

On the Fringe

GROUP EXHIBITION

AG18
GALLERY



AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION & AG18 GALLERY

On the Fringe

G R O U P E X H I B I T I O N

Boris Anje | Kingsley Ayogu
Wasiu Eshinlokun | Talut Kareem | Chinaza Nkemka
Johnson Ocheja | Emma Odumade | Michelle Okpare
David Olatoye | Damilola Opedun

Curated by **Princess Ayoola**
Curatorial Advisory by **Azu Nwagbogu**

Vienna, Austria
AG18 GALLERY
18th April - 3rd June

GROUP EXHIBITION

On the Fringe

The existential weight of freedom is not limited to the sacred and the political. The urge for freedom also finds expression in our everyday lives, especially when we compare the practicality of ordinary moments with the lofty yet hollow demands of public life. In response, the artists in this exhibition refuse to be constrained by the expectations of mainstream norms. Instead, they put the inner world on display in opposition to predominant public rhetoric. Their art magnifies our ordinary lives, particularly the world behind closed doors and the world within. Indeed, these works show us how the private space can lay the foundation for resistance to the overwhelming narratives society enforces.

In *On the Fringe*, the human mind, once a zone of privacy and exclusion, with its cryptic musings and inclinations, comes out of incognito and we are all invited with convivial Yoruba greetings of *ẹ kaabo*, to examine and confront the diversity and interactions of culture, choice, and identity—as we find them conspicuously displayed in the works of the feature artists and in the empirical world.

Rich in symbolism, idealisation and history, these works stand unbending in a landscape dominated by concepts of political correctness. They shake off the imposed notions of their institutional origins while picking up the threads of a shared imperial history. Furthermore, as the public space represents the meeting point of our multidimensional selves, the audience will discover what drives these artists to create and live through the canvas—a dedication to life.

Johnson Ocheja's portraits provide us with immediate examples of an alternative vision of identity. On the other hand, Chinaza Nkemka's synthetic-like images require longer contemplation to be captivated by them. Talut Kareem's polka-dotted diptych gives off a sense of fashion, resistance and self determination that comes with the sweet relief of

inhabiting one's space. Wasiu Eshinlokun's surrealist art, as in "Unearth" asks the viewer to break free from the status quo. Michelle Okpare's self portraits show the anxieties that follow us from the public space into our personal spaces. In one of her pieces—"Should we all have the same shape?"—she holds out the excess fabric of her trousers, contemplating her reflection in the mirror. In this way, Chinaza Nkemka's series, "Solitude", responds to Michelle's work through its depiction of bodies liberated in the privacy of their own homes. Meanwhile, David Olatoye's "Seeking Knowledge" imagines people as blossoms and reading, the watering act that takes place behind the scenes.

Participating artists are Ayogu Kingsley, Boris Anje, Chinaza Nkemka, Damilola Opedun, David Olatoye, Emma Odumade, Johnson Ocheja, Michelle Okpare, Talut Kareem and Wasiu Eshinlokun.

On the Fringe offers an avenue for reassessing the significance of the world that doesn't always meet the eye, positioning it as the starting point of our existential musings.

