

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY EXHIBITION

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Youth and Creativity

British High Commissioner's Residence, Abuja

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MISSION

To identify talented Nigerian Female Artists to bring positive social change in society.

VISION

To foster a sense of pride and achievements among female creative professionals.

To promote the dignity of women.

To encourage membership to continue creating art.



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A Catalogue of Exhibition
Female Artists Association of Nigeria

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FOREWORD

I am delighted to be able to exhibit works by artists associated with FEAAAN at this year's Queen's Birthday Party. I've been impressed by their work since attending one of their exhibitions soon after arriving in Nigeria, and I am lucky enough to own a piece by a FEAAAN artist – proudly on display in my office.

Art is a means of expressing oneself, of sharing ideas and connecting to people. You can see from the works here this evening how powerful the medium can be. That's why it's important for us to treasure our art and our artists. They are essential to the cultural wellbeing of any country, to the growth of new ideas and the progress of society.

Women make up half of society. Yet in Nigeria, they remain excluded in many ways. So I'm happy this evening to be promoting the artwork of some of Nigeria's incredibly talented female artists. This is one small way to boost the voice of Nigeria's women – and to enjoy some beautiful art in the process!

Enjoy.

Catriona Laing

British High Commissioner,
Abuja, Nigeria





FOREWORD

It is an honour for me, as the Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN) Representative, and the artists from the FEAAN association to have been invited to participate in this wonderful event that is the Queen's Birthday Party (QBP).

This year the QBP has selected Youth and Creativity as a theme. It is at the heart of the event to empower young people through the social and economic opportunities that cultural, technological and creative industries can offer.

In line with this, FEAAN would like to showcase some of their young artists' artwork, such as Oluchi Zom, but also the association is keen to illustrate their creativity through all ages and stages from the established and senior artists, Chinze Ojobo and Ngozi Akande, the semi senior artist, Abigail Nnaji, to the junior artist, Oluchi Zom.

The exhibition includes six pieces by each of the artists named above, making a total of 24. All of the artists have worked tirelessly to create new and exciting artwork for this occasion and all the pieces at the exhibition are inspired by this theme.

Happy viewing!

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ABOUT

Female Artists Association of Nigeria

The Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN) started in November 2001 during an all-Female Art Exhibition in Abuja.

The Association was born out of the need of female artists who in the past found it difficult to gain exposure in comparison to their male counterparts. Most of them after marriage or graduation abandoned the profession for other things.

They came together as a body to cast a spotlight on the challenges they face in society through art exhibitions, seminars, workshops and training younger artists. They have also used art to advocate against inequality, rape, genital mutilation, violence, child abuse, sex slavery in conflict areas and adoption.

FEAAN's mission is to identify talented Nigerian Female Artists and their skills to bring about positive social change in society.

Their vision is to foster a sense of pride and achievement among female creative professionals to promote the dignity of women and to encourage members to continue practising art.



ABOUT

Youth and Creativity

The concept of youth and creativity has been strongly structured around age and time-frames of a person's life. The numbers and age brackets differ loosely from society to society, and in relationship to different spheres of operation. I personally believe that youth and creativity transcend these simple frameworks of numbers and timeframes.

In the world today, youth is perceived differently across different societies, some seeing it as a period for exuberance of life, some as transition from childhood to adulthood, and others, as the height of creative spur and energy. Therefore, leading to the impression that youth is the peak of an individual's life and energy and creativity are tied to the numbers on the age chart, after which it is downward from there on. Hence the societal obsession with youth and existing war against ageing, which is interpreted by many as a drawback to optimum existence after a certain age bracket, and hence the search for eternal youth. Even though realistically impossible in the long term, impressive strides have been made in this war to contain the physical and other appearances of youth.

While this might be the summative concept of youth, these ideals, in my opinion have one single flaw: the idea that youth is bound within the parameters of time.

