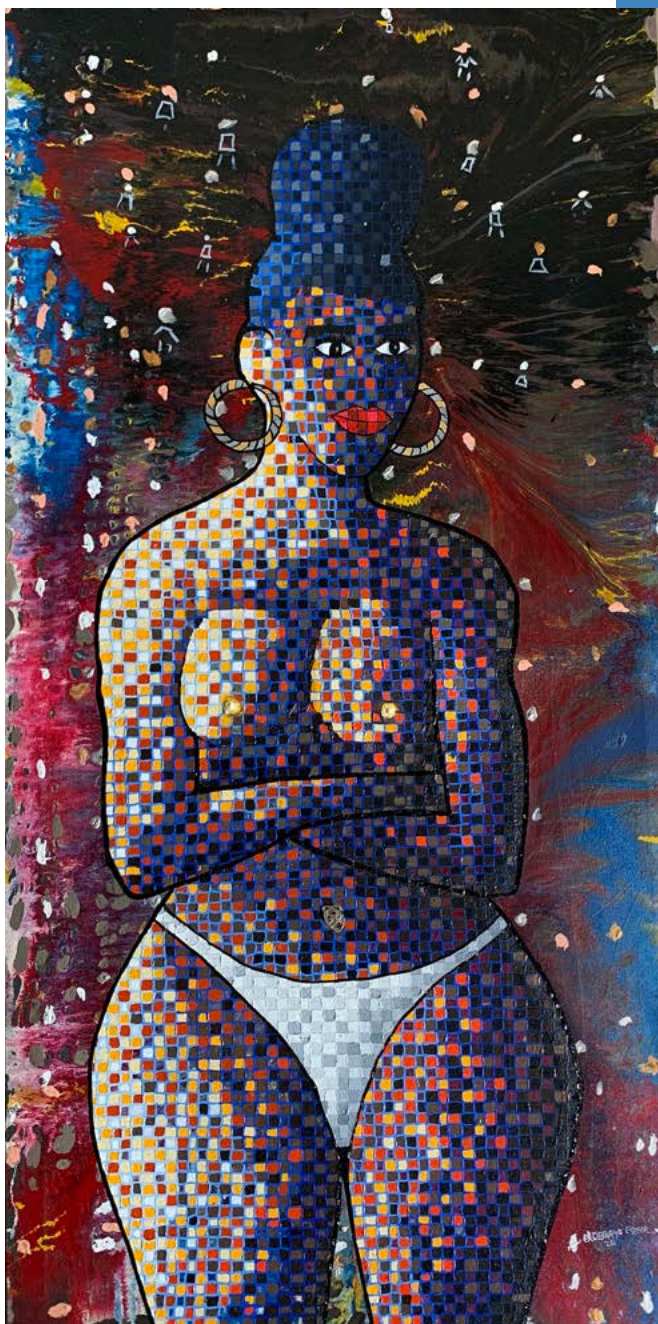


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FOREWORD

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

Esther Adebayo is an incredible artist, who is not only very talented, but also very charming.

Her first solo exhibition in Abuja opens on 16th July and finishes on 24th July at the wonderful and exclusive Café de Vie, Abuja.

The event features 20 amazing paintings and the theme, *Culture Clasp*, explores the topic of African culture and traditional values in a modern way. Her pieces focus on social issues in Nigerian society including poverty, inequality, unemployment, patriarchy and injustice.

Please join us for this fascinating exhibition and enjoy the view!



ABOUT

AGAMA ART PUBLISHING & AGENCY

Agama Art Publishing and Agency Ltd. was founded by Susa Rodríguez- Garrido, in 2018, to promote African artists 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 artists 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 artists endorsing them through exhibitions, events, seminars, talks, etc. We select and publish the most brilliant African artists, bringing them to life in dynamic ways, print and digital, for readers all around the world.



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 cafés 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 issues of 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 Design 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, French 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 the 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 Karmajiji.
- Room expansion for the surviving twin orphanage baby home.
- IgirlPen, a scholarship initiative to get our girls back to school.
- Advocacy for reusable pads to schoolgirls and teenagers.



