







Argentina Celebrates African Culture and Afro-Descendants Exhibition



AND ARGENTINA CELEBRATES AFRICAN CULTURE AFRO-DESCENDANTS EXHIBITION


RESIDENCE OF THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR
27th NOVEMBER 2021
ART ADDICTION GALLERY
20th NOVEMBER 2021

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 Embassy of the Argentine Republic
Federal Republic of Nigeria

 Argentina











AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

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A Catalogue of Exhibition

Agama Art Publishing & Agency

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AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

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 making a difference and work with these artists in order to achieve this.

We work in collaboration with different women's organisations, embassies and other artists associations. 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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Argentina Celebrates African Culture and Afro-descendants Exhibition



The exhibition highlights the figure of María Remedios del Valle, an Afro-descendant woman of Yoruba origin, who joined the army to fight for the freedom and independence of Argentina. Years later, she was recognised as "the Mother of the Nation" for her bravery and patriotism.

Every 8th November, we celebrate in her honour "the National Day of Afro-Argentines and Afro Culture", established in 2013 by Law N° 26852.

The exhibition seeks to spread and recognise the ethnic-cultural contributions of Afro-Argentines to our national identity. The paintings celebrate in particular Afro-descendant women, who with their struggles, paved the way for the construction and development of our societies.

Through the development of the National Plan for the Afro community (2021-2024), the Argentine state promotes actions and public policies for the development and integration of the Afro-descendant population, recognising their contributions and advancing in the fulfilment, promotion and protection of human rights.

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic, Abuja, Nigeria



Embassy of the
Argentine Republic
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Argentina



Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

For the second time, Agama Art Publishing & Agency is honoured to organise this amazing event in partnership with the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Nigeria.

The exhibition will take place on 20th November and 27th November 2021, in two venues, the first one at Art Addiction Gallery, owned by Anila Adnan, and the second one at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador.

It will showcase the work of talented Agama artists: Blessing Miracle Orne (MimiNation), Ejiofor Ogochuckwu, Esther Adebayo, Favour Jackson Anamaleze, Oluchi Zorn and Onyebe Ella. There will also be the following speakers Jummai Lawan Musa from Plan International and Inimfon Etuk from She Forum Africa.

The exhibition commemorates and celebrates the figure of María Remedios del Valle and the African culture and Afrodescendants in Argentina. This is a day to commemorate and recognise the contributions of Afro-Argentines and to celebrate the achievement of women too.

The pieces that feature in this exhibition reflect this theme and represent the struggle, bravery and passion of María Remedios del Valle.

Enjoy the view!

Susa

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

About Plan International Nigeria



Jummai Lawan Musa is the Director of Programme Quality and Innovation for Plan International Nigeria, an independent development and humanitarian non-profit organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for – and respond to – crises and adversity. Plan International believes in the power and potential of every child, but know this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination.

Working together with children, young people, supporters and partners, Plan International strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges girls and vulnerable children face. Building powerful partnerships for children for over 80 years and are now active in more than 70 countries, driving changes in practice and policy at local, national and global levels.

Jummai Lawan Musa
Director of Programme Quality and Innovation
Plan International Nigeria

About She Forum Africa



Inimfon Etuk is a recipient of the Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2019 Global Award for “Iconic Woman Creating a Better World”. A 2015 alumna of the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) of the United States Government, gifted communicator and facilitator, Ms Etuk’s trademark skill is in helping others nurture good ideas into real opportunities.

In the development sector, she has over a 24-year period managed organisational projects of select non-profit groups initiated in partnership with such international organisations as the UNDP, British Council, DFID, USAID and UN Women to implement target development goals. Passionate and constantly on the hunt for credible and challenging platforms.

She also, 8 years ago, founded and hosts SHE FORUM AFRICA, a Pan-Africa Women Development, Leadership & Lifestyle Community aimed at amplifying personal development opportunities for African women and girls through strategic mentoring and life-long learning.

Inimfon is a recipient of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Rare Gem Award for “Exemplary Leadership and Dedication to Mentoring of Girls and Women”.

