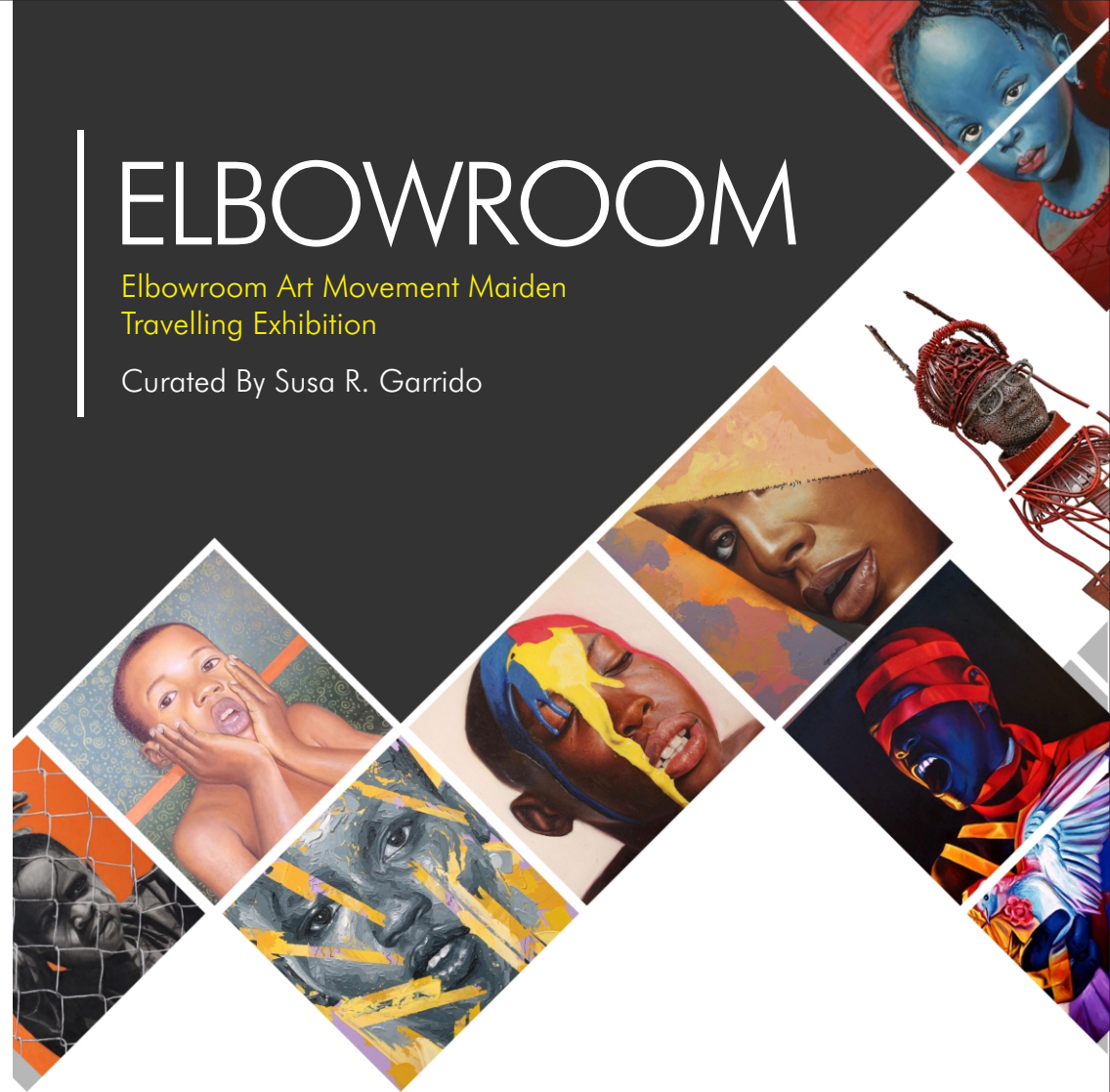


ELBOWROOM

Elbowroom Art Movement Maiden
Travelling Exhibition

Curated By Susa R. Garrido



MAMBAAH CAFÉ, ABUJA, NIGERIA
12TH - 18TH AUGUST 2021

ART ADDICTION GALLERY, ABUJA, NIGERIA
19TH - 26TH AUGUST 2021



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING & AGENCY

ELBOWROOM

Elbowroom Art Movement Maiden
Travelling Exhibition

Curated By Susa R. Garrido



ELBOWROOM

Art Movement

- OLORUNYEMI KOLAPO
- OLUWOLE OLAWUYI
- ONYEKACHUKWU ILOANYI
- AWOSOLA MICHAEL ANGELLO
- SILAS ONOJA
- CHINEDU BRIGHT EZEH
- BOLAJI ONAOLAPO
- ADESHINA ADEODU