ABOUT

The Theme: **CULTURE CLASP**

Every society is strongly tied together by an intricate tapestry of individual values, norms and specific history. Culture and its impact on the community is a beautiful and multifaceted entity, which gives strength and purpose to its people.

Esther Adebayo is informed by the deep quest for preserving and highlighting African culture and values through paintings. Her works focus on social causes and pertinent issues in contemporary Nigerian society including poverty, inequality, unemployment, patriarchy and injustice.

Her philosophy is that answers for these causes are deeply entrenched in her history and as she reminds people through her paintings, they can find the courage to look forward and find answers to current challenges.

Esther Adebayo

Conceptual Visual Artist, Project Manager and Content Creator

<https://agamapublishing.wordpress.com/esther-adebayo/>

www.Kakaakigallery.com



ARTIST

ESTHER ADEBAYO

Esther, from Ekiti-State, resides in Benin, Nigeria is a conceptual visual artist, project manager and content creator. Her quest to preserve the African culture and heritage inspired the depiction/communication of her feelings with African motifs.

She is a member of Female Artist Association of Nigeria (FEAAN), Emptyartroom residence, leading women Africa, Agama Art Publishing & Agency, VAV, and ambassador of street project foundation. She is also the curator and project manager of "Her Vim Art Exhibition".

ARTIST STATEMENT

My journey in life so far explains and signifies my signature of existence. My day-to-day activities from birth all speak to the volume of creativity in me.

Coming from a traditional background has inspired my style of life, which reflects in my paintings. Nigeria has a beautiful culture that I will forever be an ambassador of. Creativity is art and art itself is what life is all about.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 FACCIMA Trade Fair,
Port Harcourt
- 2018 Art-mosphere FEAAN,
Ikoyi, Lagos
- 2019 Balance for Better: Women
Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos
- 2019 Art meets Tech Impart
Artist fair, Eko Atlantic
- 2019 Uncovered Female Nigeria
Artist FEAAN and Agama
Art Publishing & Agency,
British Village Inn, Abuja
- 2020 Irish Embassy Art Exhibi-
tion (in collaboration with
Agama Art Publishing &
Agency), Abuja
- 2020 ArttalentsAfrica Contest,
South Africa 2021, Omi-
dan Oju'inu, Tunde Art
Gallery Ibadan

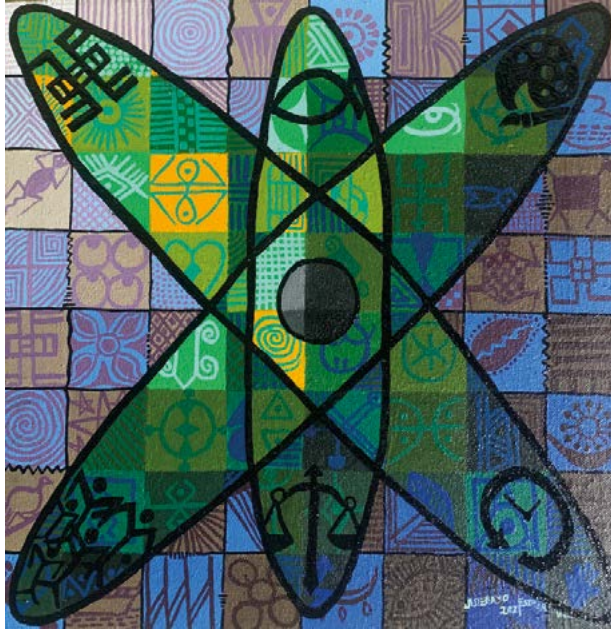
ARTWORK

- CULTURE CLASP
- REFLECTION OF CONSISTENCY
- PALM WINE
- IN ISOLATION
- 'MOTHER' THE DEFINITION OF A NATION
- ADIRE
- THE DRUMMER
- THE VOICE
- END FEMALE VIOLENCE NOW
- THE AFRICAN IDENTITY
- THE GREETING
- MEDITATION
- BREAKING THROUGH
- HERITAGE
- AFRICAN DRUMS
- WHO WE ARE
- CULTURAL DANCER
- MOTHERHOOD
- EMI
- TRANQUILITY