Inimfon Etuk
Founder of She Forum Africa

About AGAMA Art Publishing & Agency



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

Agama Art Publishing & 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 & Agency Ltd. is an independent publishing 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.

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

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

About Art Addiction



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

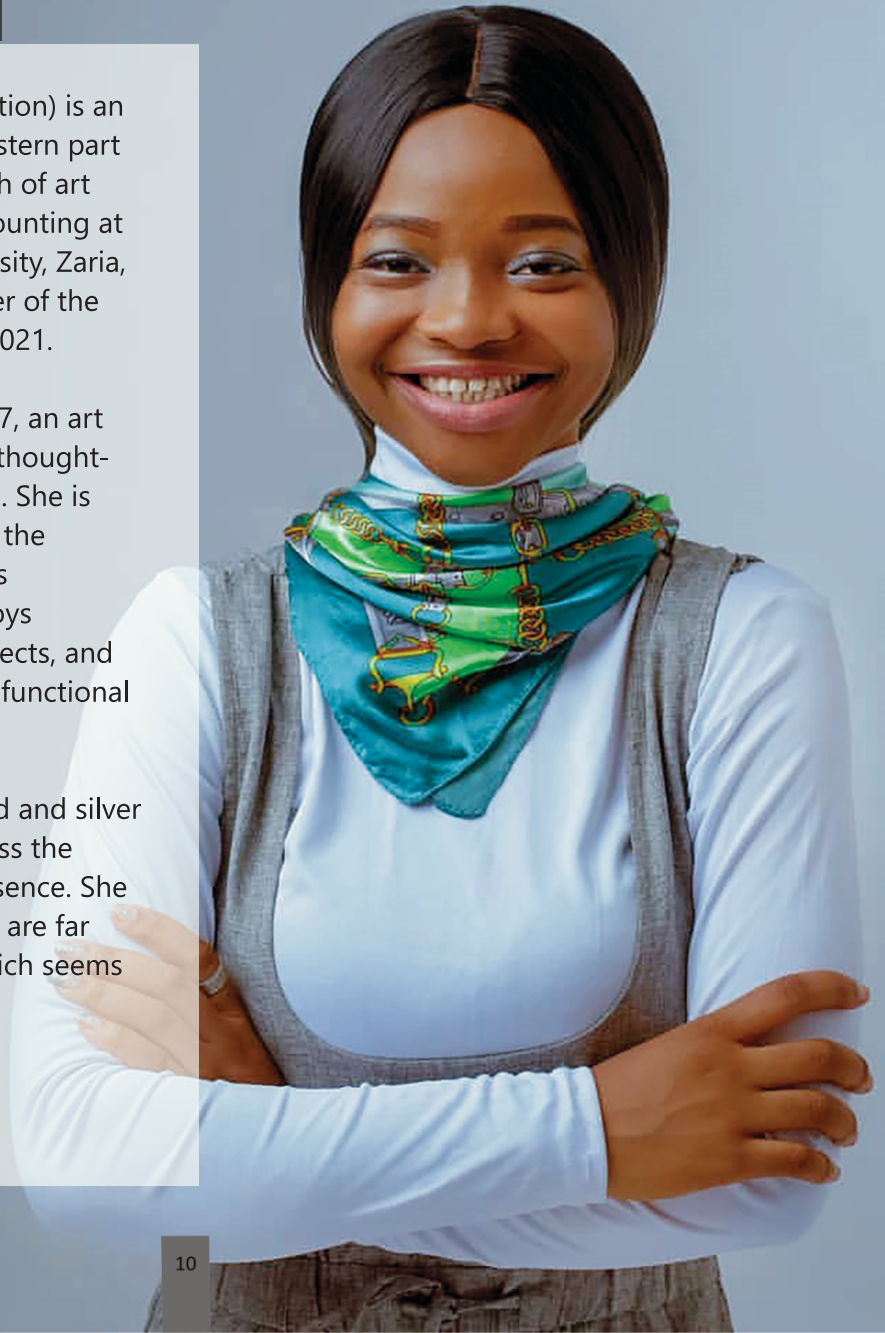
Anila spent many years as an art teacher in reputable schools and now she starts her own journey as an interior decorator and gallery owner... *I'm passionate about my work, turning my hobby into my profession. And I want to turn my dream into reality. My goal is to help you make the most of your space . 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.*

Blessing Ome (MimiNation)

Blessing Miracle Ome (MimiNation) is an adventurous lady from the Eastern part of Nigeria, who chose the path of art after bagging her first degree in accounting at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria (2016) and became a member of the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) in 2021.

