

The background is an abstract composition of warm, textured brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, and brown, with some darker blue and purple accents. The strokes are thick and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall color palette is warm and earthy.

**UNCOVERED
FEMALE
NIGERIAN
ARTISTS**



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.

FEAAN EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	Chinze Ojobo
Vice President	Clara Aden
Secretary	Abigail Nnaji
Treasurer	Millicent Okocha
Financial Secretary	Funmi Akindejoye
P.R.O.	Chinyere Odinikwe
Welfare Officer	Amarachi K. Odimba

TOP MANAGEMENT

Chairman BoT	Prof Bridget O. Nwanze
Secretary BoT	Lady Ngozi Akande
President	Chinze Ojobo
FEAAN Representative	Susa Rodriguez-Garrido



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A Catalogue of Exhibition
Female Artists Association of Nigeria

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PUBLISHER

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FOREWORD

Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN), established in 2001, was setup with the primary aims of identifying talented Nigerian Female Artists to help them bring positive social changes and developments in society. FEAAN also helps artists and encourages them to continue creating art.

Membership cuts across all the ethnic groups in Nigeria. We started with 20 members in 2001, but today we have over 200 members who have participated in several exhibitions locally and internationally as well as solo exhibitions. Training and seminars are also held to assist in the development of artists. To illustrate our commitment, FEAAN has been able to send one of its members on a Masters Scholarship programme and another for a short training course overseas.

We have had several exhibitions that touch on social, political and gender issues in our society, but below are a list of a selected few:

- 2019: Balance for Better, Chinese Culture Center, Abuja
- 2018: Press for Progress, Women Move On, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos
- 2018: UN Women International Women's Day Exhibition, Nikon Luxury, Abuja
- 2017: Abuja Unlocked, US Embassy in Abuja, Café De Vie, Abuja
- 2017: Orange the World, German Ambassador's Residence
- 2017: Be Bold For Change, Women Arise, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos
- 2016: Pledge for Parity, Be Seen, Be Heard, Exhibition Pavilion Abuja
- 2015: Shades of Unity, Women Make it Happen, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
- 2014: Women in National Development, Transcorp Hilton-Abuja

FEAAN appreciates your support of women activities. We use this opportunity to welcome you to our Art Exhibition **Uncovered Female Nigerian Artists**.

This event will witness the following programme:

1. Brief talks from sponsors.
2. Art Exhibition by members of Female Artists Association of Nigeria.
3. Interaction between the artists and the guests.
4. Selling of artworks (please contact Susa Rodriguez-Garrido).

Our gratitude goes to our host the British Village Inn that made this possible. We also grateful to Susa Rodriguez-Garrido for her support in organising this event and finally, we appreciate the FEAAN EXCO who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

FEAAN, we are proud of you, you deserve the exposure. Keep seeing yourself beyond where you are.

Happy viewing!

Chinze Ojobo

PREFACE

Susa Rodriguez-Garrido, Representative of FEAAN, Founder of Agama Art Publishing and Organiser of the Uncovered Female Nigerian Artists Exhibition



It is a great pleasure for me to introduce these wonderful and talented Female Nigerian Artists to the British Village Inn in Abuja, Nigeria.

The month of March is a special month for women and a time to celebrate art and women in a great setting to further the Cultural Exchanges between the United Kingdom and Nigeria.

The theme is **Uncovered Female Nigerian Artists**, and this exhibition is a means of showcasing some of the FEAAN artists' pieces to audiences that have not have the opportunity to enjoy their work. Guests can talk to the artists about their pieces and their inspiration and above all enjoy this event.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Committee of the British Village Inn for hosting this exhibition and to all of the FEAAN Association members, especially Chinze Ojobo and Ngozi Akande, for making this happen.

Enjoy the exhibition!

Susa Rodriguez-Garrido

FEAAN Representative

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ABIGAIL NNAJI

**Friends, acrylic and paper on canvas,
122cm x 122cm, 2019**

Artist Profile

Abigail Nnaji is a graduate of University of Nigeria-Nsukka with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts majoring in painting. She started full studio practice in 2013. Her style is not only influenced by the academy but by her constant exposure through cultural interactions. Based on her experiments with paper she has been able to find new and unconventional application in her art by fusing it into her paintings through the use of paper cutting technique. 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 collection at home and abroad, of which one work adorns the Mayor's office in the city of Pensacola, Florida. Her pieces feature themes in serenity, beauty, identity and love, especially as she tries to capture activities that often explore social perceptions in new light. Currently, she is a member of the FEAAN, Association of Professional Creative Artists and Designers in Nigeria (APCAD) and FERRUM-The Art House, Switzerland. She lives and works in Abuja, Nigeria.

Artist Statement

"As an artist, I am inspired by lines and fascinated by colours. My paintings depict everyday life as I try to capture nature and beauty, while highlighting human struggles. In order to achieve this, I employ both abstract and semi abstract styles of painting to create an alluring mix using lines and colours as well as traditional motifs. Apart from the use of oil and acrylic colours, I recently began to experiment with paper which I fuse to my paintings using the paper cutting technique."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery Lagos & China Cultural Centre Abuja
- 2018: Invited International Artist, Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival, Pensacola Florida
- 2018: Press for Progress, Women Move On, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos
- 2018: UNWOMEN Int'l Women's Day Exhibition, Nikon, Abuja
- 2017: City People-Using Paper Cutting Technique, Cococafe, Abuja



ADAEZE OBANI

Mother and Child, acrylic on canvas, 61cm x 92cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Adaeze Obani studied at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts and Design. Her academic experience has exposed her to various art practices and polished her creative skills. Her art mainly 'artualizes' the physical, mental and emotional beauty of the female gender, and what women go through in the society and in the world at large. She paints more of abstract and loves playing with colours. Her paintings alternate between abstract expressionism and surrealism.

Her hard skills are painting, graphics, teaching and textile making. Her soft skills are creativity, insight, critical thinking and communication. She currently teaches art at home and she has taught in various schools. She is currently a member of the FEAAN.

Artist Statement

"Art, to me, is all about defining beauty in your own way. In other words, creating your own kind of beautiful. Beauty fills in one's heart a special kind of joy... art does same. Creating beauty and expressing myself in ways words can't describe led me to painting."