Reflection of Consistency

2020 | Mixed media | 40.64cm x 40.64cm

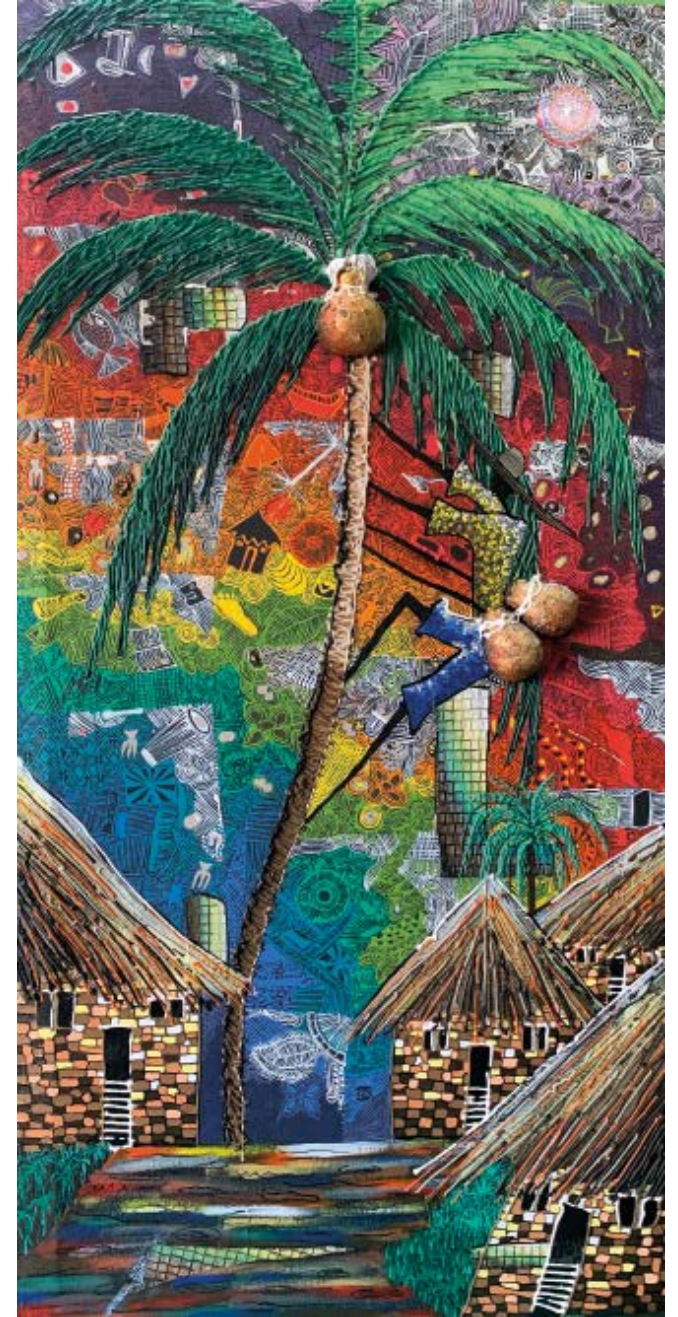


Culture Clasp

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 40.64cm

Palm Wine

2020 | Acrylic on canvas | 71.12cm x 121.92cm





In Isolation

2020 | Acrylic on canvas | 45.72cm x 60.96cm



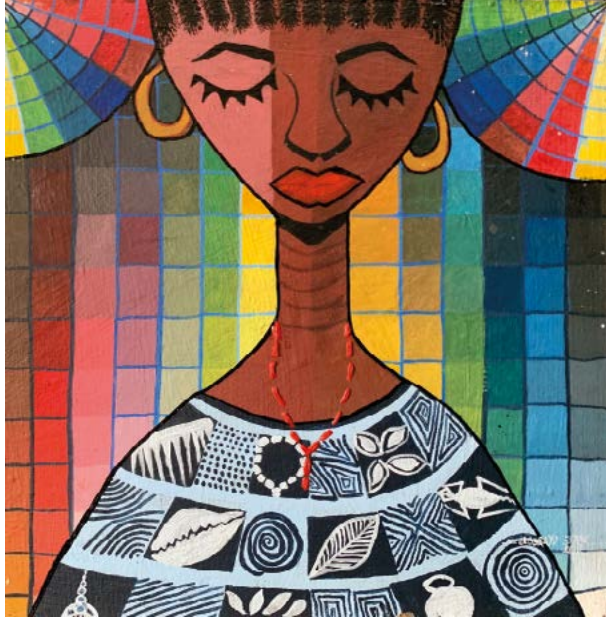
'Mother' the Definition of a Nation

2020 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 50.8cm



The Drummer

2020 | Acrylic on board | 140.64cm x 40.64cm



Adire

2020 | Acrylic on board | 40.64cm x 40.64cm



End Female Violence Now

2020 | Mixed media | 40.64cm x 40.64cm



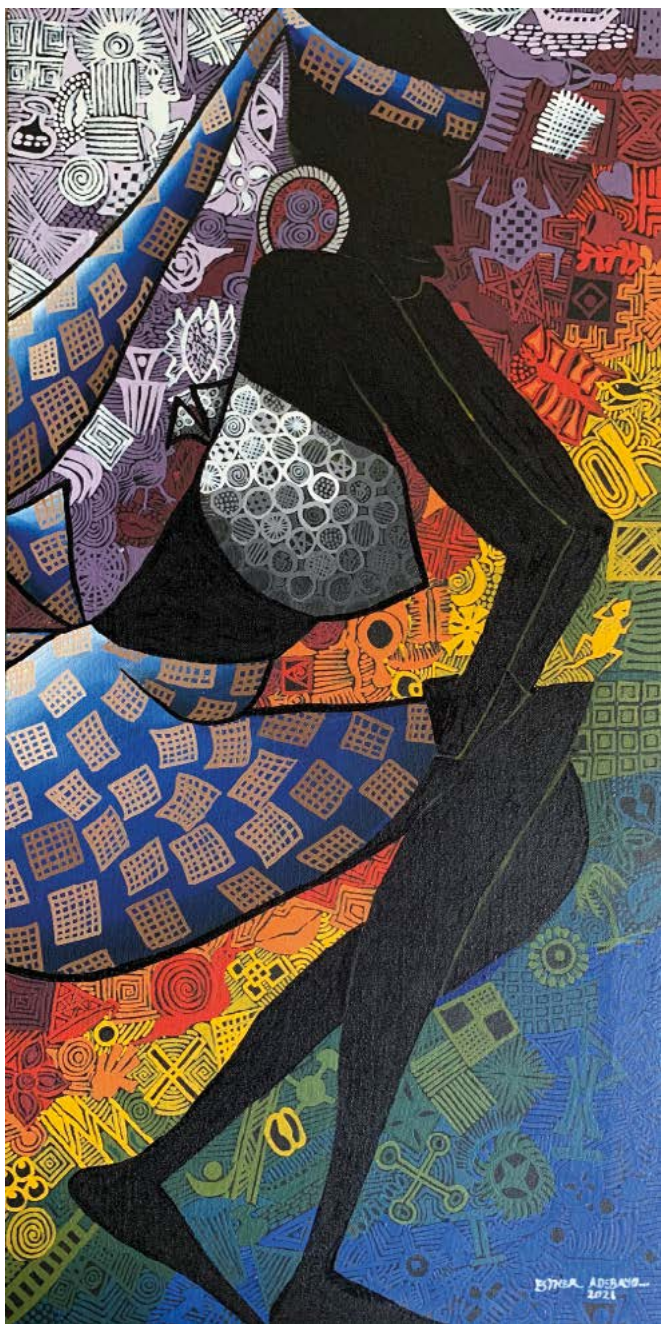
The Voice

2020 | Mixed media | 40.64cm x 40.64cm



The African Identity

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 81.28cm



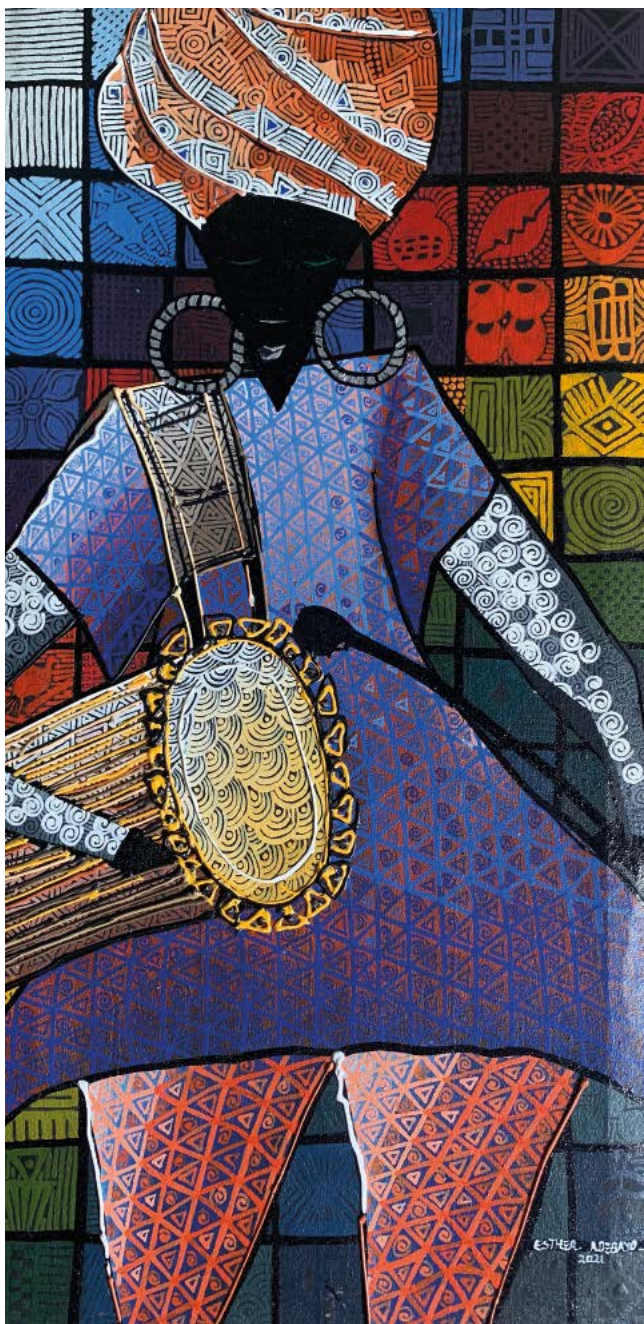
The Greeting

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 81.28cm



Meditation

2021 | Acrylic and gloss on canvas | 71.12cm x 121.92cm



Breaking Through

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 81.28cm

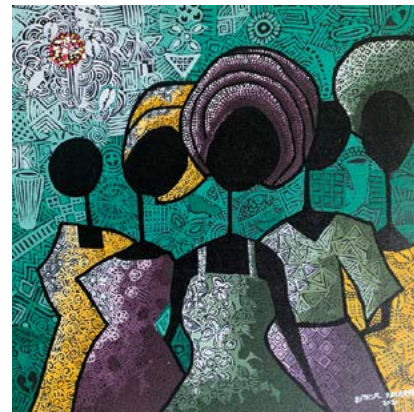


African Drums

2018 | Mixed media | 40.64cm x 81.28cm

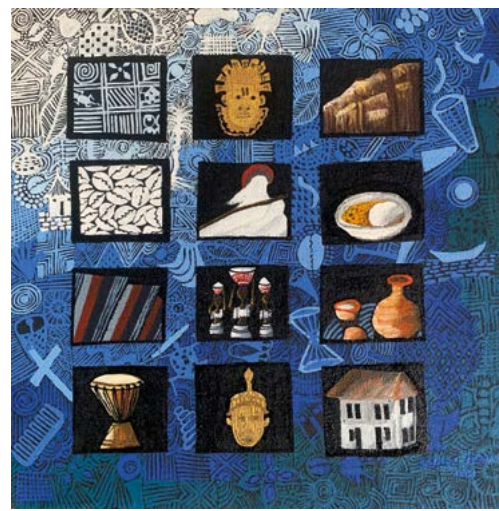
Who We Are