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 weapon to bring awareness about difficult topics. We want to discuss and explore themes such as child abuse, war, slavery, drugs, rape, 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 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

ELBOWROOM Art Movement was founded in 2016 by Olorunyemi Kolapo and he was subsequently joined by 7 other artists: Oluwole Olawuyi, Onyekachukwu Iloanyi, Awosola Michael Angello, Silas Onoja, Chinedu Bright Ezeh, Bolaji Onaolapo and Adeshina Adeodu.

The aim of this talented group of artists is freedom of expression without any attachment to a particular style or influence. Anything is accepted with no restrictions. This movement was also formed to support each other in their endeavours.

I have the honour to be curating this travelling exhibition, which starts in Abuja and will continue in Lagos, London and beyond.



Susa Rodriguez-Garrido

About



Mambaah Café | Creative Hub (Mambaah) is the ultimate food, arts and lifestyle destination in Abuja, Nigeria.

The name Mambaah, which means 'welcome' in Gbagyi language, is an ode to the native Gbagyi people who are the ancient inhabitants of the land of Abuja.

Mambaah is a blend of a café, restaurant and creative hub dedicated to building value, promoting culture and sustainable development by welcoming great people and great ideas to interact in a beautiful, peaceful, creative environment that births and nurtures excellence.

The Mambaah team is renowned for its pioneering spirit, innovation, personalised services, exclusivity and creativity.

Our service includes the following: an art café, a restaurant offering great local and international cuisine and a host of weekly events showcasing creative experiences in arts and lifestyle.

About

ART ADDICTION GALLERY

Art Addiction Gallery was founded by Anila Adnan, an artist, art teacher and graphic designer who resides in Abuja.

Anila spent many years as an art teacher in reputable schools and now she starts her own journey as an interior decorator and gallery owner... *I'm passionate about my work, turning my hobby into my profession. And I want to turn my dream into reality. My goal is to help you make the most of your space . I'll make your space bigger, brighter, warmer and more loving and best of all, you'll feel proud to invite your friends to show off.*

ELBOWROOM is a contemporary Nigerian art movement founded in 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria by Olorunyemi Kolapo as leader with 7 other artists as members namely, Olasumade Olamide, Oluwole Olawuyi, Bolaji Onaolapo, Shina Adeodu, Opeyemi Olukotun and Imo Chigboromogu (in blessed memory). ELBOWROOM was born out of same purpose, orientation, aim and objective of setting a pace aimed at the acquisition of freedom of expression.

This unique art movement is set to make a great addition to the world of art and is set to change the narrative of how Art and Artist should be seen in Nigeria and globally.

ELBOWROOM can as well be simply illustrated as a "room" which serves as a junction point of views and orientation just as the human elbow is a junction where two bones meet to



grease each other seamlessly and even make functional impacts. The "room" is a meeting point of ideas, experience, artistic optimism so as to create a balance towards attaining FREEDOM as its illustrated in their logo where birds can be seen flying out of a box. The ELBOWROOM art movement actually has not come to deface or try to stir up the waves but to serve as a pathway for the upcoming artists who are bounded to a particular believe about art and the creativity industry.

ELBOWROOM has come to stay, set the pace, make a change, develop and nurse the creativity out of children and talented individuals as this has already been established in some outdoor activities and events, picnics and charity visitations of Motherless Homes to show love by giving back to society.

ELBOWROOM however intends to be a forefront art movement in Nigeria within a set goal time as every artist under the umbrella of ELBOWROOM is tasked with the objective of rare and unique creativity, set loose off the hook a particular law expected to guide artists and this is set to come to pass as our profile bears no other objective than FREEDOM.