Blessing founded MimiNation in 2017, an art brand where therapeutic and subtle thought-provoking arts and crafts are created. She is mostly interested in, and focused on the surrealistic or juxtaposed form of arts (*Juxtapoism* as she calls it) as she enjoys combining two or more different objects, and the process of creating art/craft into functional beauty/aesthetics.

She paints her models/figures in gold and silver in a way to communicate and express the wealthiness of the human core or essence. She believes we as living beings on earth are far more than the colour of our skin, which seems to be like a box or restrictions of the human fullness.





LA LIBERTAD (FREEDOM), Acrylic on canvas, 60.96cm x 91.44cm, 2021

This addresses the walk of freedom that a leader chooses to take for his/her people, and in this case, María Remedios del Valle, who despite the trials and many hidden/open restrictions, fought for her nation to be released from slavery.

It is one thing to be a leader, it is another thing to be the mother of nations, and watch them willingly follow your leadership and each person matching onward for a good cause and no one breaking the rank.



EL CORAZÓN (THE HEART), Acrylic on canvas, 50.08cm x 60.96cm, 2021

The most dangerous place for one to truly be a slave is in the mind, when one's mind is a slave to a degrading cause, the person's functions in the society are limited.

Hence, this piece addresses the state of the minds of people who are truly free. It is a call for people to guard their hearts against all forms of slavery, because out of the heart flows the issues of life.

It represents the joy and celebration that the triumphs of being free gives a nation.



RETRATO (PORTRAIT), Acrylic on canvas, 40.64cm x 50.08cm, 2021

It is a representation of power, goodwill and good leadership, fighting for a great cause and trusting that one day a system can be changed for good.

It is also a representation of María Remedios del Valle.

Ejiofor Ogochukwu

Ejiofor Ogochukwu is a visual artist who hails from Anambra, got her BA and MFA at University of Nigeria Nsukka and University of Benin, respectively. Her art keeps revolving from painting in canvas to wall installations.

Ejiofor likes to explore with waste materials especially ones found around her. Waste to wealth is one of her art slogans; this keeps her environment clean and every waste, useful. She is a member of the Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN), a member of SisterArt Visual Global Community, a member of Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA).

Due to her willing nature to help the needy, Ejiofor is a proud member of HERS (NGO dealing with the girl child on the street). She runs a studio space Art Bullet.ng that holds art workshops for secondary school children and secondary school art teachers. Ejiofor is motivated strongly to helping her environment so she is an Alumni of Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 2019 and an Art Ambassador for Goge Africa.



MOTHER OF ALL, Mixed media, 40.64cm x 50.08cm, 2021

This artwork celebrates love and it is dedicated to María Remedios del Valle. Her bravery has given many hope and love, she has been able to considerably lend a hand physically or emotionally to those who needed it and reaffirming the words "love your neighbour as yourself". María was a selfless leader and brave one at that, hence why she is an important figure in Argentinian history. This art piece is an abstract line drawing, painted with acrylic on a textured canvas. It indicates a hand helping/holding another hand. One of the hands is textured with words describing who and what María Remedios del Valle stands for. While the background will be the colour of the Argentinian flag.



DANCE AND MERRY, Mixed media, 50.08cm x 60.96cm, 2021

This art piece comes in form of African festivity. It is a carnival held in Argentina, to celebrate the Afro- descendants in Argentina and its cultural values. Dancing and music has been recorded as one of the major African influence in Argentina culture and perhaps the most lasting one. This piece celebrates all forms of music and dance.

The artwork represents a drummer in his colourful festive attire. He is lined with African textural motif on the body as well as on the drum. The background is mixed with the air of merriment and joy with the blue fading into the white.