Curated by Princess Ayoola

Curatorial Advisory by Azu Nwagbogu

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

BORIS ANJE

KINGSLEY AYOGU

WASIU ESHINLOKUN

TALUT KAREEM

CHINAZA NKEMKA

JOHNSON OCHEJA

EMMA ODUMADE

MICHELLE OKPARE

DAVID OLATOYE

DAMIOLA OPEDUN

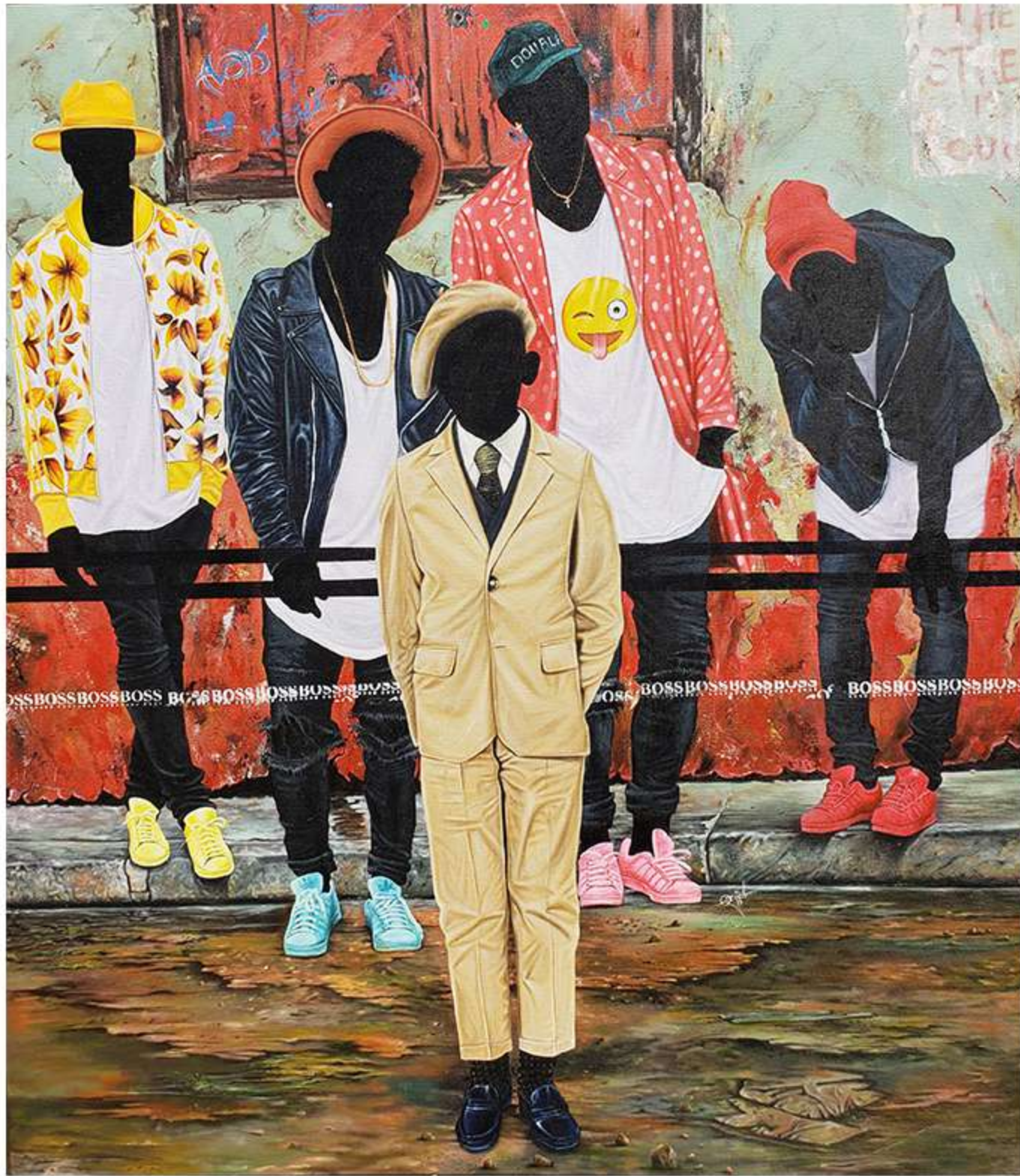


BORIS ANJE

Biography

Boris Anje (b. 1993) was born in Bamenda, Cameroon. He discovered art from his childhood. After his GCE AL in 2012, he passed the entrance examination into the Institute of Fine Arts Foumban (IFAF). In the course of his studies he attended the workshops of some local artists and the contemporary art center Les Ateliers Sahm in Brazzaville where he meets the sapeurs. In 2015, he obtained a professional degree in drawing and painting, where he also had his master's degree in drawing and painting in 2018. Some of his works enter into major collections such as the Permanent World Bank Collection in Washington, D.C., and also into the collections of some collectors throughout the world. He lives and works in Douala.