OLORUNYEMI *Kolapo*

The work of Nigerian artist Olorunyemi Kolapo is mainly on connections that human beings make or do not make through language, gesture, look, expression, physical placement, cultural values and more. The Abuja based self-taught artist marry art and science (physics) to investigate and illustrate emotions through portraiture using oil and charcoal with the science knowledge he gained after graduating with BSC in Applied Physics at the university. He has participated in both local and international exhibitions and residency programmes like World art Dubai, Art Expo New York, Last Image Show Tanzania, Malta-Nigeria Exchange Exhibition Malta and many more with four successful solo exhibitions.

Artist Statement

My work is about connections that human beings make or do not make through language, a gesture, a look, an expression, physical placement, cultural values, standards, emotions, and desires. Exploring how we communicate, accept, constrain, or reject these connections to form relationships is an evident theme throughout my work. My bodies of work are categorised similarly to how I live my life: processes, portraits, and conceptual pieces, or experiences, relationships and connections to others, and my inner, more consuming ideas and reflections on how moral and spiritual gauges are created within social, historical and instinctual contexts.





First Art

Her Eyes 1
Oil and acrylic on canvas
100cm x 120cm
2020

White as a pearl, it dances around the ocean, slow hypnotic, drawing emotions. While the ocean rises and falls, twisting in turns of different blues, contrasting in perfect harmony. Surrounding an emptiness that contains secrets. Black as coal, yet stunning as a diamond. Beating, alive, fueling the gazers heart. Transfixing the gazers thoughts. Hiding lust, innocence, and love behind subtle doors. But yet I speak of no pearl, nor no ocean, nor no emptiness. It simply speaks of a man's greatest weakness.

Second Art

Her Face 3
Oil on canvas
100cm x 120cm
2020

The face of a woman is where emotions stream live. Revealing the beauty that within her resides. She rises to a challenge to make life better for just one. And works ceaselessly until the deed is done. Her expression, as she sees the fruit of her labour, is a tear and a smile which aggrandise together. But the countenance of an angel glows less brightly. Than the face of the fairest wooed uprightly.

Third Art

Her Face 2
Oil on canvas
100cm x 120cm
2020

The face of a woman is where emotions stream live. Revealing the beauty that within her resides. She rises to a challenge to make life better for just one. And works ceaselessly until the deed is done. Her expression, as she sees the fruit of her labour, is a tear and a smile which aggrandise together. But the countenance of an angel glows less brightly than the face of the fairest wooed uprightly.





