



AFROTOPIA

**OLORUNYEMI KOLAPO
& OLAWUYI OLUWOLE**

On A Journey To The Future

30th Sept. - 8th Oct. 2022

ORISUN ART GALLERY

Curated by Susa R. Garrido

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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

Awosola Angello (assistant)

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 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 art organisations and diplomatic missions. 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.

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FOREWORD

Susa Rodríguez-Garrido

AFROTOPIA is an exhibition that explores the idea of a dystopian society, from an African point of view, where both young and talented artists, Olorunyemi Kolapo and Olawuyi Oluwole, respond to speculative fiction and imagine possible future scenarios: dystopia versus utopia.

This exhibition has been created to inspire a dialogue about our future and to question what we take for granted, emphasising that traditional and cultural identity can be preserved even if science and technology are at the forefront of our survival.

AFROTOPIA questions how we define dystopian and utopian worlds and that they seem to be in conflict. The artists in this exhibition focus on the positives of each world and how we can find a way to embrace the benefits of each realm without dropping our identity, our memories and our history.

It presents the audiences with a wide range of probabilities to discuss the future world without descending into a depressive dystopian nation or a completely optimistic utopian state.

AFROTOPIA opens on 30th September 2022 at the Orisun Art Gallery, Abuja and will close on 8th October 2022.

Curator of AFROTOPIA

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.



AGAMA ART PUBLISHING AND AGENCY



ABOUT

Orisun Art Gallery

We are Orisun the source for a plethora of subliminal art spanning exquisite paintings and sculptures from oil, acrylic, charcoal & other mixed media forms, to a vast array of bronze, metal, wood, stone, tapestry work and relief etchings. We exhibit the visual arts of African Masters, contemporary and emerging artists from all the major art schools of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel region.

Our Outlook

is the creation of a cultural ecosystem where art is sourced, sold and savored. We are building a unique experience for the confluence of visual, literary and performing arts for connoisseurs and all lovers of art, covering classical and intellectual to modern and popular art trends.

Our Origins, Our Emergence

as an art gallery spans over three decades of painstaking collecting and commissioning of art from all over Africa. Over the years, we have also engaged in the appreciation and study of antiquities through interactions with curators and custodians of ancient cultural heritage sites such as the Osun-Oshogbo Grove and the Bronze Casters of Igun Street, among many others. Our aspiration is to achieve an aggregation of a rich diversity of masterpieces and antiquities that reflect the essence of African aesthetics and appeal to a global audience of art lovers.

As one of the core objectives of Orisun Art Gallery is to deploy our veritable platform in supporting and showcasing the depth of the talents, imaginations, knowledge and experiences of Nigerian and African artists and also by championing the artists, as the protagonists of our narrative.

ABOUT

The Theme: *AFROTOPIA*

Day by day the world hints to us that we will be living in a dystopian future rather than an utopian one. But we are hopeful there will be a turning point and the world will be a better place.

In the process, we believe we can adopt civilization, technology and modernism without losing ourselves, our culture, our tradition and our identity. This is what makes us who we are and we must keep it.

Looking at most African countries, I realise that the social imaginaries which make us who we are, continue to be an issue in every society. It is even more rampant when we think of the role religion plays in determining who we are, what we believe and how we should act and react.

There is a need to rethink our conceptualisation of religion and to move away from the understanding of religion as the basis of identity. The illusion which religion plunges us into is often the reason for the problems of identity, which most African societies struggle with today.

Olorunyemi Kolapo

ARTISTS

Olorunyemi Kolapo

Olorunyemi is a graduate of Pure and Applied Physics but now is a full-time artist. He is a self-taught artist from Kogi State, Nigeria, residing in Abuja.

He started art professionally in 2005 and participated in both local and international exhibitions and residency programmes. He works mainly with oil paint and charcoal to project connections that human beings make or do not make through language, gesture, look, expression, physical placement, cultural values, standards, emotions and desires.

Artist's Statement

My work is about connections that human beings make or don't make through language, a gesture, a look, an expression, physical placement, cultural values, standards, emotions, and desires. Portraits are a predominant part of my work as I am fascinated and challenged by the changes age, experience, the environment, climate, lighting, background, and just a slight muscle movement can make.