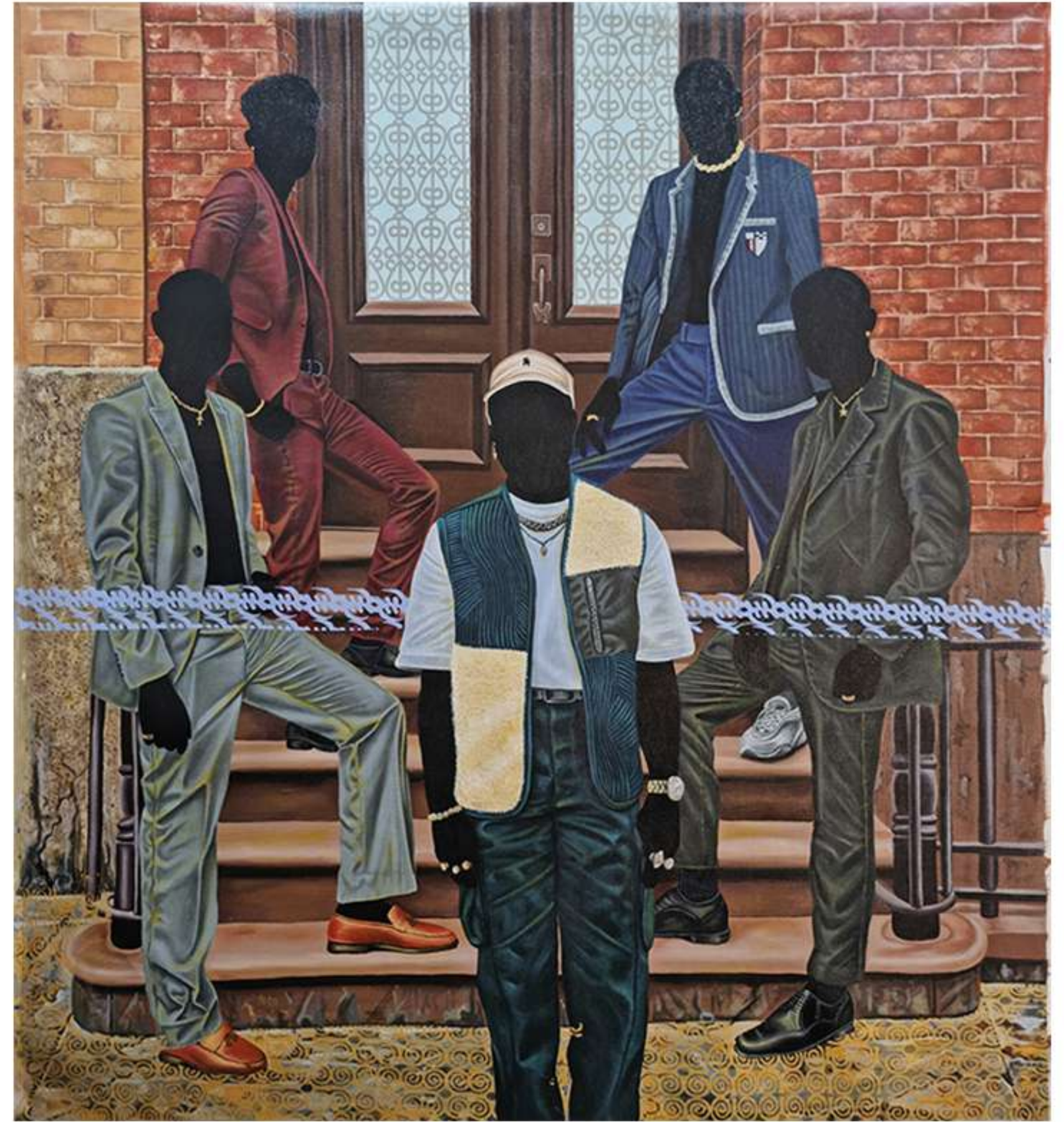




How to be different 1, 2019

Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas
160 cm x 140 cm

Sold



How to be different 2, 2022

Acrylic and silk screen print on canvas
160 cm x 140 cm

Sold



KINGSLEY AYOGU

Biography

Kingsley Ayogu (b. 1994) is a Nigerian artist known for his hyperrealist style. Born in Enugu, the eastern part of Nigeria, Ayogu developed interest in art from a very young age. This led him to study painting and graphics at Enugu State College of Education. Ayogu's work can be described as stunning, lens-like detail oriented, depicting situations with a wide spectrum of displayed emotions through tears, despair and affinity. The viewer of his pieces is compelled to feel connected to his paintings.