ADEODU *Adeshina*

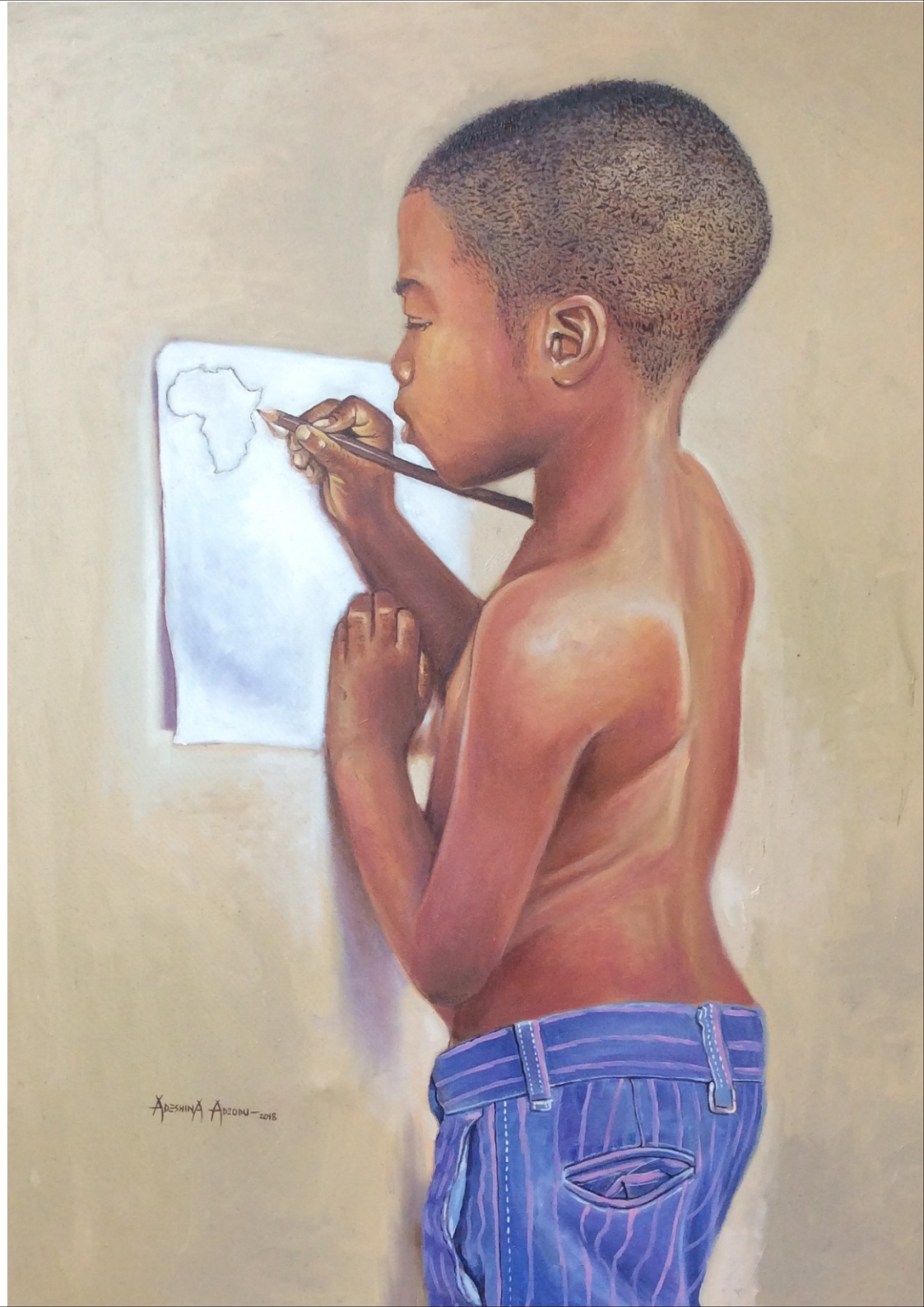
Adeodu Adeshina hails from Ojigibo in Osun State, Nigeria. He started his art career in 2009 training under the supervision of Mr Botor Atsou. He is a full-time studio artist based in Abuja and member of Society of Nigerian Artists (Abuja Chapter).

Adeodu has participated in many exhibitions and competitions in Nigeria held by local and international organisations including the Visual Art Competition by the Turkish Embassy held in Abuja, the National Visual Art Competition 2015 organised by National Gallery of Art.

He was voted one of the top 25th artist and won the best entries from Abuja at LIMCAF 2016 and 2018. His works can also be found nationally and internationally.

Artist Statement

In my art, I like to capture the beauty in things, objects and places. Different mediums allow me to express different ideas. I want people to see the good times and I want to show people how the environment can effect the younger generation.





First Art

Discovery
Oil on canvas
107cm x 92cm
2020

As a child he is expected to discover his purpose in life in order to live a well-fulfilled life free of regret at the end.



Second Art

Focus
Oil on canvas
92cm x 120cm
2018

Believing I can bring a high degree of concentration.

Third Art

Persistent
Oil on canvas
73cm x 62cm
2020

Determined to do something despite difficulties, especially when other people are against you and think that you are being annoying or unreasonable.



OLAWUYI *Oluwole*

Olawuyi Oluwole also known to most as Wole was born in 1989, he is a Nigerian artist from Kwara State. Wole began his art career at the age of 9, and is well known for primarily using the impasto technique with a painting knife to create most of his pieces.

Wole attended Baptist Primary School where he was coached by and under the supervision of Mr Oladele. In secondary school, he won the NYSC award for best secondary student in sculpture. He studied Fine and Applied Art at Kwara State College of Education, he has been a full-time professional studio artist for the past 8 years and is also a member of Society of Nigerian Artists (Abuja Chapter). He has participated in a number of art competitions and exhibitions.

Artist Statement

Human existence started through a woman, after perfection was lost.

A new world was created by the labour, pains of childbirth. Women are so precious in our society, I believe them to have the power to create and to build.

This power and their endless love for mankind that hold the universe together in its uniqueness is what intrigues me to paint and express their beautiful and generosity through my paintings, which is why most of my art pieces are centered on the female gender.