The concept of resilience is at the centre of current debates in development, climate change adaptation and humanitarian aid. However, it is not clear what resilience is, or how it can or should be promoted during and after crises, which is the centre of my work.

OLORUNYEMI KOLAPO

<https://www.agamaart.com/artists>

<https://www.agamaart.com/artists/kolapo-olorunyemi>





Awakening of love as the title reads, explores the definition of love and the extent humans have been willing to go through to prove it as it continues to evolve over the centuries. In my own school of thought, love cannot be separated from pain, hence love is pain and pain is love, especially since there is no coming to true consciousness in life without pain which is also love. This piece not only explores human-human relationships, but also human-career paths and in some cases even humans-inanimate things to mention but a few.

The elderly figure in this piece has seen civilisations rise and fall and has the wrinkles and scars that bears witness to her own awakening and truth...

The value of anything cannot be fully ascertained until it has stood the test of time, for time breeds value.



Self Discovery
2021 | Oil on canvas | 117cm x 119cm

The process of developing my identity began with the discovery of myself, continued throughout my childhood and becomes the focus of my adolescence.

Identity is multidimensional and can include physical and sexual identity, occupational goals, religious beliefs and ethnicity. My teens explore these dimensions and are committed to significant aspects of identity as I moved into early adulthood. Periodically, adults can reevaluate and alter certain aspects of their network identity as life circumstances change and this begins with children's awareness that they are separate and unique individuals. The first signs of this awareness are evident in childhood, when children begin to recognise themselves. That is, they recognise the reflected image as themselves. Also, the words "I", "I" and "my" come up very early in children's language.

Melanisa
2021 | Oil on canvas | 137cm x 119cm



The great monalisa painting is so iconic and widely appreciated. I made a lenticular version of the painting which includes the African version of monalisa. This is to show that the glory of the world and the future of art is in Africa.

view from left to right



view from right to left



Assurance
2021 | Acrylic on board | 100cm x 120cm



Fathers are like helmet of a child as their major role is protection and provision. Fathers who are actively involved in their children's lives contribute to their emotional health, overall wellness, social development and self-respect. Dedicated and responsible fathering during infancy and early childhood also contributes to emotional security which is most required in the future ahead of us all.



Time Traveller
2022 | Oil on canvas | 173cm x 211cm

In my dream, I met a lady who traveled with a hypothetical device through time and saw how beautiful and easy life can be with technology but in exchange losing our reality and nature.

Would you travel back to the past to alter history or fix mistakes? Or would you rather jump forward, to collect future knowledge and bring back advanced technologies?

Bashorun (War Frontier)
2022 | Oil on canvas | 125cm x 206cm



The Bashorun is a notable leadership position of the military in the old Oyo empire. The Bashorun can also be regarded as the prime minister. The Empire expanded to the utmost part covering the river Niger in the north; part of Tapa and Bariba kingdoms in the East of the lower Niger; towards the South by the seacoast and the West including Popos and Dahomey. All these countries including the Gas and Ashanti paid tributes to the Oyo empire. Thousands of provincial officials (called Ajeles) were appointed to administer all the conquered kingdoms and report to the Alafin who glory in his majesty and power. All these changed after the colonial masters came and invaded the Africa continent.

In my dreams, I saw the future, I saw the great Bashorun office returning with the full glory and ruling not just the Oyo Empire but down to southern America.

The office of Bashorun is no longer recognized and this is one of our many histories, values, culture and identity.



Learning Aid

2022 | Oil on canvas | 100cm x 120cm

Will lives in a society where there's so many bullies in our institutions, so many parents don't know that each and every child has their own way of learning.

So many children don't understand what their teacher teaches them in school, and are being mocked by their mates, forgetting that everyone has their own way of assimilation. Some are by pictures, reading, writing and more.

In my vision, I saw a robotic learning aid that can be attached to their forehead that helps childrens to learn very fast in the society... and these things they learn become part of them forever.