To me, youth is somewhat of an abstract concept, more internal than external, and addresses characteristics of the mind, as opposed to a specific age bracket. I believe a person is only as young or old as they feel and this suggests a state of mind over matter. Youth is also strongly associated with creativity, and this appears to be so because both are characterized by similar elements: energy, experimentation and exploration, risk taking, exuberance, carefree attitude, non-conformity, and wild uninhibited expression and/or imagination. Youth signifies creativity, and creativity fosters youthfulness. It is evident through interactions with children that the human being comes embedded with a creativity module. Over time, however, as we navigate through life and try to conform to societal standards, rules and regulations, creativity becomes unlearned and stifled unless conscious and specific efforts are made to unlearn non-creative behaviours.

Creativity has been named as the most important economic resource of the 21st century, and identified as a relevant part of preserving youth therefore its importance cannot be undermined. Youth is consequently linked to ageing (being the lack of it) and creativity is the bridge. Since ageing is largely inevitable, the ultimate solution to eternal youth is an ample dose of creativity.

I believe youth is the key to life, however not in the simplistic form in which it is expressed by societal structures, but as a construct of the mind.

Oluchi Zom

FEAAN Artist and Member



CHINZE OJOBO

(SENIOR ARTIST)

Chinze is an award-winning Nigerian artist, who studied Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and a former student of renowned Ghanaian artist, El Anatsui. She also studied Interior Designing in the USA and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Relations and Advertising.

Chinze is a mixed media painter, specialising in acrylic on canvas with jute and fabrics. Her paintings are detailed, highly textured and rich in symbolism. Her colours are vibrant and full of energy.

She has participated in over 54 art exhibitions both in Nigeria and internationally. Her exhibition at the European School of Economics, London Glass Ceiling Shattered highlighted the plight of the “girl child” in Africa.

Chinze is the 2018 winner of the African Achievers Award for Creative Art at the House of Commons, London.

Chinze is also a facilitator for British Council to mentor young artists in their programme called Creative Hustle.

She is the President of Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN).





LIMITLESS IMAGINATION

220cm x 106cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Limitations live only in our minds, but if we use our imagination our possibilities becomes limitless. Our imagination can be enhanced by our experiences and our relationships with each other.



SWEET DREAMS OF YOUTH

115cm x 103cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Hope lies in dreams, in imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality. It is easier for us to dare when we are young, but the important thing is to keep on dreaming when we get older.



ATTITUDE

100cm x 92cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Your attitude is everything; it is like a box of crayons that can colour your world. Don't be scared to show who you really are, show your potential and your creativity, because as long as you are happy with yourself, nothing else matters.



INSPIRE HOPE

102cm x 80cm

Mixed media

2019

A good team can inspire hope, ignite imagination and spark creativity. The youth need to work together to encourage and improve themselves. Let yourself go and others won't let you go!



FEAR NOT BE CREATIVE

115cm x 103cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Never trust your fear, because it doesn't know your strength. Creativity won't flow if you are too worried or you let your fear dominate you. Go for it and the power of creativity will come to you!



KEEP DANCING
220cm x 106cm
Acrylic on canvas
Year: 2019

Life might seem to you like a disco when the music stops, keep dancing as if nothing happens.
The world is yours for you to achieve what you are looking for.

NGOZI AKANDE

(SENIOR ARTIST)

Ngozi is a prolific artist who uses her art as advocacy for women's rights and empowerment. She is a mentor to younger artists, women and children through art workshops, career talks in schools and art competitions for boys and girls.

She presented art workshops for children in July 2015 at the World Children Festival at the Eclipse in Washington, USA.

As the President of the Female Artists Association of Nigeria for 7 years, she impacted in the life of the women through programmes she initiated. Her participatory art programme to create awareness on gender violence has also been well received by the public.

In 2016, she was a Nigerian representative at the UNESCO Andorra Art Camp for Peace and came top in Africa.