First Art

Survival Series
Growth
Impasto acrylic on canvas
111.76cm x 137.16cm
2021

You have to step out of your comfort zone in order to grow, human beings are like a seed, no idea where it's going to be planted but when planted, it has to grow. It can be in a dark space hoping to be watered enduring winds and hot summers. The seed is completely out of its comfort zone, but this does not stop it from aspiring to be a tree. Our purpose is greater than how uncomfortable we might feel. Never stop believing in yourself to be free.

Second Art

Survival 2 Series
Full of Dreams
Impasto acrylic on canvas
111.76cm x 137.16cm
2021

This young lady is full of dreams and brighter future like everyone else, Time is tough and very hard, but she never stops believing in herself. Even if you are tired, keep pushing forward - this is bigger than you feel or how undervalued you might feel. Work hard and struggle today so you can rest for a lifetime, no matter what you are going through is a temporary pain for something greater.

Third Art

Survival Series
Sisters Love
Impasto acrylic on canvas
111.76cm x 137.16cm
2021

Inspired during COVID-19 when the whole world seems like coming to an end because of the pandemic. A lot of people lost their love ones and that was the moment, we all know the importance of family and friends, this was the time people realised we all need to put our differences aside and work together to find solutions. Sisters were looking at each other and brothers were looking out on each other with unconditional love, so that we all can be free again.





ONOJA *Silas*

Silas Onoja is a Nigerian contemporary artist born in Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria. He grew up as a kid who loved drawing with so much passion for art. He studied fine art at the Benue State Polytechnic, Benue, Nigeria. He majors in painting and is very interested in realistic paintings. He likes creating realistic and lifelike paintings, which attracts emotions and draws attention.

He ventured into painting properly in 2016 and has created so many paintings since then. He has some of his paintings around the world. He has participated in collective and solo exhibitions. He uses his art as a medium of self expression and a way driving messages.

Artist Statement

“Art is life” so we said, for me art is everything . Its the best way for me to express myself . Painting is something I can't do without. I paint human figures, trying to place myself in their shoes, and to try and feel their emotions and expressions. I pass messages through my paintings because for me that's the best way for me to express myself.





First Art

Colour Baptism III
Oil on canvas
76cm x 100cm
2021

Colour Baptism III is about self-discovery realising one's potential. The colours represents talents that have been bestowed on him.

Second Art

Verge of Freedom III
Oil on canvas
76cm x 100cm
2019

Freedom cannot be over emphasised, hence the need to be free. The painting depicts a boy who has been exposed to a new life outside what he is used to, reflecting on what it is like to be outside and to try to decipher between getting out or staying in.



Third Art

The Quest
Oil on canvas
90cm x 120 cm
2021

Despite the challenge, the painting depicts one who is trying his best break out. The shattered glass is the huddle he has to go through. The painting clearly points to the fact that nothing good comes easy. To be great and successful, one has to break certain barriers standing as hindrance.



AWOSOLA *Angello*

Awosola Angello is an Abuja based artist, born in Lagos. He spent his high school education in Lagos State and his tertiary education in Ondo State.

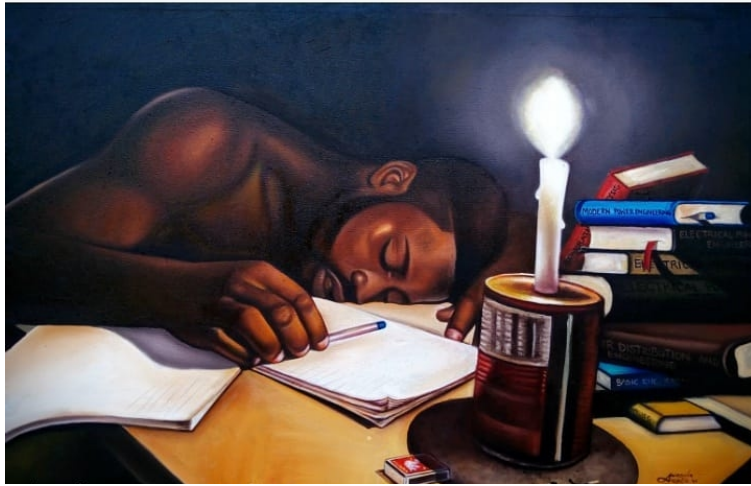
He is a painter and his preferred medium is oil on canvas. He is a realism painter, who focuses more on realistic human figures. His inspiration is from the amazing human anatomy, how and why the human figure is as it is.