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 40.64cm



Heritage

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 40.64cm





Cultural Dancer

2020 | Acrylic on canvas | 40.64cm x 81.28cm



Motherhood

2020 | Acrylic on canvas | 91.44cm x 91.44cm

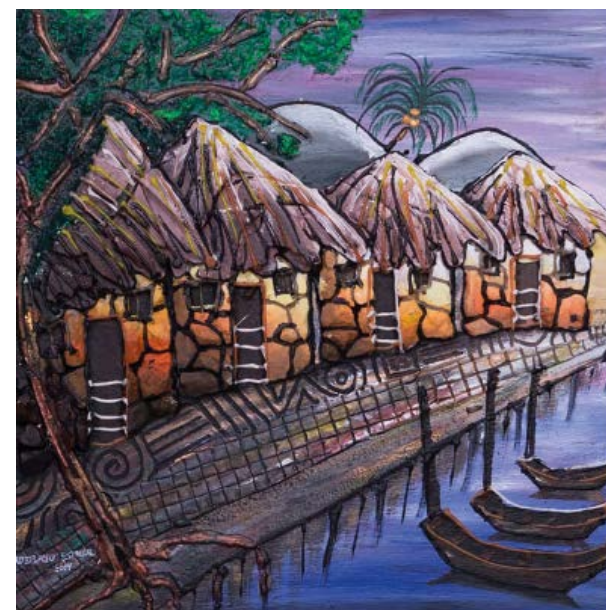
Emi

2021 | Acrylic on canvas | 60.96cm x 76.2cm



Tranquility

2019 | Mixed media | 40.64cm x 40.64cm



Culture Clasp
Acrylic on canvas
40.64cm x 40.64cm
2021

Explanation:

Culture is referred to as the cumulative deposit of knowledge, belief, arts, notions of time, concept of the universe acquired by a group of people in the course of generation through individual group striving. These keywords are represented from the top-left in a clockwise position.

The beautiful piece is dominated by the culture symbol with a universal clasp holding it at the middle, which symbolises the universe-holding humans of different cultures together, making the world a whole and more interesting place to live with diverse cultures.

Reflection of Consistency
Mixed media
40.64cm x 40.64cm
2020

Explanation:

As an act of the beautiful culture of Nigeria reflects the hustle, hard work and consistency in African women regardless of age being a barrier. The beautiful, royalty, motifs and decorated background of the piece