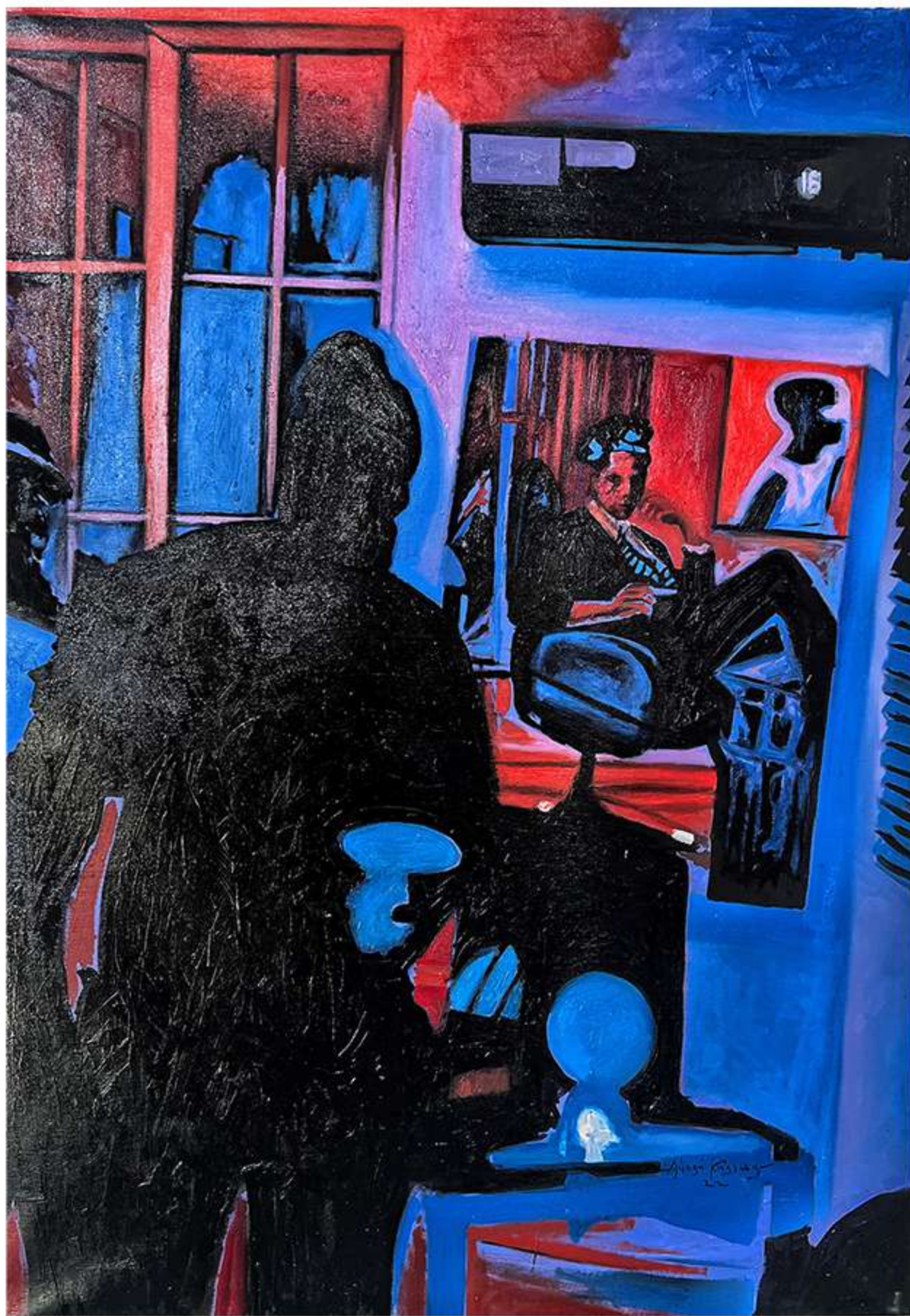


Washington (my Cup overflows), 2022

Oil on canvas

196 cm x 106 cm

€17,000.00

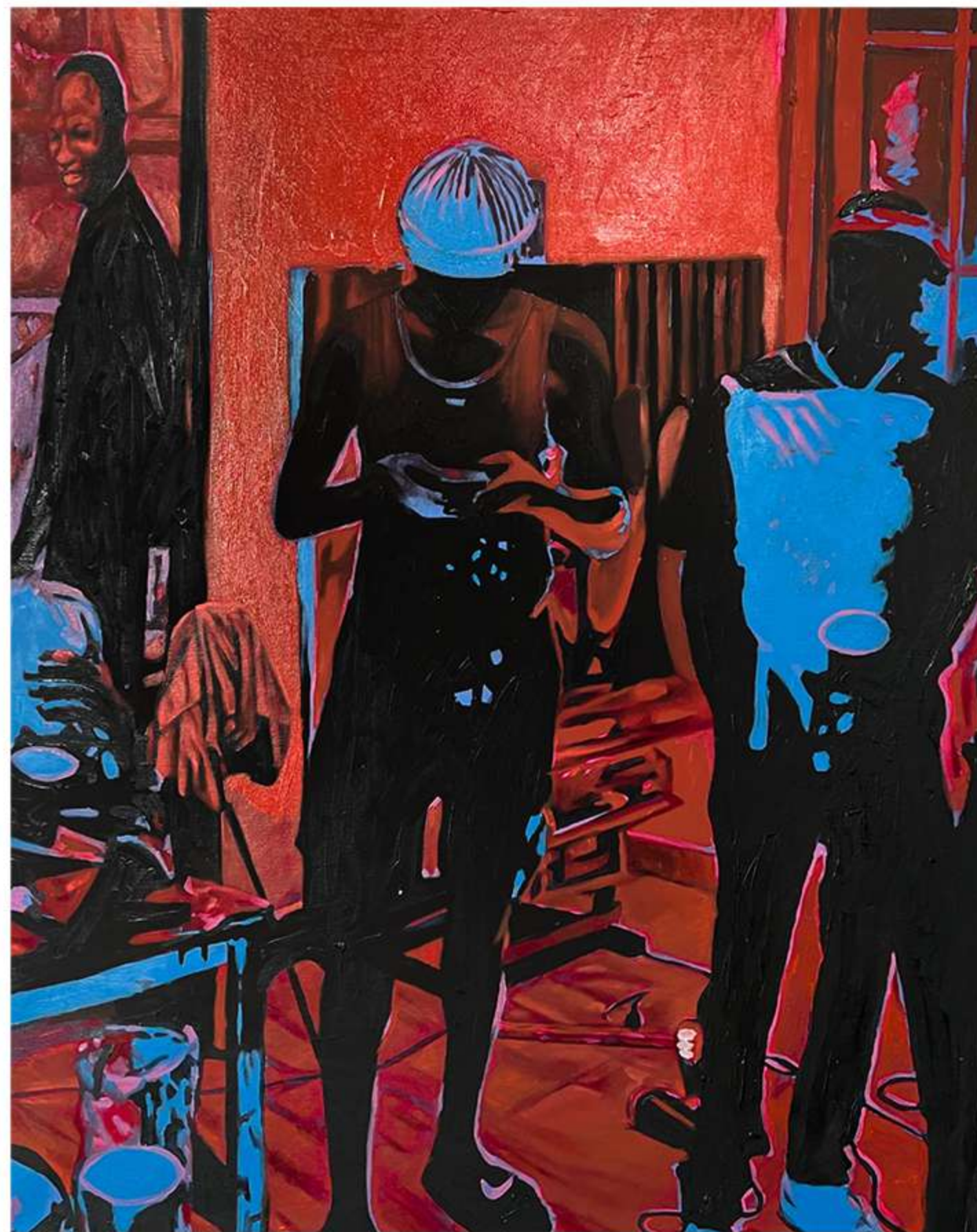


Where the bros was at I, 2022

Oil on canvas

100 cm x 70 cm

€ 8,500.00



Where the bros was at II, 2022

Oil on canvas

102 cm x 76 cm

€ 8,500.00



WASIU ESHINLOKUN

Biography

Eshinlokun Wasiu (b. 1998) is a Surrealist artist. His work explores the way societal pressures force us to present inauthentic selves bound by fear, guilt, despondency, anxiety, or a need to please. The exaggerated positioning of his silhouetted figures, juxtaposed with bold braids of tape, creates an uncanny visual metaphor which represents this universal state of being. With his work he encourages us to access a free way of living, unbound by fear of being judged societally. His use of the shadow is a vehicle to depict collective humanity as, no matter where we come from, we all have a shadow. This concept of universal feeling drives much of his current practice.



Unearth, 20222
Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas
152 cm x 122 cm
€ 7,400.00