Artist Statement

I have been interested in art since my childhood. I began drawing images at the age of 4 in nursery school until I got into high school and became the best art student in my school in Lagos State.

I have focused my art around realism and taking images of humans as my comparative advantage, because of the joy I feel from the human form and this has led me into my critical study of the human anatomy, Movements and faces because of the interesting features they behold and the emotions they carry each time my subject is either happy or disturbed as the case may be.





First Art

Freedom Fighter
Oil on canvas
76cm x 100cm
2020

The honour of freedom is gained either hustle or by struggle. However, freedom is not offered but it has been taken by the oppressed. The youth of the 21st century seek the honour of freedom and would not let it go off easily.



Second Art

Untying Knots
Oil on canvas
77cm x 112cm
2020

The honour of freedom is gained either hustle or by struggle. However, freedom is not offered but it has been taken by the oppressed. The youth of the 21st century seek the honour of freedom and would not let it go off easily.

Third Art

Dainty III
Oil on canvas
61cm x 76cm
2019

Self love, self control and youthful freedom is the expression of one's mind. The rose is a symbol to expression freedom and care for a better life.



CHINEDU *Bright Ezech*

Chinedu Bright Ezech is a Nigerian studio artist, he was born in 1986 in Enugu. He hails from Anambra State. He studied his National Diploma in the Federal Polytechnic Oko in general art and he holds a BA in Fine and Applied Art from the UNN. He is a member of the Society of Nigerian Artists (Abuja Chapter).

Artist Statement

The works of Nigerian artist Chinedu Bright Ezech is the exploration of realistic painting of figures with subtle landscape which captures beauty, love, strength, peace, hope, diligence extra in the life of people.

He also works on portraiture capturing the modes, emotions and gesture. He lays more emphasis on the details to capture the soul of the viewers. Chinedu has widely exhibited and has undertaken important commission work all over the world.





First Art

Truth
Oil on canvas
92cm x 122cm
2021

Children are born with freedom, they are inquisitive and eager to learn new things, but as they grow older they start to learn things that can limit themselves and doubt can start growing within.

Second Art

Nostalgia
Oil on canvas
92cm x 122cm
2021

The painting reminds us of the way we want to be free, like children and how that freedom have been stolen from them. They cannot be free due to the frequent kidnapping, molestation and abuse. These negative memories can influence them into child prostitution, smoking and other atrocities in society. We need to help our children, love them and guide them to become better adults.



Third Art

Peace Within
Oil on canvas
92cm x 122cm
2019

"Peace brings with it so many positive emotions that it is worth aiming for in all circumstances" - Estella Eliot.



ONAOLAPO

Bolaji

Bolaji Onaolapo is a talented Nigerian visual artist. He attained a BTech (Building) from the Federal University of Technology Minna in 2014. He is a self-taught studio artist from Kwara State, who resides in Abuja. His works center around humans and animals using their expressions/postures to tell untold stories. He has participated in several exhibitions locally and internationally.

Artist Statement

My works are about the struggle of living things, the process they go through to create a better life. The exploration of how they derive joy from unpleasant situations. The beauty in the struggle.

My artworks focus around humans and animals, using their expressions/postures to tell untold stories.

My works are mostly created with charcoal but not limited to just that, as I sometimes use other mediums to compliment. This is dependent on my ideas and visions and how I feel is best to document them.





First Art

The Fence
Charcoal
122cm x 91cm
2021

When you are at the other side of the fence watching others freely living their dreams, do not forget to water the little seeds of hope inside of you, thirsting for freedom.

Second Art

Destiny
Charcoal
122cm x 91cm
2021

The power that lies within us is what controls our future. If only we can venture beyond the horizon we constantly gaze at, our greatest fears would be defeated and our brightest dreams will be set free.



Third Art

Yellow Page
Charcoal
126cm x 88cm
2021

Sometimes we are too occupied with our feelings of insecurity and self-esteem that we forget to live. Perhaps what we need is to step out of our comfort zone and take off the moral blanket wrapped around us, to explore a deeper appreciation of ourselves and inherent versatility... Perhaps what we need, is to LIVE.