BRAVE ONE, Mixed media, 60.96cm x 91.44cm, 2021

This art piece is a celebration of bravery. Bravery comes easily to most men, due to their natural stance, to protect, care and provide. When bravery is found in a woman, leading the war front, a lot of respect and honour is accorded to her. This artwork celebrates María Remedios del Valle as a woman in a powerful uniform. This uniform indicates loyalty, determination, love, care, courage, strength and most of all continuity.

This art piece is an abstract portraiture of a female wearing the Argentine war uniform. It has its background and some parts of the portrait covered in African motifs, showing cultural heritage and values. The background is divided into 3 horizontal lines, indicating the colours of the Argentinian flag (blue and white). The translucent colours on the face indicates the continuity of bravery passed down to other women, fighting for a good cause.

Esther Adebayo

Esther, from Ekiti State in Nigeria, is a student of Fine and Applied Arts at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State.

She is a student of Dr. Gbolade Omidiran, who has helped her in developing her natural art talents.

She has enjoyed using the experimental approach, which has helped her to become more creative.

Esther specialises in painting on mixed media, mostly in 3D. She highlights Nigerian culture and heritage in her works.





MARÍA, Acrylic on canvas, 121.92cm x 91.44cm, 2021

This piece titled María is an Afro-Argentine camp follower turned soldier. Her left hand, with fingers folded into a fist pointing up, and right hand with battle sword depict her participation in the Independence War and her sacrifice for the battle. Her kneeling position symbolises her loyalty, submissiveness, deference to her country and her stand against racism.

An icon to always be celebrated that was wounded in battle, captured, imprisoned and escaped. She lost her entire family during the war. The African motifs in background all commend and celebrate black history so far, gracious María.



TONIC, Acrylic on canvas, 31.25cm x 23.375cm, 2021

Culture (Afro culture) cannot be underestimated, most especially music. It is not only a heritage; music is a tonic that heals the soul. The musical instruments seen in this piece present music (forms of musical sound) while the reflections of gestures on them symbolise María's soul feeling



Negro & NEGRO, Acrylic on canvas, 40.65cm x 121.92cm, 2021

We are called Negroes because we are from black ancestries or ...? We really do not mind, we love our skin colour, we celebrate it and we enjoy it. As seen in this piece with black figure in celebration mode in a blissful and serene atmosphere. We are Negroes no apologies. The colours and motives all celebrate the African culture and heritage.

A close-up portrait of Favour Jackson Anamaleze, a woman with dark hair and pink lipstick, looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Favour Jackson Anamaleze

Favour is one of Niger Delta's finest sculptors from Nembe in Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

She was born in Carrara, Italy in the mid-70s. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree as a Sculptor Major at the University of Port Harcourt.

She also has a Certificate in Theatre Arts (Acting Major) from the University of Port Harcourt in Rivers State.

Favour is the daughter of the great Italian trained sculptor, Professor Jackson Ayerite Waribugo, whose monumental sculptures including the famous Mangrove Giant and Oil King, adorn Port Harcourt and several other cities in Nigeria and diaspora.



HEROINE, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 60cm x 90cm, 2021

This painting was created in a surrealistic manner on a 2-dimensional surface of 60cm x 90cm canvas with the brave María lifting the flag in a manner suggestive of encouragement to urging her battalion on to win the War of Independence. She is dressed in the army uniform with her right leg raised in defiance of the raging war. The yellow sphere represents the Sun of May, which is a national emblem of Argentina. It is a reference to the May revolution in Argentina, which led to that country's later independence from Spain. The green background represents hope and prosperity. The painting was done in the manner of Eugene Delacroix's 1830 masterpiece titled *Liberty Leading the People*.



MARÍA, Bust sculpture in fiberglass on board, 62cm, 2021

María was a captain in the Argentine army during the War for Independence.

The 3-dimensional bust sculpture depicts her in uniform in a non-realistic approach because this was based on the available online reference. The process involved was a direct clay modelling on a metal armature with reinforced fiberglass as the final output.



THE PATRIOT, Oil on canvas, 60.96cm x 91.44cm, 2019

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion and sense of attachment to a homeland and alliance with other citizens, who share the same sentiment. Patriotism is by nature defensive, both militarily and culturally.