Last Exhibition Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite China Cultural Centre Abuja

2016: Final Year Art Exhibition, University of Port-Harcourt, Rivers state



ADDIS OKOLI



Village Gathering, acrylic on canvas, 18.5cm x 23cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Addis Okoli is a graphic artist, fashion designer, painter and dance instructor. She is a graduate of the University of Nigeria and the University of Southampton, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design and a Master's Degree in Fashion Design respectively.

She is currently a staff of the Cyprian Ekwensi Centre for Arts and Culture where she produces most of her paintings.

Her works vary from the use of colours that are subdued to very brilliant palettes. Being self trained in painting has given her the opportunity to explore without boundaries. She has participated in several local and international exhibitions. Her inspirations are derived from music, poetry, her surroundings and herself.

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre, Abuja

2018: Rhetoric The Perspective (solo exhibition)

2018: Nigeria At 58, South Africa

2018: ICAF Exhibition, Radisson Blue Anchorage, Lagos

2018: Red Alert, Kulture Kode Art Hub, Abuja

2018: Press For Progress, Women Move on, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos



AISHA ISA

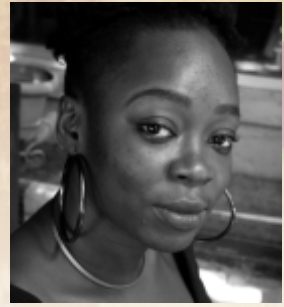
Falsies, acrylic on canvas, 92cm x 92cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Aisha Isa is a public servant in Abuja. She draws inspiration from her environment, experiences and music. She has been creating visual art in various forms throughout her life, mostly as a hobby. In 2013, she began painting on a part-time basis. Aisha works with a wide variety of mediums such as acrylics, oil paint, pastel, charcoal and ink and has a diverse collection of art ranging from abstract, figure painting and expressionism, the narratives her work seeks to convey. She continuously experiments with different concepts to push herself and remains dedicated to exhibiting dynamic paintings that inspire contemplation.

Artist Statement

"My artwork usually takes a critical view of socio-cultural issues in a general context by referencing and exploring the dynamics of relationships and interactions of people in society and nature . My themes cover a diverse range of subjects from revelry to environmentalism. Although my work predominantly borders on explosive abstract art paintings, I often experiment with a variety of mediums and materials. Although they may not always be identical themes running through varied projects, they are linked by a similar incitement through the subject matter. I use my canvas to translate."



AMARACHI ODIMBA

Empathizers, acrylic on canvas, 90cm x 75cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Amarachi Kelechi Odimba holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, 2015 and a Bachelor in Science in Geology and mining from Enugu State University of Science and Technology, 2008.

She is an Art Moves Africa (AMA) grantee for an art residency titled **EDUFUNCTION** at Nafasi Art Space, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in 2015 and concluded her first solo exhibition themed **BROAD BORDERS** at Great More Studios, Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2018. Presently, she coordinates creative art workshops at Institut Français du Nigeria, Abuja.

Artist Statement

"I am a multimedia artist who tends to communicate on societal issues related to culture, identity, sexuality, relationships and education. My works span across public participatory art, installations and paintings. In my paintings, I focus on the human form mainly in nudes to create narratives pertaining to subjective emotions aroused by happenings around us. Her process is spontaneous with distinctive gestural brush strokes and colour drips. Often times to obscure the gender and features of the forms and also evoke emotions from viewers."



ANILA ADNAN

On the Move, acrylic on canvas, 107cm × 140cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Anila Adnan is a Pakistani National residing in Nigeria for more than three decades. She holds Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art and Master of Arts degree in Graphic Design from University of Punjab Lahore, Pakistan. She also holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Professional Studies, a course affiliated with Strathclyde University, Scotland. She is a visual art teacher and art coordinator at a private school in Abuja .

She is also a freelance interior decorator, she has done interiors for many house and schools in Abuja. She is expert in painting large murals, she can plan and execute events and she is a very active Pakistani community member. Apart from that she volunteered her services to the community (PCAAN) for a couple of years . Also she organised Pakistani women Association (PWAA) in 2016, with the help of some dynamic Pakistani ladies, aiming to help the needy and less privileged in the local community. She joined FEAAN in 2013. Throughout her professional career she received countless awards and rewards from different organisations. She is extremely hardworking dedicated and committed to her job. She is a multi-talented individual and works with passion and sincerity.

Artist Statement

"Creativity is inventing ,experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes , exploring and having fun while working. Im very grateful to my maker who has blessed me with so much that I want to share with everyone around, with my skills. I don't restrict my self to one style or one medium instead experiment with large variety of materials and surfaces . change is my nature so I grab every opportunity to learn new skills. No doubt creativity is the most important human resource of all. without creativity there wouldn't be any progress and we would be forever repeating the same patterns."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Beyond imagination , Bouyes camp, Abuja
2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre, Abuja
2018: Press for progress .Nike at gallery, Lagos
2017: Be bold for a change .Nike art gallery,Lagos
2017: Violence against women and girls, German Embassy, Abuja



ANNE ADAMS

Artist Profile

Anne Adams holds a Bachelor in Science degree in Economics from Babcock University, Ogun State, 2015.

She is a ceramist artist and painter, working with ceramics and paintings respectively. Based in Abuja, Nigeria, I am completely captivated by culture, absorbed by lines and forms. Whether just for my own enjoyment or for private commission, I love to use my brush and paints to creatively capture a likeness. I like to make marks with my paint, rather than try for a photographic smoothness, but regardless, the end result should be an accurate observation, created with expressive marks.

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better, Women Unite, China Cultural Centre Abuja
- 2019: Cube Cafe Art Exhibition
- 2019: Action Aid Exhibition
- 2018: Maison the Cafe Art Exhibition
- 2018: Civic lab Art Exhibition
- 2018: Press for Progress, UN





AYOOLA OMOVO

The Music Maker, ink on canvas, 76cm x 64cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Ayoola Omovo is a graduate of painting from the University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State. She has exhibited widely and participated in several workshops /seminars with her works in many private collections. She is widely known for her unique "Black and White" styles of paintings. Ayoola is employed as an instructor in visual art activity at Lycée Français Louis Pasteur de Lagos. She has curated a few exhibitions and has written several forewords for exhibitions. She is an active member and welfare officer of the Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA) Lagos and she is a southwest zone coordinator for FEAAN. She is also a member of Art Zero Group, Beyond Borders Artist Association of Nigeria and Ota Artist Group.