Woman in Gold, 2022

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

76 cm x 61 cm

€ 4,600.00



Light On Brother, 2023

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

75 cm x 61 cm

Sold



TALUT KAREEM

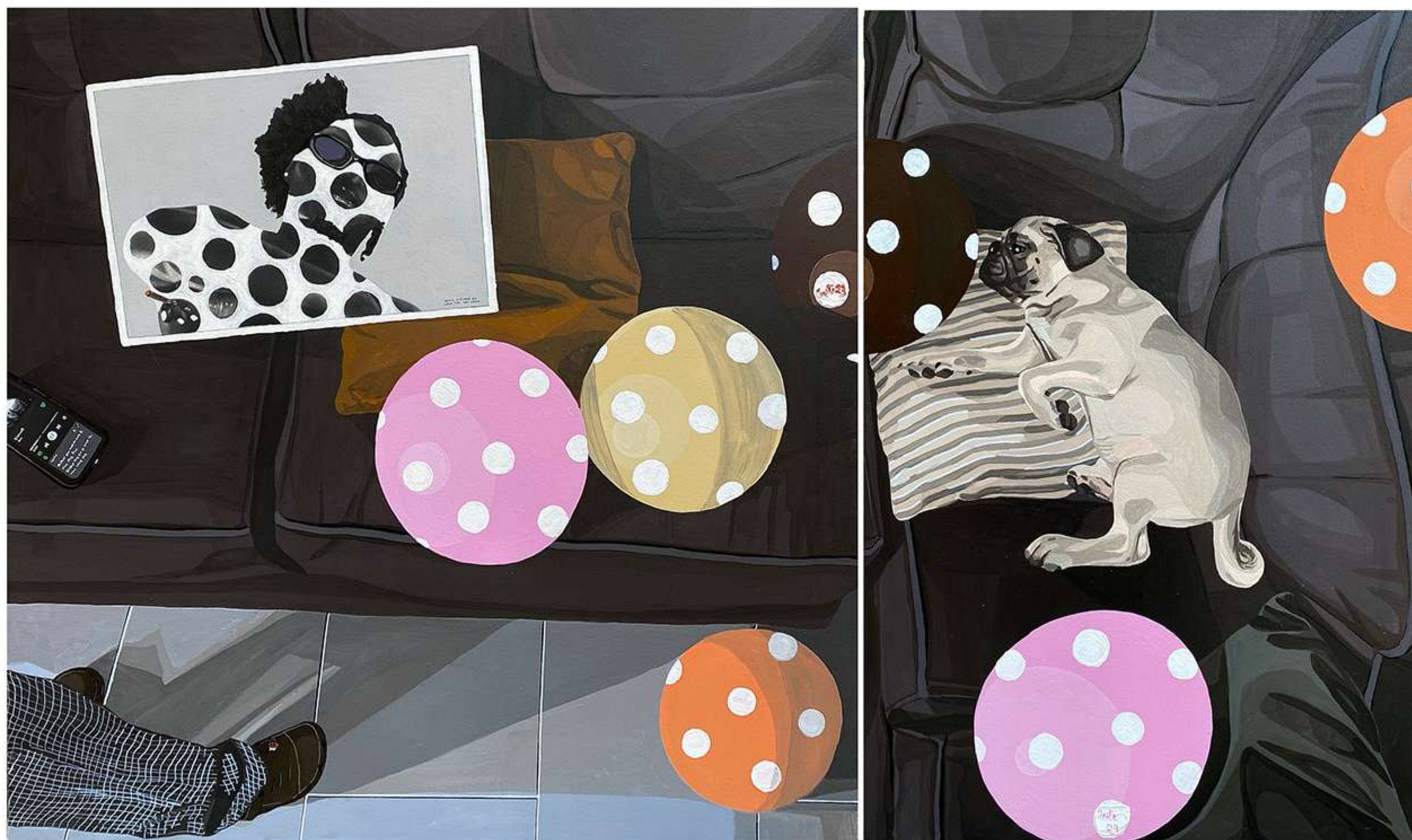
Biography

Talut Kareem (b. 1994) is a contemporary artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. He received his National Diploma in Mass Communication at Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, and subsequently pursued a B.A. in Visual Art from the University of Lagos. His practice is rooted in drawing and painting, with painting being his primary form of expression.

Kareem creates richly detailed portraits by combining realistically rendered charcoal figures overlaid with bright colors and abstract patterns. By juxtaposing the monochrome of the charcoal with the colorful spherical shapes in the picture plane, he has developed a unique visual language, allowing him the freedom to explore figure composition, and further develop his narrative.

His practice centers around the transitory nature of our awareness, depicting the individual's emotional and mental states—as well as larger patterns of social behavior—while attempting to capture his own state of mind.





Feel At Home(diptych), 2023
Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas
152 cm x 91 cm
€ 8,500.00