She has received several awards such as FRCN Rare Gem as a mentor 2016, Lagos State Ambassador 2017, for Sustainability and Promotion of Arts in Nigeria just to mention but a few.

One of her paintings Life First Food (pastel on paper) was used by WHO as a campaign photo for exclusive breast feeding in Nigerian Hospitals for a period of 10 years (1992-2002). She is a researcher on traditional and contemporary Nigerian art with a PhD in progress.

She has participated in several exhibitions in Nigeria and internationally.





THERE IS SENSE IN CREATIVITY

91cm X 122cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

The painting is depicted using discarded textile and jute materials to represent different creative skills and innovations the youth can engage in and be successful in life. Creative people can come up with new and imaginative ways to solve problems and meet challenges. They bring a fresh, unconventional and occasionally chaotic perspective to their work, but there is always sense in what they create.



LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

76cm X 122cm

Mixed media

2019

The lady in the painting has chosen modeling as a career, she is very positive and looking into the brighter future as a successful model. The materials used are fabrics, rope and acrylic paint to create design patterns in the background.



FLOWS FROM THE HEART

77cm x 123cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Flows from the Heart is depicted in multiple colours which are in harmony with each other. This gives an opportunity as a creative person to bring out the hidden talent embedded in you and allow it to flow into positive projects and ideas.



RINGS OF HOPE

103cm x 177cm

Mixed media

2019

This painting is depicted with discarded materials, using bright colours to form the design. In your everyday struggle, you will experience different challenges, but at the end of the day, you will succeed in your chosen career.



IT'S ALL IN THE MIND

63cm x 73cm

Mixed media

2019

The materials used are carton and jute materials to create impasto effect. The dark colours in the foreground shows the beginning of a dream, which might look bleak but moving forward, the brighter colours and the height shows there is no limit to your dreams. You can achieve any height you want in life.



DESPITE ALL ODDS

63cm x 73cm

Mixed media

2019

The materials used are discarded fabrics and jute to create an impasto. Different colours merging into one another creates an unsteady situation despite the fact that they are in harmony with one another. In whatever situation you find yourself, remain focused and do not give up.

ABIGAIL NNAJI

(MID-SENIOR ARTIST)

Abigail is a graduate of University of Nigeria-Nsukka with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts, majoring in Painting.

Her style is based on her experiments with paper, where she fuses it into her paintings through the use of paper cutting technique. Her pieces depict ordinary life as she tries to capture nature and beauty, while highlighting human struggles.

In 2018, she was selected as the Invited International Artist for the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival in Pensacola, Florida, USA, based on her paper cutting technique.

Abigail has participated in several group exhibitions and some of her works are in private collections, one of them adorns the Mayor's office in the city of Pensacola, Florida.

She is a member of the Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN), Association of Professional Creative Artists and Designers in Nigeria (APCAD) and FERRUM-The Art House Switzerland.





STANDING OUT (Fashion Series)
Acrylic, paper and fabric on canvas
91.44cm x 91.44cm
2019

The ability to think outside the box and be different makes one stand out. This painting depicts a fashion designer who among other designers decides to go the extra mile to create something different from others using the same materials.



DAY DREAM (Ankara Series)
Acrylic, paper and fabric on canvas
91.44cm x 91.44cm
2019

The artist tries to recreate the "Ankara" head wrap which the girl wears using Paper Cutting Technique as her medium. This is the first in the Ankara Series. The painting depicts a girl lost in thoughts as she tries to figure out how to be successful in the future and she knows being creative in life is the best way to apply her abilities. She loves fashion and will strive against all odds to achieve this.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (Afro Series)
Acrylic, paper and fabric on canvas
91.44cm x 91.44cm
2019

The Editor-in-Chief has lots to do through writing, reading and researching and this she achieves through creativity. She has to do this with utmost care because whatever she puts out there is what everyone would enjoy reading. But by applying creativity to her skills will make her job more interesting.