Artist Statement

"I Speak Art, Live Art, Dress Art, Express Art, Art is my Life."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Ota Art Fair, Sango Ota, Lagos

2018: ARTmosphere @the Root, Ikoyi,, Lagos

2018-2019: Carnegie Museum 2940 KZN, Newcastle, South Africa



CHIKAMSO ASIFOR

Knotting Loose Ends, stitch and dye, 100% cotton, 2019

Artist Profile

Chikamso Asifor has won so many outstanding Art awards (Juno Art competition, Olympic Art competition, Rotary Club Secondary Art competition and others). She is a textile and fashion artist currently researching on scales, contours in apparel and prop making. Rita is outstanding in knitting and crocheting. She draws with fluid expression.

Artist Statement

"Anything thought of could be real."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Society of Nigeria Artist Anambra

2018: Anyi eluo uno, Awka, Anambra

2017: SNA, Awka, Anambra

2016: SNA, Awka, Anambra



CHINYERE ODINUKWE

Hearth of Gold, mixed media on canvas, 92cm x 102cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Chinyere Odinukwe's works are a kaleidoscope of vibrant, warm and complimentary colours which are reminiscent of the environmental and global issues she experiences. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in Painting from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. She mostly experiments with national symbols such as flags and anthems for social development. She attempts to let out the dramatic aspect of her which is concerned about culture, migration, patriotism and politics of power, human susceptibility and environmental sustenance. She tends to delve into the mind of individuals and communities to bring to bear what their agendas might birth if it was visual. She sometimes juxtaposes domestic and industrial waste materials such as salvaged aluminum foil, cellophane bags as well as a long list of items that occupy and litter her environment. She sees it as a means of reducing ecological hazard and environmental degradation by using these items to form art and making a strong statement in the process. Chinyere has a solo exhibition to her credit and has participated in several group exhibitions and an Artist residency in Sweden. She also applies her creative skills to photography, videography, media production and performance. She presently lives and works in Abuja, Nigeria.

Artist Statement

"I adopt a metaphorical style in my visual statement which people can appreciate, not necessarily for its aesthetic values, but the visual testimonial. In this context, people are able to feel connected to the idea behind my work and get inspired by it as mechanisms of mobilisation, patriotism and cultural identity in the landscape of contemporary African art."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre Abuja

2018: And the Centre Refuses to Hold, Homageto Things Fall Apart @60: An exhibition of Art in Diverse Media in celebration of Africa's path finding novel

2018: 5th Anambra Book and Creativity Festival: Dedicated to the Art Patron Okey Anueyiagu, King David Hotel, Awka Nigeria

2018: The Journey so Far: An Art Exhibition to Mark Nigeria's 58th Independence Anniversary by FEAAN, Johannesburg, South Africa

2018: Red Alert: FEAAN Art Exhibition to mark The International Day against Drug Abuse, Kulture Kode Arthub, Wuse 2, Abuja



CHINZE OJOBO

Be Yourself, acrylic on canvas, 137cm x 153cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Chinze Ojobo is an award-winning Nigerian Artist, who studied Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, a student of Prof El Anatsui. The prolific painter also studied Interior Designing in the USA. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Relations and advertising. Chinze, is a Mixed media painter, specialised in acrylic on canvas with jute and fabrics. Her paintings are detailed, highly textured and rich in symbolism. Her colours are vibrant full of energy. She has participated in over 52 art exhibitions both in Nigeria and internationally. She has exhibited in California, Bulgaria, London, Paris and New York. Most recently, she was acclaimed for her exhibition at the National Museum, Onikan, Lagos **The Unfinished Business**, where she highlighted the plight of the 'girl child' in Nigeria. She mentors young girls, held workshops and leadership training for teenage boys and girls over the years. Chinze is a facilitator for the British Council in Abuja to mentor young artists in their programme called **Creative Hustle**. She is the President of FEAAN. On 5th July 2018, she was given an award by the African Achievers Award 2018 as the **Most Creative African** at the British House of Commons, London.

Artist Statement

"I use my art to highlight or bring to the front burner issues bothering me. My art expresses my innermost thoughts. I flow as the inspiration comes, I try not to inhibit the flow. I tell myself there no rules keep painting, This energizes my creative juices. I use any available material. That's how I ended up doing mixed media. This particular collection will highlight the good, the bad and the ugly of our great country, Nigeria and it's solutions. Chinze is a consummate professional."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre Abuja

2018: Press for Progress; Women Move On, Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Art2 TEDx, Maitama, Abuja

2018: UNWomen Exhibition, Nikon Luxury, Abuja

2016: Unfinished Business, National Museum, Lagos



CLARA ADEN

Balance for Better II, mixed media, 76cm x 61cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Clara Aden is an illustrator, story board and urban artist. She has been illustrating professionally since 1999 and eventually earned her spot as Assistant Production Manager and Art Illustrator, Hearts Magazines. She attended Federal Technical College, Yaba, Lagos. She is one of the representatives of the Alumni of Hamazon ACADEMIA at the German Green Me Global film festival 2016, with the experimental short film titled "Ripple" which celebrates the theme of the festival "Ocean, Water and Life." A member of FEAAN, Kambani Art of London and Beyond borders Artists Association of Nigeria (BBAAN). She is a multi award winner pencilst. Winner of the Global Network Research development (GNRD) freedom of expression 2015 art competition in Norway. The winner, Gani Odutokun award for Excellence in Art contest 2016 by African Art Resources Centre. Beneficiary of the 2018 international artist in residency programme organised by Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon Art Foundation (OYASAF). She recently coordinated a project "Beyond Prison", a collection of workshop session with prison inmates Ikoyi, Lagos, learning artistic and social skills that will aid them in their life transition upon their release.