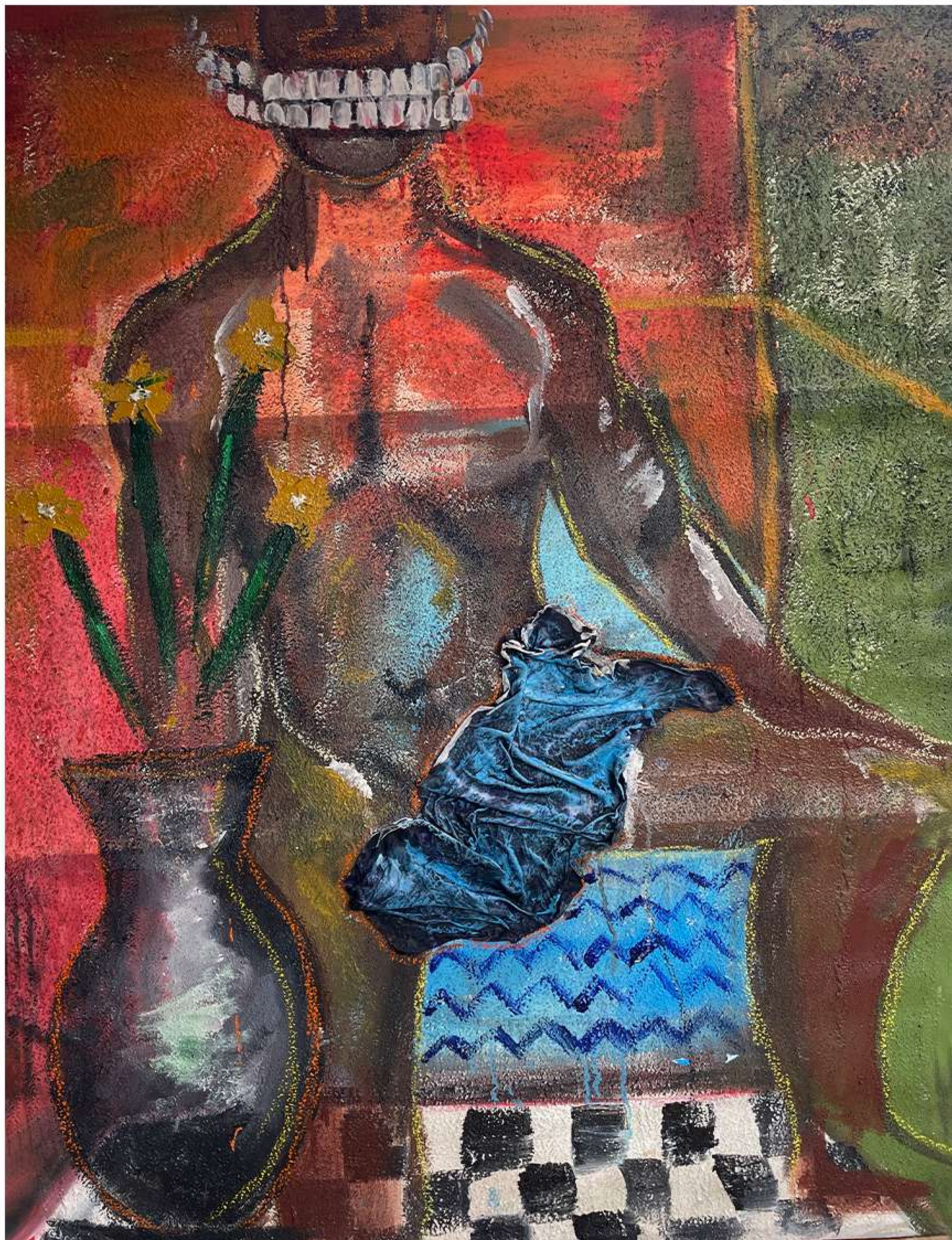


CHINAZA NKEMKA

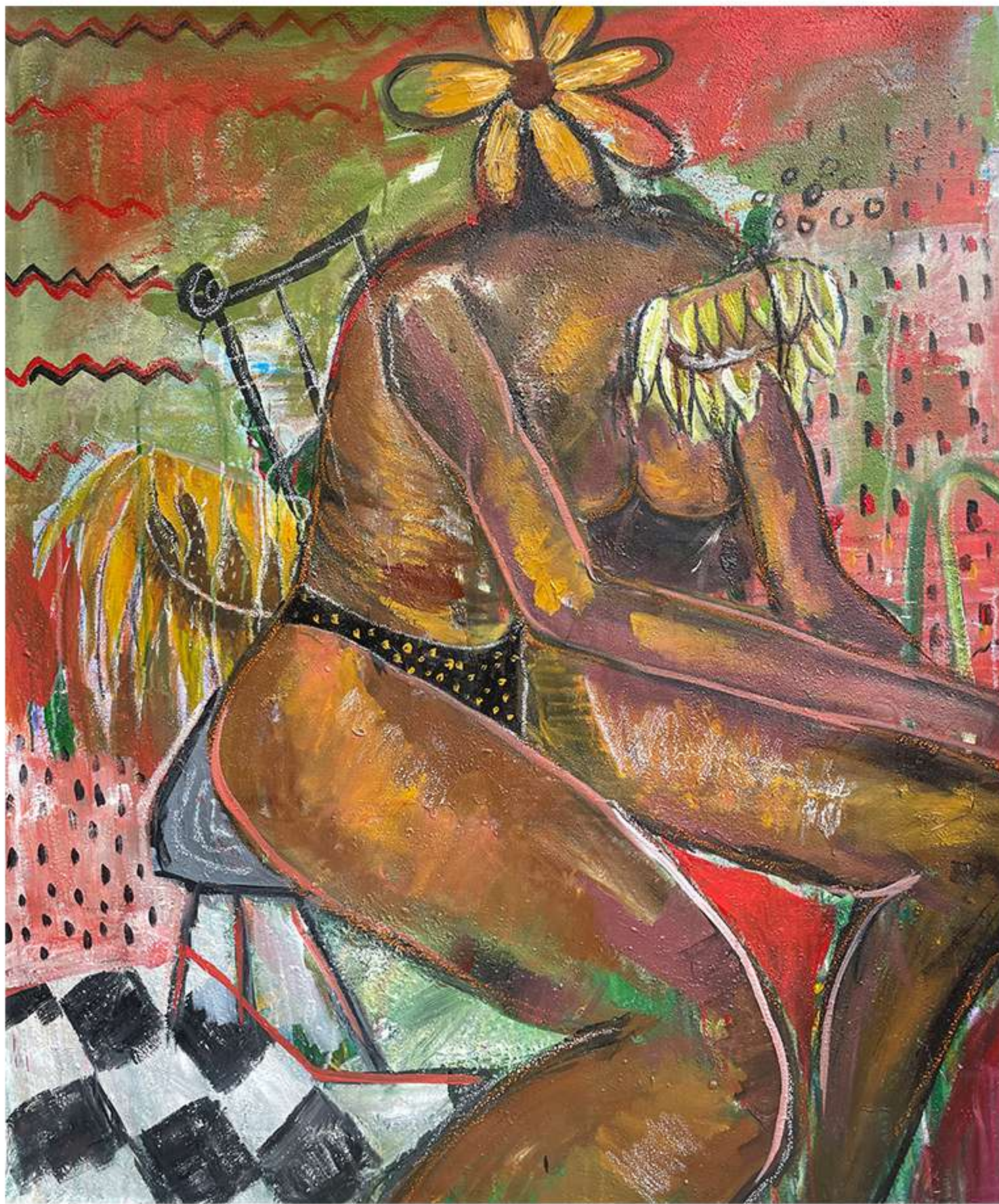
Biography

Chinaza Nkemka (b. 1999) is from Imo state and grew up in Lagos, Nigeria. She went to Imo State University where she studied education history. Nkemka is an artist that has been practising for 3years. Her works explore different mediums including painting that conveys a theme of self awareness, body positivity, the human conditions and so on, She currently lives and works in Abule Ado, Lagos with her parents.