DIARY OF AN ARTIST (Afro Series)
Acrylic, paper and fabric on canvas
91.44cm x 91.44cm
2019

An artist is a creative individual who tries to capture moments, memories and thoughts through their art. This painting depicts a painter who creates colours. This process is captured in various medium and colours. Since this is continuous it becomes a journey. This journey becomes their diary because it is not only a story but a visual interpretation of events of both present, past and future.



THE STORYTELLER (Ankara Series)

Acrylic and paper on canvas

91.44cm x 91.44cm

2019

The photographer depicted in this painting captures images not only for the moment, but rather as a collection of images which tells a story. These stories are based on the creativity, which he applies while creating each photo. The pictures he captures leave different lasting impression on their subjects.



MELODIES OF THE HEART (Ankara Series)

Acrylic and paper on canvas

91.44cm x 91.44cm

2019

The melody that emanates from the guitar creates a lasting impression on the listeners. However, making beautiful melodies in a creative way helps to distinguish one's music from others.

OLUCHI ZOM

(JUNIOR ARTIST)

Oluchi was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and has lived between the UK and Nigeria for much of her life. She earned her Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Multimedia Design and Technology from Brunel University, London, UK. Shortly after, she became a Tutor in Analogue Photography.

Her work is a reflection of human emotion and activity, centring on issues surrounding personal identity largely within the context of the female gaze. Her depictions of women represent female strength, persona and presence.

She works with acrylics, oils, mixed media, and repurposed objects. She creates colourful and uniquely textured pieces which are often achieved through arduous methods. Her process and techniques constantly evolve as she invariably explores new materials, this subsequently sets her on a journey of discovery and realisation.

She has participated in several national and international exhibitions where her works are held in various private collections. She is a member of the Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN).





INFINITE MOMENT

66cm x 76cm

Acrylic on canvas

2019

This painting depicts youth in the context of a journey with pit-stops and different stages, each having their own peculiar characteristics and pockets of activities. Viewing each period as a continuum in life encourages an emphasis on the accompanying experiences and the concept of individual relativity rather than a rigid time structure. The dominant colours which are red and yellow depict energy and creativity, which in turn depicts youth.



TURNING STONES

61cm x 71cm

Acrylic on canvas

2019

This piece intends to express youthful inquisitiveness, exuberance and a fascination for the unknown, not just as a topic of curiosity, but also with the marvel and wonder of discovery; discovery of self and identity. The dominant yellow is the colour of creativity, and the red depicts energy.



ODE TO MELODY

61cm x 81cm

Mixed media on canvas

2019

Youth is a time when most people figure out who they are and what they like; when the practice of self-affirmation, independence and individualism often creates conflicts of interest, and a difficult choice between compliance and rebellion. The fluidity of the patterns and interlacing of the colours in this piece indicate a very personal rhythmic dance to this melody in the consciousness of an individual, and a testament to the uniqueness of each human being.



ENERGISED
66cm x 66cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

Drawing from the synonymous relationship between energy and creativity, this piece is inspired by the underlying energy of youth that metaphorically courses through the skin, bearing likeness to fictional heroes who often draw their energy from the sun, and subsequently become energised to be more.



SUMMER

58cm x 74cm

Mixed media on canvas

2019

From a physical standpoint, just like the earth, the human life cycle has its seasons, and youth can be likened to summer; intense, hot and fiery. Societally, just like summer, youth is the most celebrated, favourable and desirable of all. However, after summer comes fall, and soon enough, winter and so whatever season you find yourself, embrace its unique characteristics and be the best version of you regardless.



JOURNEY

70cm x 92cm
Acrylic on canvas
2019

A lighthearted approach to things enables the mind to imagine and attain greater heights. The expression of youthful capacity to soar or travel mentally and physically, allows for a simple approach to complex interactions, spontaneity and freedom from constraints.



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