Artist Statement

"I grew up in a country where female child exploring the world of art is regarded as peculiar or unusual. My inspiration comes from the people and things I observe and engage with. Realism is the main feature of my practice. My current body of works include a new series exploration of materials manipulation in which I combine portraiture, mixed media and integrate newspaper cuttings. Newspaper cuttings infused and glued into my work and paint over with a dry brush painting techniques. My aim is to create something new yet familiar, artworks that generates curiosity and dialogue for viewers of all."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre, Abuja
- 2019: Women in Art, Werkkunst Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018: Ijamido Art Exhibition, Ijamido Town Hall Ota, Ogun State
- 2018: International Culture and Art Festival, Raddisson Blu, Victoria Island, Lagos
- 2018: International artist in residence art salon, Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon Art Foundation, Maryland, Lagos



DOOFAN KWAGHPOOL

Satisfaction, acrylic on canvas, 61cm x 51cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Doofan Kwaghpool works in the medium of painting. She uses lines, objects, figures and colours in her paintings to depict her thoughts on several issues. She loves people and the environment, this quality has made her to also delve into public art. She is presently working on the fourth part of a public art titled **Signs and Meanings** on road safety rules and regulations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art from the famous Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State in Nigeria and the founder Blue Flames Art Studios. She has had several exhibitions and art workshops to her credit. **Collecting Moments** is Doofan's first solo exhibition of paintings, where her body of works reveals moments from time past experienced through music from "old times".

Artist Statement

"My works focus on themes relating to psychological, love and social issues. Then I express the aroused feelings with my colours, palette knife and brushes. I use abstract, figures, lines and objects to express these sensations; the space, rhythm, balance and dominant colours in my work communicates my thoughts."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja
- 2019: Femme (woman) Alexis Galleries, Lagos
- 2019: Demeanor2, Bouygues Club House, Abuja (joint exhibition with Amarachi Kelechi Odimba)
- 2018: The Journey so Far, (FEAAN) Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018: Collecting Moments (solo exhibition), Thought Pyramid Art Centre, Abuja



**Dr. RITA DORIS
EDUMCHIEKE**

**Friendship, fibre and fabric, batik & applique,
229cm x 229cm, 2018**

Artist Profile

Dr. Rita Doris Edumchieke Ubah has several distinctions in teaching certificates in 1985 and 1989 respectively. She holds a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts in 1993 and 2008, MILD in 1999 and Ph.D in 2014. She is a lecturer at the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Nigeria. Rita has successfully taught IGCSE Art & Design for more than two decades, where she developed a comprehensive knitting lesson programme to aid students' concentration and keep them focused. She is passionate about art teaching and learning, and has provided exceptional contributions to art by engaging students in art competitions, art exhibitions and indigenous art shows. She is a polyvalent artist of superlative merit who has held several solo art and group exhibitions with her students. Rita Doris has published many art related articles in international journals and also attended many international conferences.

Artist Statement

"Work doesn't kill, what kills is laziness."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Female Artists Association of Nigeria Exhibition in South Africa

2018: Press for Progress: Women Move On! Female Artist Association of Nigeria the International Women's Day at Nike Art Gallery, Lagos

2018: Orchids for Ola Oloidi. An Exhibition in Honour of AHAN's Founding President in Conjunction with the AHAN Biennial Conference

2017: ArtStaff/Exhibition 46th Convocation Ceremony, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

2017: ArtStaff/Exhibition, Founders day, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

2017: Art-titude FEAAN (South West Zone)

2017: ArtStaff, 57th Founders Day

2017: Nkolika Nsukka School at 50 years



EDAK EKPENYONG

Blood Bond, acrylic on canvas, 82cm x 102cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Edak Ekpenyong is a visual artist from Cross River State. She is a graduate of Cross River University of Technology. She loves taking visual documentaries via plein-air exercises in impasto as well as figure studies across Nigeria.



ESTHER ADEBAYO



African Drums, mixed media, 41cm x 82cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Adebayo Esther Omowunmi, 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 showcases Nigerian culture and heritage in her artworks. She is a member of FEAAN.

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Art-titude FEAAN, Abuja



FATIMA MSHELIA

Vacuum, acrylic on canvas, 76cm x 38cm, 2017

Artist Profile

Fatima Mshelia is a first class student with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Arts in 2007. She is the CEO of Colours Art Class, where they teach art to people with special needs. She is also the CEO of Eclectic Art47, an art company that produces fabrics, ceramic pots, wood works, paintings, drawings and graphic design, which they deliver all over the world. She has participated in over 18 standard art exhibitions across Nigeria. She has given talks in various academic institutions where she speaks on the role of art in human life. She has a vision of using her art to broaden the minds of individuals all over the world.

Artist Statement

"I work basically with any kind of paint. one thing you would always give my works a feel to go along with message on the canvas. My art are is comprehensive. I work more with palette knives than I do with brushes. My works are about the basic things we go through in life as human, like broken spirits, hard paths we have to take and the things that bring us joy."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja

2018 FEEAN Art Exhibition, Abuja

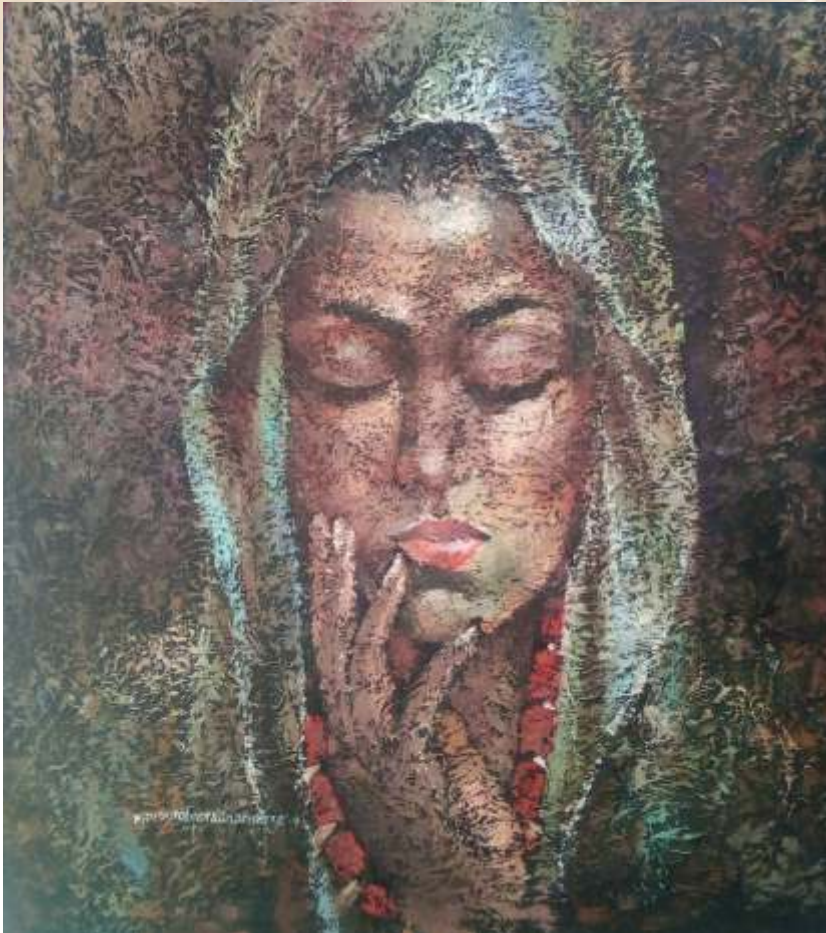
2018: Yeyedu Charity Art Exhibition

2018: Orange the World Art Exhibition, End Violence Against Women and Girls

2018: Chinese Cultural Centre Art Exhibition, Women's Day Celebration, Abuja



**FAVOUR JACKSON
ANAMALEZE**



The Kings Bride, 91cm x 102cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Favour Jackson Anamaleze (née Waribugo) is a nest sculptor from Nembe in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. She earned a Bachelor of Art Honours degree in Sculptor at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. She also has a Certificate in Theatre Arts (Acting Major) from the University of Port Harcourt.



HELEN NZETE

Samburu Woman, mixed medium, 70cm × 84cm, 2019

Artist Profile

Helen Nzete believes that art has the power to change the world. Her expressive images document the destruction of nature and the collapse of tradition and culture by the selfish nature of human beings. This creates societal and political injustices, family and personal conflicts. She uses different materials, in her paintings from facial expressions to strong tones of colours.

Artist Statement

"The driving force behind my portraits is our emotional resonance and the way over time it manifests in facial expressions and our relationship with others. Utilising painting, drawing, and different objects, my work examines through expressive colours, faces and gestural brushstrokes the raw, frankness and unflinching emotional effects caused by relationships, and everyday encounters. I always attempt to pull the viewer to experience the subject. There is a lot of quality time to most of the physicality found in my work. Each piece is created over several weeks using layers of objects, colours and symbolic materials. By working across multiple pieces at one time, the imagery and text develop over time."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre, Abuja

2018: Spanish Festivals and Traditional Celebrations, Thought Pyramid Art Centre , Abuja

2017: Art Caffeine, Maitama, Abuja

2009: Scapes and Forms, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria



Iya Taiye, metal foil, 76cm x 106cm, 2019



**IGBINOVIA SOPHIA
OMON**

Artist Profile

Igbinovia Omon Sophia studied at Federal Polytechnic Auchi, Edo-State. She trained under Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya from 2011-2015. She participated in the Harmattan Workshop in Delta State and was among the 2015 Copyright Society of Nigeria (COSON) and All Africa Music Award (AFRIMA) graphics team. She has participated in group exhibitions and featured on the following books: Auchi Art Expo, 2011; Art and Design Gallery; Federal Polytechnic Auchi. Nigerian/American Exhibition, 2012; Nike Art Gallery, Lekki, Lagos and Ribbon in April II, 2016, Moore House, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Artist Statement

"My artwork takes a critical view of our society and our everyday life activities. I am constantly sketching; and most times, those sketches develop into more in-depth ideas and detailed images for my master print art pieces. My focus is printmaking and watercolour, specifically metal foil process and my colours are very attractive. This is because our everyday life, beauty, waterside, women, festivals can be beautifully expressed through prints and watercolour. My desire is that my prints and watercolour paintings will evoke new realities to be savoured by those who wish to enjoy my work."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja
2018: International Women's Day (Press for Progress), Nike Art Gallery, Lekki, Lagos
2018: Traces of Time II, Crown Art Gallery, Benin City, Edo-State
2018: ICAF Lagos, Radisson Blu Anchorage Hotel, Victoria Island Lagos
2018: ILLUMINATION II, Terra Kulture, Lagos
2018: Nigeria @58, Nigerian Consulate, Johannesburg, South-Africa



JUDITH YAHAYA

Outpouring Minds, acrylic on canvas, 80cm x 100cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Judith Yahaya is a graduate from Ahmadu Bello University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts. She won the exhibition and workshop and the Canadian Ambassador's Award. In 2012, she won the 4th National Visual Art competition, secondary category. She had a strong passion for art which inspired and motivated her to study art.

Artist Statement

"I believe every artist has a story to tell, a message to pass, a purpose to fulfill an experience to share and lots of things to discover."

Last Exhibition Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja

2015: FEAN Art Exhibition, Shades of Unity



Untitled, mixed media, 76cm x 87cm, 2018



**KEMI AKIN-NIBOSUN
SEWELL**

Artist Profile

Kemi Akin-Nibosun Sewell is an artist living and working in Nigeria. She is known for photography, printmaking and design. Her works are expressions of possible solutions to problems in the society through conceptual and practical ways. She is the winner of Life In My City Art Festival 2014 'Best Photograph' Award, and 2013 'Best Photography' category. She has attended several master classes on photography facilitated by Nlele Institute as well as artistic exchange programmes. She is a member of FEAAN, SNA (Society of Nigerian Artists) Rivers Chapter. She has participated in several group exhibitions and her solo exhibition in 2014 she toured three Nigerian states. She is a graduate of Industrial Design at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and holds diplomas in Photography and Art, Mathematics and Statistics from Barking Abbey Sixth Form, Barking, United Kingdom.