symbolises the reflection of hard work alongside consistency.

Palm Wine
Acrylic on canvas
71.12cm x 121.92cm
2020

Explanation:

There is nothing that is as beneficial to our health as the various gifts of nature. Unarguably, palm wine is one of them. Palm wine is a sweet, tasty drink found in Africa that comes from the sap of various species of the palm tree as depicted in the painting. It contains antioxidants and vitamin C, assisting in maintaining good eye health.

In Isolation
Acrylic on canvas
45.72cm x 60.96cm
2020

Explanation:

This is a digital acrylic painting of a beautiful, curvy lady who is a victim of rape. The warmness of the colours used signifies the state of her emotions also revealing on her appearance. *You are irresistible... you are sexy... sorry you are just too tempting*

is the excuse given to her by her uncle for such a devious act. She wanders alone in her room. *To whom do I speak with, who will not criticise me, and how will everyone look at me if I tell the story?* These are questions she got lost with in the dark, *you are not alone; it is time to voice out...*

'Mother' the Definition of a Nation
Acrylic on canvas
40.64cm x 50.8cm
2020

Explanation:

A good mother is a true definition of a nation and love. A mother is everything to her child while automatically pregnant with love and care to her baby, perseverance during tough times, sacrificial and very hopeful to her child's future while they invest heavily on it.

Adire
Acrylic on board
40.64cm x 40.64cm
2020

Explanation:

This is a resist-dyed cloth produced and worn by the Yoruba people of southwestern Nigeria in West Africa.

The Yoruba label adire, which means "tied and dyed" was first applied to indigo-dyed cloth decorated with patterns around the turn of the 20th century.

The Drummer
Acrylic on canvas
40.64cm x 40.64cm
2020

Explanation:

Traditionally, drumming was the heartbeat, the soul of the people. It inspires passion and excitement and even causes trances, a momentary loss of consciousness to either the drummer or the listener. They symbolise, protect royalty, and are often housed in sacred dwellings.

The Voice
Mixed media
40.64cm x 40.64cm
2020

Explanation:

This is an African motif artwork of a woman in a communicative mode. The mask on her face signifies being silenced by her community and blamed for being violated. Regardless that she has decided and sworn not to

keep quiet by still voicing out loudly with her body language and fist in a stop/end folded mode.

