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EYE OF THE PALETTE EXHIBITION

Omonu Salisu

4TH - 12TH JUNE 2022

Photocarrefour Gallery, Duplex 16,
Mabushi Ultra Modern Complex,
Jahi, Abuja, Nigeria



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY

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A Catalogue of Exhibition

Agama Art Publishing & Agency

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CURATOR

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

GRAPHICS

Omonu Salisu

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 about the current established artists that we work with and the new ones that we have trained and encouraged. We want 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 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.

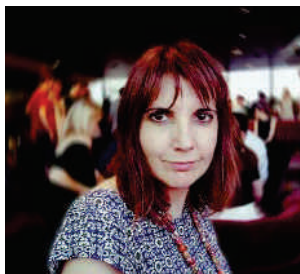
We work in collaboration with different women's organisations, embassies and other artists associations. We also work to find new talent, encourage established talent, record young and long established artists.



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Omonu Salisu is a quiet and unassuming character in contrast with his amazing, bright and colourful paintings.

The *Eye of the Palette* exhibition features 13 pieces of artwork at the Photocarrefour Gallery established by the eclectic photographer and curator Tersoo Gundu. It opens on 4th June and finishes on 12th June 2022.

The theme examines the concept of seeing and feeling or not seeing and not feeling. How the eye can be the portal of our emotions and interpretations of this reality. How the viewers can construe their world based on what they simply know and of what they do not know will not hurt.

I would also say that the heart feels things that the eyes cannot see and the heart knows what the mind cannot understand. If the viewers only leave it to their eyes to understand their reality they will only feel a fraction of it and will remain ignorant of other possibilities or realms.

Omonu depicts human faces and eyes with a pure and innocent style using bold, strong and vivid colours to highlight the importance of the sociopolitical topics he is so passionate about.

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido
Artist, Curator, Publisher and
Founder of Agama Art Publishing & Agency





AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND 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.



Photo Carrefour

Photocarrefour is a photography organisation that brings together photographers and photography lovers with the ultimate aim of advancing the medium through workshops, exhibitions, artist talks, photo walks and school projects. It organises the ARTIST Meet & Exhibit photography exhibition, a quarterly event that invites photographers to send in their photographic expressions (on any theme), which is then fused with performance art like dancing, singing, poetry and more. It also produces an annual exhibition (through an open call, a theme is chosen and then participants send in their work).

Finally, Photocarrefour partners with other individuals and organisations to design and execute creative projects around photography. Based in Abuja, Nigeria, where the photography scene is only emerging, Photocarrefour serves as the city's only photography gallery; it is at the forefront of creating a vibrant photography scene and seeking collaborations with other African countries and around the world.

The Photocarrefour Gallery provides a creative exhibition space of all creative endeavours.





Photographer, curator and founder of Photocarrefour_Africa, where he creates and designs programmes, curates exhibitions and other photography projects, working with artists and institutions on projects and events hosted at the Photocarrefour Gallery such as exhibitions, artist talks, workshops and school programmes.

I just want more engagement and participation in the photography scene.

Tersoo Gundu
Photographer, Curator and
Founder of Photocarrefour_Africa



What the eyes don't see, the heart doesn't feel.

The works of Omonu Salisu are combinations of affective memories, ancestry, nationality and his reality.

His technique is acrylic on canvas, Omonu creates sketches that detail the essence and beauty of African women, the purity, joy and selflessness of children.

His abstract works are expressive, combining warm and vivid colours, using strong hues to indicate social and cultural emblems of his homeland which come alive in the eyes of the audience.



Omonu Salisu is a dynamic and creative artist based in Abuja, Nigeria. He has typified abstract art with an artistic force that cuts across paintings representing figures with different shape of heads.

In 2017, he began to experiment with lines, shapes, figures and colours to form paintings that speak about sociopolitical and economic themes within Africa, he also uses colours to symbolise cultural emblems.

His recent works are based on recreating human heads and figures and are translated with symbols (motifs) which represent popular proverbs and maxims. He records, historical events that express different attitudes or behaviours related to the depicted figures, or concepts uniquely related to abstract shapes.

Exhibitions

He has participated in several exhibitions such as *Seen Beyond the Future*, *Affordable Art Exhibition*, *Abuja Art Week*, *Road Less Travelled*, among others.

Workshops

He has been part of several workshops such as *Spain Embassy 20th workshop*, *24th Harmattan workshop*, *Art Master Class workshop*, among others.

Statement

Lines, shapes, figures, forms and colours are the voice a painting speaks with and sends messages to the world.

My art gives me the chance to express my thoughts. I try to point out issues pertaining identity, sexuality, education and my environment.





EMOTION 1

Acrylic on canvas

107cm x 132cm

2021

The way someone looks at something captures the feeling of that moment and expresses the emotion of how they feel at that time. The details on someone's eyes can captivate an audience.





EMOTION 2

Acrylic on canvas

120cm x 150cm

2021

The colour on someone's eyes expresses the emotions and feelings about the moment and offers a voice to the other person looking at the eyes.





EMOTION 3

Acrylic on canvas

120cm x 180cm

2021

The colour in the painting represents the emotion that someone feels at a particular moment, with a glance.





BIRD'S-EYE 1

Acrylic on canvas

79cm x 130cm

2021

Having a bird's-eye view implies that one can observe a situation from a different perspective, a high angle.

The same way occurs when an artist creates a piece from its palette.



BIRD'S-EYE 2

Acrylic on canvas

76cm x 107cm

2021

Looking at the overall picture in creativity, identifying meanings where they seems to be non and seeing through the eyes of an artist.

This angle in seeing gives the Bird's-eye to and artist.





EYE CHART 1

Acrylic on canvas

45cm x 76cm

2021

Eye chart depicts that you need more focus in some areas of the viewer's life.

EYE CHART 2

Acrylic on canvas

76cm x 45cm

2021

Eye chart shows that it is time to layout your goals, indicating that something is not what it seems to be.



EYE CHART 3

Acrylic on canvas

43cm x 104cm

2021

Eye chart focuses more on the reality of life insight considering the significance of the symbols that the viewer is able to see in the painting.





EYE OF PROVIDENCE 1

Acrylic on canvas

107cm x 107cm

2021

This shows enlightenment, spiritual awareness, and new understanding, which means that no detail gets passed an artist or creator.





EYE OF PROVIDENCE 2, acrylic on canvas, 107cm x 132cm, 2021
Eye of providence or the all-seeing eye shows enlightenment, spiritual awareness, and new understanding. Which means that no detail gets passed an artist or creator.



EYE OF PROVIDENCE 3, acrylic on canvas, 107cm x 132cm, 2021
Eye of providence or the all-seeing eye shows enlightenment, spiritual awareness, and new understanding. Which means that no detail gets passed an artist or creator.





THE PALETTE EYE 1

Acrylic on canvas

90cm x 120cm

2021

The palette eye shows how an artist's palette explains the artists strength and not being afraid to express their innermost emotions.

THE PALETTE EYE 2

Acrylic on canvas

107cm x 107cm

2021

Artist are being their true self and they are not putting on any facade.



CONTACT

If you would like to:

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

Please contact:

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