Artist Statement

"As a multi-disciplinary artist, my subjects of choice range from socio-political issues to personal convictions of solutions to problems encountered whilst traveling through different cities. Re-imagining the possibilities of my environment and life. My personal take is that we need to be more lenient on the emphasis of telling "a story of Africa", and concentrate more on the process that begets the story. Through my personal and professional journeys, I realised that to affect change is to proffer solutions for addressing issues in my immediate environment."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2018: Press for Progress, Women Move on, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos

2014: Alternative Africa Traveling Solo Exhibition, Abuja, Lagos, Enugu



Kasuwa Series, oil on canvas, 76cm x 107cm, 2018



KLARANZE OKHIDE

Artist Profile

Klaranze Okhide is a Nigerian visual artist and educator. She had her formal training from the Auchu Art School, 1999. She earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Abuja, 2006. Klaranze draws inspiration from everyday life and she is a colourist. She promotes art through workshops, seminars, school art competitions and exhibitions. She resides in Abuja.

Last Exhibition Attended

- 2019: Women in Visual Art Exhibition, National Gallery of Art, Abuja
- 2018: UN Women, International Women's Day Celebration" by the United Nations, Abuja
- 2018: Nigeria Preserve and Plant Trees, Abuja
- 2018: Art Alliance 51 Group Exhibition, Abuja
- 2018: Kunstort ELEVEN Artspace Starzach, Germany
- 2017: Abuja Unlocked, SNA Abuja/US Embassy



The 5G WIFI Fascinator, 2019



MAYEN OWODIONG

Artist Profile

Mayen Owodiong is a traditional African textile artist, a milliner, innovator and client advocate. She is passionate about women and the girl child empowerment and art related enterprises. She has organised free training and collaborated with corporate and religious organisations. She has performed in runways and collaborated with designers and celebrities in the fashion industry in Nigeria. She has participated in various exhibition both locally and internationally.

Artist Statement

"An effective educated womanhood in arts and crafts is a potential source of community power and progress."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: International Fashion and styles in African Cities, Lagos, Duala and Dakar

2018: Nigeria @58: The Journey so Far , Nigerian Consulate, Johannesburg, South Africa



MILLICENT OKOCHA

Black Model 1, ball pen on paper, 9cm x 14cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Millicent Okocha holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Arts from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. She has attended a series of art workshops and exhibitions locally and internationally. Millicent is a prolific artist across mixed media, creative writing, performance art and fashion.

Artist Statement

"Art is timeless and universal therefore life is art and theatre at the same time. Everyone is a piece of art, supposedly and consequently artist thus expressing it in diverse forms."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja
- 2018: Women Move On, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos
- 2018: Red Alert, Kulture Kode Art Gallery, Abuja
- 2016: Art Denovo, Le Meridien Hotels Port Harcourt, Rivers State
- 2016: NLNG in Pencil Bonny Island, Rivers State
- 2016: Onobrakpeya and the Harmattan Workshop, Lagos



NAOMI OYENIYA

Morning After Dark, oil on canvas, 61cm x 92cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Naomi Oluwatimilehin Oyeniya obtained Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts, Faculty of Environmental Design and Management, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. She uses impasto and pastel and participated in several art workshops and exhibitions in Nigeria. Naomi created the mural 2D Guinness Harp Logo for Guinness at Ojodu-Berger Bridge, which was commissioned by Governor Akinwunmi Ambode. She has worked with Teach for Nigeria teaching underprivileged children in deprived areas across the country. Naomi's dream is to establish a platform for young artists.

Artist Statement

"As a child, I was always drawn to colourful things. Today, art has made my life have meaning because I'm pursuing where my dream lies. Art resonates from within me and has its way of transforming itself. I look around me and create on my canvas as it speaks to me. This could be sociocultural, political or religious in nature. As an artist, one must always have content and be consistent to make a mark. I'm making mine."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos

2018: Press For Progress, Women Move On, Nike Art Gallery, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos

2017: Be Bold for Change Women Arise, Nike Art Gallery, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos

2017: Eko Art Expo Lagos for All, Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos.



**NELLY OJONG
IDAGBA**



Fierce, pencil on paper, 31cm x 25.5cm, 2019

ARTIST PROFILE

Nelly Ojong Idagba is a self-taught artist and a lawyer by profession. She has a passion for drawing and painting and decided to experiment with art. She paints with acrylic on canvas and draws with pencils. She paints abstracts, portraits and landscapes and is inspired by the beauty of Africa and its culture. Nelly has been commissioned several portraits and has sold her work locally and internationally.

Artist Statement

"I do basically pencils art as well as acrylics on canvas. A lot of my works are a reaction of Africa and its culture. I do mostly abstracts and a few landscapes."



**My Strength Lies In Hard Work, acrylic on canvas,
91cm x 94cm, 2019**



NGOZI AKANDE

Artist Profile

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

She is a graduate of Fine Arts, 1986, and holds a Master of Arts degree in Art History, 2009, from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. Ngozi has been creating art since 1986, and was among the second set of artists who participated in **Unity Through Arts** by Guinness Nigeria in 1991. One of her paintings, **Life First Food**, which featured in the exhibition, was used by WHO as a campaign photo for exclusive breast feeding in Nigerian hospitals from 1992 to 2002. She presented the Art Workshop for Children in July 2015 at the World Children Festival at the Eclipse in Washington, USA. She also represented Nigeria in July 2016 at the UNESCO Andorra Art Camp For Peace and came top in Africa. In 2016, she received an award from Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) as a Rare Gem. In December 2017, she received an award from Lagos State Governor as an Ambassador for sustainability and promotion of art in Nigeria. She was the pioneer secretary of FEAN from 2001 to 2011, President FEAN from 2011 to 2018. She developed relationships with international communities that resulted in the association not depending on government for sponsorship.

Artist Statement

"I use my art as an advocacy for women right and empowerment. I have experimented on several techniques and found them interesting. I do not limit myself to a particular style because I believe art is versatile, thereby giving one the opportunity to explore."

Last Exhibitions Attended

2001-2019: Female Artists Exhibitions, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Lagos
2018: Independence Exhibition Nigeria Consulate, South Africa
2018: UN Women Exhibition, Abuja
2017: Gallery of Small Things, Federal Palace Hotel, Lagos
2017: Abuja Unlocked, Discovering Art Spaces, Cafe De Vie, Abuja
2016: UNESCO Colour For Peace Artcamp, Andorra



OGOCHUKWU EJIOFOR

Love Conversation, acrylic on canvas, 46cm x 92cm, 2018

Artist Profile

Ogochukwu Ejiofor holds a Bachelor and a Master of Arts degrees in Painting from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and University of Benin, respectively. She uses patterns in her works with different materials found in her surroundings.