ILOANYA

Onyekachukwu

Onyekachukwu was born in Onitsha, Anambra State, in 1990. He obtained a BA in Art Education, Fine and Applied Arts in 2013 from Nsukka University. He obtained his Masters Degree (MFA Sculpture) in the University of Benin in 2021.

He has participated in many group exhibitions, educational workshops and competitions held by local and international organisations including Ambassador Cup Image drawing competition, organised by the Embassy of China in Nigeria (won 3rd position) and Harmony, organised by National Gallery of Arts. His works engage social, political and cultural narratives of his immediate environment is Africa at large, employing basic shapes as his fundamental elements of arts for expression with strong stylistic influences from the cubic and post expressionist art movements. His teaching experience in the primary and lower secondary educational sector has influenced him in speaking for children through his paintings. He lives and practice art in Abuja.

Artist Statement

In Onitsha, where he grew up, he scavenged dump sites to recycle scraps into play toys. This act has turned to the artistic prowess of his works that he enjoys today by converting waste to aesthetic wealth.

His humble beginnings easily point and help his audience identify with the message of hope in his works. This becomes obvious in the expression of the subject matters and in the vibrant choice of colours expressed in his paintings. In conveying his message of hope, he equally embellishes his sculptures composed of discarded metal scraps with relishing tones of colours. In his artistic renditions, this artist often employs indirect method of metal scraps assemblage rather than the conventional direct method common among other sculptors. He believes that achieving healthier environment is the duty of all with the artists playing pivotal roles.





First Art

The Oba of Benin
Metal
91.44cm (h) x 40.64cm (l) x 27.94cm (w)
2021

This piece is influenced by the current Oba (Monarch) of Benin, the Omon Oba N'edo Uku Akpolokpolor Oba Ewuare II, who is the 42nd Oba of Benin, crowned in December 2016. It depicts the royal culture of the Benin kingdom, both in rendition and embellishments. The work is in red colour to illustrate the land of Benin Kingdom. It is also an expression of the strength of the kingdom in keeping their cultural heritage. In Benin, the Obas are heavily adorned in beaded coral regalia from head to toe. These are symbols of royalty, authority, wealth and prestige.

Second Art

Oti-igba
Metal
63.5cm (h) x 27.94cm (l) x 25.4cm (w)
2018

The sculpture portrays a drummer displaying energy, enthusiasm and skills. The idea of this piece is to support and promote African culture, it is inspired by the Igbo culture of music making, where young men take up the role of playing various cultural drums. Drumming in the Igbo traditional culture is a noble and major role in music making.

Third Art

Igue Festival
Metal
147.32cm (h) x 43.18cm (l) x 33.02cm (w)
2018

Igue festival originally celebrates the Oba Ewuare's magical powers in the Benin Kingdom. One tradition states that the festival date coincided with the marriage of Ewuare and Ewere. Celebrated between Christmas and New Year, the festival includes the Oba's blessing of the land and his people. During the Igue ritual season, the Oba is prohibited from being in the presence of any non-native. During the festival, the Benin chiefs display their skills in dancing with the Ada n' Eben.

Copyright © 2021
A Catalogue of Exhibition
Agama Art Publishing & Agency
All rights reserved. No part of this book may
be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,
or transmitted in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise, without the written
permission of the copyright owner
and publishers.

CURATOR
Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

GRAPHICS
Olorunyemi Kolapo
Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

PUBLISHER
Agama Art Publishing & Agency

PRINTER
Most Higher than Media,
Abuja, Nigeria

Contact

If you would like to:

- set up an exhibition or art event,
- hire 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

CONTACT

Art Representative, Curator, Publisher,
Artist and Founder of Agama
Art Publishing & Agency
susargarrido@googlemail.com
+234 701 226 2189

<https://agamapub.com/>
<https://agamapublishing.wordpress.com/>
<https://susarg.wordpress.com/>
<http://strengththroughserenity.weebly.com/>
<http://www.woodsyywoods.co.uk/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @agamaartpub
Twitter: @throughserenity
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/susargarrido>
LinkedIn: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/susa-r-garrido-63879718>