Bionic Eyes 1
2022 | Oil on canvas | 100cm x 120cm



On a trip to the future in my dreams, I saw a lot of new discoveries in robotics to perform telesurgery which will be in virtual reality and surgical simulators for surgical education and practice. There will be new technologies to revolutionise what the future of surgery will become.

In this painting, I prophecy the advancement of medicine, where blind people can be made to see again with a device called bionic-X1.



Bionic Eyes 2
2022 | Oil on canvas | 100cm x 120cm

On a trip to the future in my dreams, I saw a lot of new discoveries in robotics to perform telesurgery which will be in virtual reality and surgical simulators for surgical education and practice. There will be new technologies to revolutionise what the future of surgery will become.

In this painting, I prophecy the advancement of medicine, where blind people can be made to see again with a device called bionic-X1.



After Life
2021 | Oil on canvas | 80cm x 120cm

Death is often viewed as the great leveller that marks the cessation of experience. But perhaps this needn't be the case. Even if the dead can't interact with us anymore, we can still interact with a simulation of them.

This was seen in my vision where the dead is given life after death using the DNA.

Please contact Susa if you would like to book any of these artists, you would like an exhibition, art event or workshop. Perhaps you would like your art collection to be value or accessed or some advice about art.

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Learning Aid 1
2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 182cm x 182cm

Will lives in a society where there's so many bullies in our institutions, so many parents don't know that each and every child has their own way of learning.
So many children don't understand what their teacher teaches them in school, and are being mocked by their mates, forgetting that everyone has their own way of assimilation. Some are by pictures, reading, writing and more.
In my vision, I saw a robotic learning aid that can be attached to their forehead that helps childrens to learn very fast in the society... and these things they learn become part of them forever.



Learning Aid 2

2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 182cm x 182cm

Will lives in a society where there's so many bullies in our institutions, so many parents don't know that each and every child has their own way of learning. So many children don't understand what their teacher teaches them in school, and are being mocked by their mates, forgetting that everyone has their own way of assimilation. Some are by pictures, reading, writing and more. In my vision, I saw a robotic learning aid that can be attached to their forehead that helps childrens to learn very fast in the society... and these things they learn become part of them forever.



Humanoid Soldier

2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 182cm x 172cm

The level of insecurity in society is so scary. Everybody is scared of their life and the life of their loved ones. A lot of people out there have lost their loved ones to the insecurity threat, our soldiers are being killed day by day and putting their family in pain. But the good news is there's going to be a time when there's going to be a robotic soldier, that will be built to fight and conquer any insurgency, they will be able to fight and protect the lives of every citizen without living in fear anymore.



The Future Is Yellow
2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 111cm x 137cm

The future will be full of yellow, that is, full of happiness, full of hope and positivity. It is grabbing our attention and also calling for caution.



After Life
2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 109cm x 121cm

Human existence has a beginning and the end, the beginning starts as a new born baby, and will all have been battling with the issues of losing our loved ones to death.
But just imagine when will can actually bring them back to life with the help of technology and seeing them living among us again, without the fear of losing them anymore through technology with the use of DNA.
They will be able to communicate with us properly and do the things they love and live again.



Fix Me
2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 182cm x 172cm

A lot of advancement is coming into medicine with the introduction of organ replacement in the form of robots and this is the future.



Bionic Eyes
2022 | Acrylic on canvas | 182cm x 182cm

My version of the bionic eyes as seen by my dear friend Kolapo.
In this painting, I prophesy the advancement of medicine, where blind people can be made to see again with a device called bionic-X1.

Olawuyi Oluwole

Oluwole, also known to most as Wole, was born in 1989 in Kwara State, Nigeria. Olawuyi 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.

Olawuyi attended Baptist Primary School, where he was coached by Mr Oladele. In secondary school, he won the NYSC award for best secondary school 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 (SNA), Abuja Chapter.

He has participated in several art competitions and exhibitions.

Artist's Statement

Human existence started through a woman, after perfection was lost. A new world was created by the labour, pains of child birth. 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 capture and express their generosity through my paintings, which is why most of my art pieces are focused on the female figure.

OLAWUYI OLUWOLE

<https://www.agamaart.com/artists>

<https://www.agamaart.com/artists/wole-olawuyi>





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