Ejiofor is a member of Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) Lagos Chapter, and FEAAN. She is a studio manager for Sam Ovrati Services, a painter, a poet, a column writer for children comics and short stories, craft and installation artist. She has participated in several group exhibitions in Nigeria and lives in Lagos.

Artist Statement

"We are all presently, residents of a world that is at a brink of imminent collapse and this even more so due to several factors... One Major issue being that of negligence on the part of the government and carelessness on the part of the governed. Except some very decisive action is taken to stem these negative tides, the situation will continue to deteriorate. My works, most especially, this installation is geared towards sensitizing those that care to listen on the need to of course, to succeed, these "rotteness" should be attacked right from the very foundation and not on the surface."

Last Exhibitions Attended

ARTmosphere, Limcaf, Creos, Colours of Life and Rejuvenation

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos & China Cultural Centre, Abuja



OLUCHI ZOM

**From the Depths She Emerges, acrylic on canvas,
61cm x 51cm, 2018**

Artist Profile

Oluchi Zom was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and has lived between the UK and Nigeria. She earned her Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Multimedia Design and Technology from Brunel University, London, United Kingdom.

Her work is a reflection of human emotion, focusing on issues surrounding personal identity within the context of the female gaze. Her depictions of women represent female strength. She works with acrylics, oils, mixed media, and upcycled objects. She creates colourful and uniquely textured pieces, achieved through arduous methods. Her process and techniques are constantly evolving as she explores new materials, which sets her on a journey of discovery and realisation.

Oluchi has participated in several national and international exhibitions, where her works are held in various private collections.

Last Exhibitions Attended

2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos



**Her Passion, acrylic on canvas
61cm x 92cm, 2019**



ONYEBE ELLA

Artist Profile

Onyebe Ella is a brilliant, talented and very highly creative artist, based in Abuja. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Arts from the University of Maiduguri, Borno State. She is the CEO of Onyx Art Interior Design.

Her areas of expertise include mixed media, painting on canvas, ceramics, wall murals for homes, schools and children's bedrooms and faux paintings. Onyebe's art pieces reveal her deep love for art and the depth of her creativity. Her paintings transmit the idea of strength, beauty and love with strong vibrant colours.

Artist Statement

"You are bound to change your views about the common things around you after an encounter with this unique artist."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: ICAF Malta, Radisson Blu Hotel, Saint Julian's, Malta
- 2018: ICAF Lagos Show, Radisson Blu Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos
- 2018: ICAF Art Show, Eko Hotel, Lagos
- 2018: Creo, Family Worship Centre, Wuye, Abuja
- 2018: FEAAN Art Exhibition, Nigeria @58
- 2018: Consulate of Nigeria, Johannesburg, South Africa



ONYINYE AFAM

**SYMPHONY, strings, nails, thread and plywood,
64cm x 71cm, 2017**

Artist Profile

Onyinye Afam holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts from the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu State and a Post Graduate Diploma in Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. She is an emerging artist who has shown her mastery of different forms of art from photography, serigraphy on tiled perspex. She has won the prize for Originality in 2014 LIMCAF Art competition for her exploration with light and sound and also won the Overall Winner prize in 2016 Life in My City Art Festival (LIMCAF) competition. Her new work is an exploration with threads and nails that express patience and precision. Her use of colours is an interplay of different strokes of thread, which leaves her audience in an exquisite expectation for more. She has participated in several national and international exhibitions, workshops and competitions.

Artist Statement

"My style of work is dynamic, focusing on giving voice to those who are often unheard. My work begins with conceptualization. Looking at the happenings around, issues that are in the news, societal challenges and much more. I identify striking issues with which I form my images/ideas that are always laden with meanings, which I proceed to represent these images using string method. The interplay of different colourful strokes of thread on nails has been used to reveal the fading culture and political issues as well. Art remains the only way through which I share my thoughts and ideas. My works are always laden with emotions and aesthetics."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite Nike Gallery, Lagos
- 2018: October Rain, Society of Nigerian Artists(SNA), Lagos
- 2018: Press for Progress, FEAAN
- 2018: Dakar Biennial Off" Senegal, organized by PACA International



UCHE UGURU

**Chimamanda in Collage, collage,
80cm x 100cm, 2018**

Artist Profile

Uche Uguru is a graduate of Ahmadu Bello University Nigerian where she studied painting. She is painter, dancer, humanitarian and singer. She has participated in exhibitions in Nigeria.

Artist Statement

"One cannot give what he doesn't have. All that a person knows, is what he has experienced. Try as best as one can as to not be deceived."

Last Exhibitions Attended

- 2019: Balance for Better: Women Unite, China Cultural Centre, Abuja
- 2018: Queen's Recent Collage Pieces, Uche Uguru, Jabi, Abuja
- 2018: Art in the Dark Exhibition on Mental Health, Jahi, Abuja
- 2018: Unveiling of Dream Home Gallery Gwarimpa, Abuja

THE CONTRIBUTION OF FEMALE ARTISTS TO ART DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Ngozi Akande

This year and in subsequent years, FEAAAN would like to highlight the role that women have had in the development of art in Nigeria. These women would be featured as a part of the FEAAAN exhibition brochures. In this write up, we will introduce the genesis of women and Nigerian arts and then highlight the first two female academically trained visual artists in Nigeria.

Introduction

Nigeria has produced many women who have contributed significantly to the development of both traditional and contemporary art in Nigeria. In pre-colonial Nigeria, women practiced arts and crafts despite being subsisted to the roles of bearing children and caring for their families. They are the bedrock of Nigerian crafts especially in areas of: Cloth weaving, body art, wall paintings, gourd designs, basket weaving, cloth dyeing, pottery and so on. At the time, these crafts were not regarded as “art,” however unique and intricated designs emanated from their works. Today, the designs and works of these women are celebrated and recognized globally as the aesthetic representation of Nigerian art.

The most popular and recognized art forms are mainly, pottery and textiles which was an exclusively female endeavour among ethnic groups like the Igbo, Gbagi, Nupe and Yoruba people. The likes of Azume, from Plateau state, Abatan Adefunke, from Egbado Yoruba, Felicia Adepelu and Ladi Kwali were exceptionally good potters. Among the aforementioned ladies, Ladi Kwali stands out, because of her ingenuity as a potter, she is now regarded with worldwide renown.