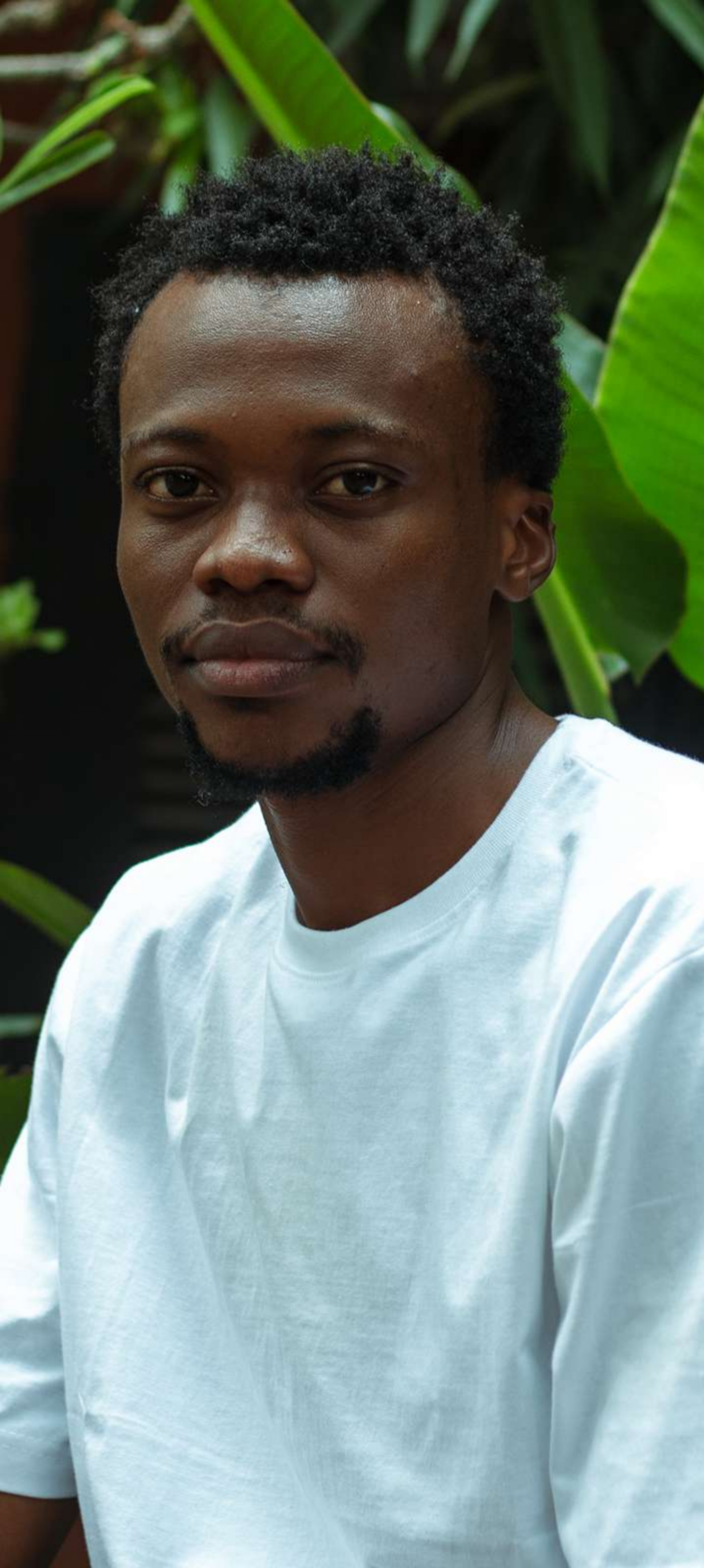
Solitude I, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
121 cm x 92 cm
€ 2,600.00



Solitude II, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
148 cm x 122 cm
€ 3,100.00



Solitude III, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
92 cm x 61 cm
€ 2,300.00



JOHNSON OCHEJA

Biography

Johnson Ocheja (b. 1993) is a Nigerian artist from Kogi, Nigeria. Johnson's portraits highlight black consciousness and black beauty. His paintings depict detailed scenes of black subjects with blue pigment and in impasto technique created with his fingers, thereby producing marks on the skin of his subjects inspired by scarification. The marks represent an African cultural practice which shows a person's rank in society, family, clan, and tribe, and symbolises their beauty or strength and the blue pigment on the skin of his subjects symbolises royalty. His works challenge the conventional standard of beauty and are inspired by his environment, the community and from other artists such as Gerald Lovell, Amoako Boafo, etc. He has lived in Kaduna, Nigeria and living in two different states has provided him with the knowledge of diversity in subjects including cultural beliefs, religion, ethnic identities, and racism. Thus, he uses his art to address these issues affecting his community. Johnson currently lives and works in Cross-River, Nigeria.





Portrait of Funmilayo Kutí, 2022

Acrylic and oil on canvas

153 cm x 132 cm

€ 14,700.00



Hepzibah, 2023
 Acrylic and oil on linen
 76 cm x 76 cm
 € 6,300.00



Beulah, 2023
 Acrylic and oil on linen
 76 cm x 76 cm
Sold



EMMA ODUMADE

Biography

Emma Odumade (b. 2000) is a Lagos-based artist known for his unique take on hyperrealism. His art explores themes of identity and social constructs. He is also an avid observer of society, deploying themes of daily existence in his works while reimagining what we consider mundane.