End Female Violence Now

Mixed media

40.64cm x 50.8cm

2020

Explanation:

The work contains several tones of reds using different indigenous materials. The title of this piece is written with its symbols exactly as it sounds.

The African Identity

Acrylic on canvas

40.64cm x 81.28cm

2021

Explanation:

This piece depicts the Nigeria Heritage (artefacts, monoliths). A carved ivory mask, worn by the oba or ruler of Benin during ceremonies, a 19th-century terra-cotta head, a brass figure that was part of an altar dedicated in 1914, a 16th-century Queen Mother head bronze from Benin, a 12th-century Ori-Olokun bronze casting, a Head of the Sea Goddess, ancestor figure Bembe Nok terracotta, a 17th century Efik people Cross

River, a mask from Gabon and the Akwanshi's stone monoliths.

The Greeting

Acrylic on canvas

40.64cm x 81.28cm

2021

Explanation:

Yoruba is one of the three-ethnic group in Nigeria endowed with rich culture and traditions. One of the cultural practices is how a younger person greets the elderly. A girl child wakes up in the morning, go to the parent, kneels down and greets "EKAARO" meaning good morning. The colours and motifs used symbolise the location.

Meditation

Acrylic and gloss on canvas

71.12cm x 121.92cm

2021

Explanation:

This work is an exercise everyone should try to practise. A reflection of oneself in all ways. A man who can control his thoughts will enjoy his existence. The blue and red colours symbolise the cool and the warm, the positive and the negative outcome of being able to meditate or not.

Breaking Through

Acrylic on canvas

40.64cm x 81.28cm

2021

Explanation:

Women's strength is really underestimated, women face more challenges with their gender counterparts becoming leaders in their field. In Yoruba, only men are allowed to play the drums, but now, women are breaking through, women break records. The piece serves as a reminder to keep being positive and never give up in the journey of pursuing your goals.

Heritage

Acrylic on canvas

40.64cm x 40.64cm

2021

Explanation:

Nigeria is an historical place to visit. Beautiful places and things to explore, tour with me. Great fashion sense (aso-oke and adire), artefacts (Queen Mother Benin bronze and Ori-Olokun Ife), places (the Olumo rock and the first story building Badagary), cowries (old form of money exchange), food (egusi with pounded yam and milk called "wara"), drink (palm wine) and mmusic (rhythms of the Bata drum). Welcome to Nigeria, home of culture!

African Drums

Mixed media

40.64cm x 81.28cm

Year: 2018

Explanation:

Song is another form of art that connects to the soul. Each culture with their style of music. In Africa, our style is the gangan, sekere, dundun, bata and yawuru as seen in the piece. Each having its functions, when put together one swims in a pool of bliss.

Who We Are

Acrylic on Canvas

40.64cm x 40.64cm

2021

Explanation:

Who we are; we are chocolate, black or creamy like cupcake full of strength, love, intelligence, bravery, courage, spiced with morals and determination. Unique in dressing and the outings are always in groups (Owambe, oo por).

Cultural Dancer

40.64cm x 81.28cm

2020

Explanation:

Here comes the rhythm of the feet that goes with the sound of the African beats. This cultural dancing comes from the Yoruba culture in Nigeria. They are called "ELERE IBILE" meaning the traditional dancers because each step dances to the beat given by the drummer.

Motherhood

Acrylic on canvas

91.44cm x 91.44cm

2020

Explanation:

The happiest day of a woman is when she sees her first child wrapped in glory right in front of her. She just couldn't believe this sunshine just came out from her. At that point, the spirit of motherhood descends and all should think of the pain of just bearing the child.