Adire making is another art form that brought recognition to Nigerian women. Adire are made by resist-dyeing which involves creating a pattern by treating certain parts of the fabric in some way to prevent them absorbing dye. Most of the women involved in adire were not recorded as they did not obtain formal education and never signed their works. Madam Samuroh's works were noticed by a European researcher Jane Barbour. Her adire was collected and kept in museums in England. Chief Nike Okundaye, a self-trained artist has also brought great honour to women in Nigeria through her adire designs mainly in Indigo. She has travelled worldwide to give lectures in Adire making and design.

CLARA UGBODAGA & AFFIONG EKONG

The pioneer academically trained female artists are Clara Etso Ugbodaga Ngu (1921- 1996) and Affiong Constance Ekong (1930-2009). They practiced alongside the likes of Ben Enwonwu who pursued their art training abroad before the establishment of art training institutions in Nigeria. Their works are reproduced in treatises on Nigerian art which are represented in public collections in America, Europe and Nigeria. Clara was the first Nigerian female artist to hold a solo art exhibition in London. From 1975, she served as state adviser for the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC). An art educator and a trained sculptor, her best work was a terracotta portrait bust of her Mother titled “ONA.” The bust reflects the character of a strong, capable and resourceful woman with a sense of humour.



Clara With Her Self Portrait



Ona, patinated terracotta, 35cm,
Collection of Nat. Gallery Of Art, Lagos

Clara taught in several institutions like Universities of Ibadan, Ife and Benin. She was the first art lecturer in the premier Art Department in Nigeria in 1955 – 64, the then Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria now Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. She taught the students who would then become the inaugural class of Nigerian trained artists. Artists like Bruce Onobrakpeya, Uche Okeke, Solomon Wamgboje, Adamu Baike to mention but few who then went on to establish the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA). Clara and Afi were among the artists who exhibited during the Nigerian Independence Exhibition in 1960. Clara was the only woman that participated in the Contemporary Nigerian Art exhibition of the SNA at the Commonwealth Institute of Art Gallery, London in 1968.



Clara Ngu, Beggars, oil on board, 1963



Clara Ngu, Ona, patinated terracotta, 35cm, Collection of Nat. Gallery Of Art

She had several solo exhibitions both in Nigeria and abroad. She excelled as a painter and a sculptor. In one of her paintings, Market Women, Oil on Canvas, executed in 1963; she showed two women standing in front of a stall, with excellent rendering of colours, where blue and white hues were dominant. Clara's major achievement is her contribution to training the first-generation of art students who then became the foundation of the art sector in Nigeria. She notes that, "majority of the young men who were my students are Nigeria's main source of man power in institutions of higher learning, museums, industries and private sector." This statement is true as most of her students were the first crop of art professionals in Nigeria.

Affiong Constance Ekong, popularly called Afi Ekong was a vibrant artist in the late 1950s, 1960s and 1980s. Born in 1930, she attended the Oxford Technical School, England, and St. Martins School of Fine Arts, London from 1955 – 1957. She also spent one year at the Central School of Arts, Holborn London, to study "History of Costumes." Afi was not only gifted in arts, she is endowed with influence and natural beauty. She also possessed exceptional organizational skills and was involved in championing several professional organizations. Afi Ekong first appeared on the Nigerian art scene in 1958 during the Festival of Arts exhibition, followed by her solo exhibitions in 1958, 1960, and 1962 in Lagos and 1961 in Buenos Aires Argentina. She also participated in the Independence Exhibition of 1960 alongside Ben Enwonwu, S. Obiekezie Okeke, Okechukwu Odita others were Uche Okeke, Bruce Onabrakpeya, Demas Nwoko (who decorated the art and craft pavilion with murals). She also participated in the inaugural exhibition of the Society of Nigerian Artist in 1964. She furnished the Premier's lodge in Enugu in 1953.

Due to her devotion to art, she was appointed Secretary and Art Manager of the then Nigerian Arts Council from 1961 – 1967, now (National Council for Arts and Culture). She established Art Galleries, States and Regional Art Councils, she organized the Northern Nigerian Art Council in 1962 and handed over to late Alhaji Sani Kontagora in Kaduna. That same year, the Mid-Western Nigerian Art Council was established and handed over to late Chief and Mrs. Osuala in Benin. Through her advice and encouragement, many more

private arts galleries have been established. She was an art consultant and promoter, and through her effort several Nigerian artists exhibited in Nigeria and abroad exposing them to the international market. For instance, as a presenter of a cultural programme on NTA Channel 10 'The Heritage' in 1962 she brought to the public view, works of artists like Erahbor Emokpae, Yusuf Grillo, Solomon Wangboje, Uche Okeke, Felix Idubor, Ben Aye, Chief Idah and others.

She was also the chairperson of National Council of Women's Societies standing committee on arts and craft in 1964, and she organized the first Council of Women in Art exhibition that same year which all foreign embassies participated and was opened by late Lady Flora Azikiwe at J.K. Kandel Hall Lagos. Afi was also vice chairman the international council of women worldwide, on arts, letters, and music standing committee, 1986–1991.

Afi used her medium (painting) well and succeeded in projecting the Nigerian culture effectively. Her subject matters are educative, likewise her use of colours. Afi did not produce 'art-for art-sake', instead she was interested in the content of her theme. Most of her artworks are philosophical. Some of these are *Orisha Ogun*, *Iya Ibeji And Ibeji*, Afi's style consists covering the picture plane with figures, and she applied her colours freely without paying much attention to details in most of her paintings, and was consistent with the style..



Afi Ekong, A House in Kano City, oil on canvas, 1962



Afi Ekong, Orisha Ogun, oil on canvas 116cm x 60cm, 1963



Afi Ekong, Iya Ibeji Ati Ibeji, oil on canvas, 122cm x 61cm, 1963

As Maya, in Oyelola 2003, says:

“Their art, like all art means to delight the eye, console the troubled mind, appease the highest authority, and educate children in the way of the world. The aim also, whether or not articulated, is to influence and sustain the family in an appreciation for life and the expectation of beauty.”

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