María Remedios del Valle was one individual whose patriotism to her homeland was never in doubt. The painting depicts a black female soldier as the captain of a battalion of soldiers charging to the war front. It is inspired by the story of María, who was drafted into the Argentinian army as a nurse. She defied all odds out of pure love for her country even at the expense of her husband and children, who were killed during the war.

Oluchi Zom

Oluchi Zom is a visual artist whose works/art seek fundamentally to explore the intricacies and complexities of emotional affinity (the notion of emotional complexity) with the use of stylised figurative expressions.

Her practise is currently involved with exploration of style, substrate and material execution.

She holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Multimedia Technology and Design from Brunel University in London, UK.

She has participated in various group exhibitions, and her works are held in several private and corporate collections, including three pieces in the collection of the Embassy of Ireland in Nigeria.





YEMOJA, Acrylic on canvas, 40.64cm x 50.08cm, 2021

This piece is used to depict African religion still prevalent in Argentina. The young female carries a totem, which is symbolic of a presentation of a cherished item - in this case of a deity. This indicates that the Africans who were brought over during the transatlantic slave trade brought their culture and traditions along with them.

I intend to draw attention specifically to the Yemoja deity, whose statue stands in the Chascomus Museum in Argentina. According to the Yoruba mythology originating from the Yoruba people of Nigeria in West Africa, Yemoja is the goddess of the waters, she controls the water, and the earth cannot thrive without her.



DANCE FUSION, Acrylic on canvas, 50.08cm x 60.09cm, 2021

This piece represents the culture of communal dance of the Afro-Argentines. A loose representation of the *Candombe* dance of the Afro Argentines - with influences from the African population along the el Río de la Plata, which divides Uruguay and Argentina - featuring percussion instruments such as the traditional drum and tambourine (native to West Africa).

Dances were conducted in groups of black people known as organisations, which started out as *Cofradías*. These dances at the time (18th/19th century) formed the basis of all social and cultural activities among the Africans.



IT TAKES TWO, Acrylic and fabric on canvas, 60.96cm x 91.44cm, 2021

This piece is titled *It Takes Two*. It aims to highlight the importance of dance to the culture and fabric of the Afro-Argentines, but also specifically the influence of black African music and culture on the genesis of Tango.

According to historians, the origins of tango are black African, via African culture imported during the transatlantic slave trade from Africa and Cuba, subsequently fused with Spanish and other influences. Some West African symbols have also been used to further signify the journey, hope, freedom, reconciliation and greatness, to mention a few.

A close-up portrait of Onybe Ella, a woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a light pink blazer with red and silver brooches. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

Onybe Ella

Onybe Ella is a highly talented artist based in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja. She is an epitome of strength, resilience and determination. She developed a hearing problem in her early life. The inability to communicate efficiently and effectively made her frustrated and unhappy. She soon found peace and a means of escape in art; colours had and still have a calming effect on her. She has not only overcome the adversity but delights in giving joy to her audience through her art.

Having made a success in her chosen profession, she set up Onyx Art and Interior Designs to serve as a platform for sharing her unique gift with the world. She has a passion for teaching children and young people.

Onybe is an amazing artist whose works convey vibrancy, dexterity, depth and warmth. She moves seamlessly between various genres and media of art, from paintings to wall murals to ceramics to paintings. She combines a number of diverse and unlikely materials to produce her exquisite pieces. She has participated in several exhibitions (solo and group) within and outside Nigeria, from Africa to Europe and Asia.



CELEBRATING THE GREAT MOTHER OF NATION, Acrylic on canvas, 121.94cm x 91.44cm, 2021

María Remedios del Valle picture is held up high on a street of Argentine in remembrance of her great fight of victory for the people of Argentine. The picture depicts the symbol of the laurel branch, which represents victory and glory.

The people of Argentine are seen dancing while the African people came to celebrate with everyone. And the African lady in front is dancing to our mother who made Africa proud and also teaching African women to believe in themselves.

Contact

If you would like to:

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

Please contact me:

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