Emi

Acrylic on canvas

60.96cm x 76.2cm

2021

Explanation:

"EMI", which means "I" in English, is a story of an African lady. She has developed confidence in her own identity as a black woman. She could rock the world with her beautiful skinned head or curly beautiful natural textured hair, whatever way she has chosen her hairstyle to be. *I am me, I am beautiful, I am gorgeous she says with her whole body movement. The purple colour which best represents femininity is used to represent the gender.*

Tranquility

Mixed media

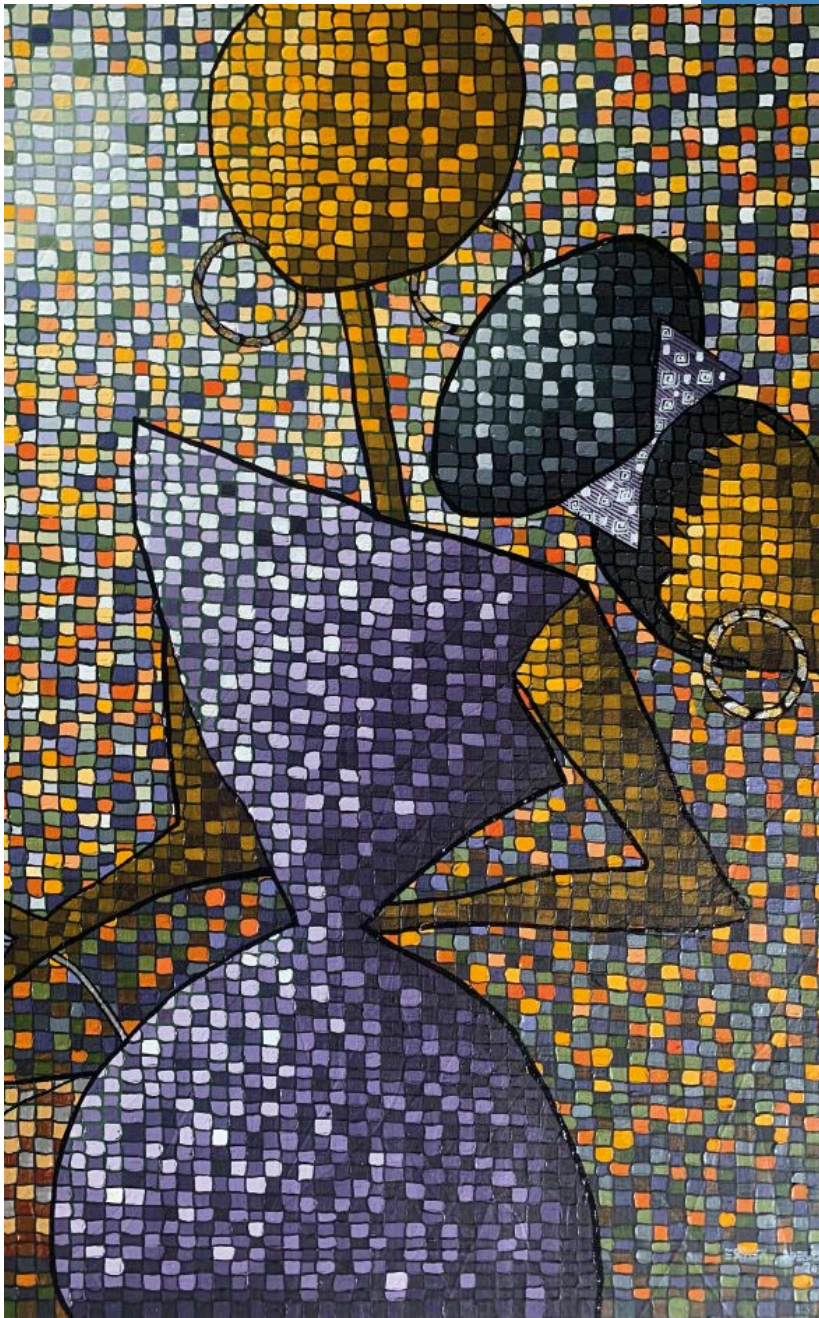
40.64cm x 40.64cm

2019

Explanation:

Have good thoughts in life is nothing but tranquility. Everything we are now all started as an idea, which transformed from stages to stages up to the present date. The stone used in this piece signifies strength because of its rigidity, the water symbolises life and the tree depicts vegetation. The hurt and boat in this piece reflect us back to where we come from. One can have it all with a healthy thought.





CONTACT

If you would like to:

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

Please contact me:

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

Art Representative, Curator, Publisher,
Artist and Founder of Agama
Art Publishing & Agency

susargarrido@googlemail.com
+234 701 226 2189

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