Although he employs multiple art mediums, Odumade always returns to the pencil as his primary tool and inspiration. He believes it is a weapon for activism and reconnecting with personal stories and experiences.

His art career began with a childhood interest in drawing comics and collaging, which still reflects in his current practice. He also feels deeply connected to children, and they feature heavily in his art as a representation of innocence and the beginning.





A New Beginning, 2023

Charcoal, acrylic, ink, black tea and old Photos on canvas

123 cm x 120 cm

€ 11,000.00

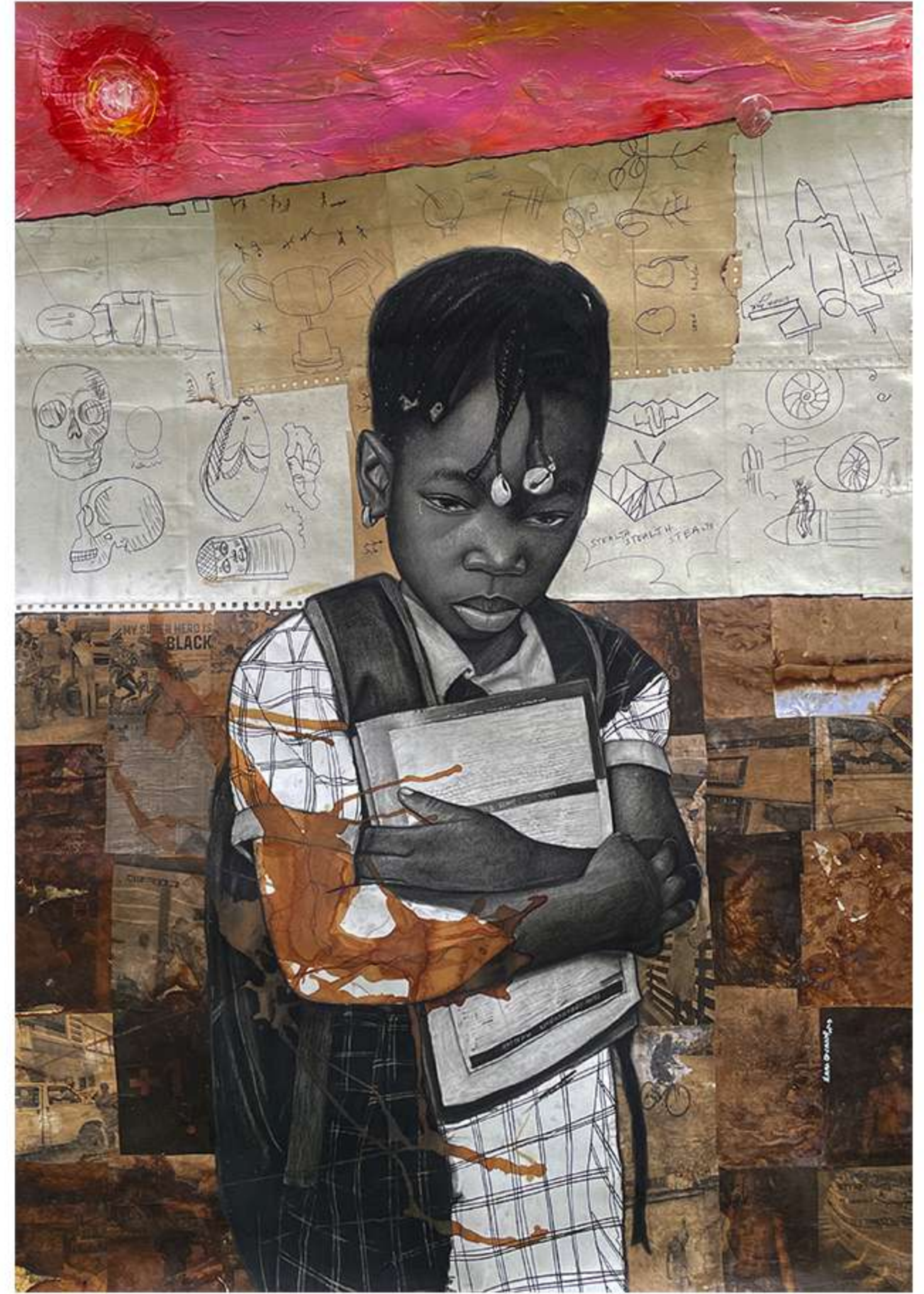


For A Rainbow, I'll Create A Dam, 2023

Charcoal, acrylic, ink, black tea and
old photos on canvas

151 cm x 121 cm

€ 13,000.00



Processing, 2022/2023

Charcoal, Graphite, black tea and
old photos on paper

151 cm x 107 cm

€ 13,000.00



MICHELLE OKPARE

Biography

Michelle Okpare (b.1996) is a Nigerian visual artist who specializes in painting and textile art. She was raised between Nigeria and the Ivory Coast and currently live and work in Lagos, Nigeria. She earned my Bachelor of Art degree from the Obafemi Awolowo University in 2019. Since graduating, have worked as a freelance visual artist. She has been included in various group exhibition including Real Life is Fragile at Think space Gallery in Los Angeles, Unusual Suspects at the African Artists' Foundation in Lagos and The Human Experience at The Project Space in Johannesburg. In early 2021, She completed an artist residency at the African Artist's Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria. Furthermore, she was recently documented by Google Arts and Culture and also awarded by the University of Florida Arts in Medicine Program in Nigeria. She have also been featured in various media publications like also featured on Sunday Times (South Africa) Art Africa Magazine and Airmail News to mention a few.



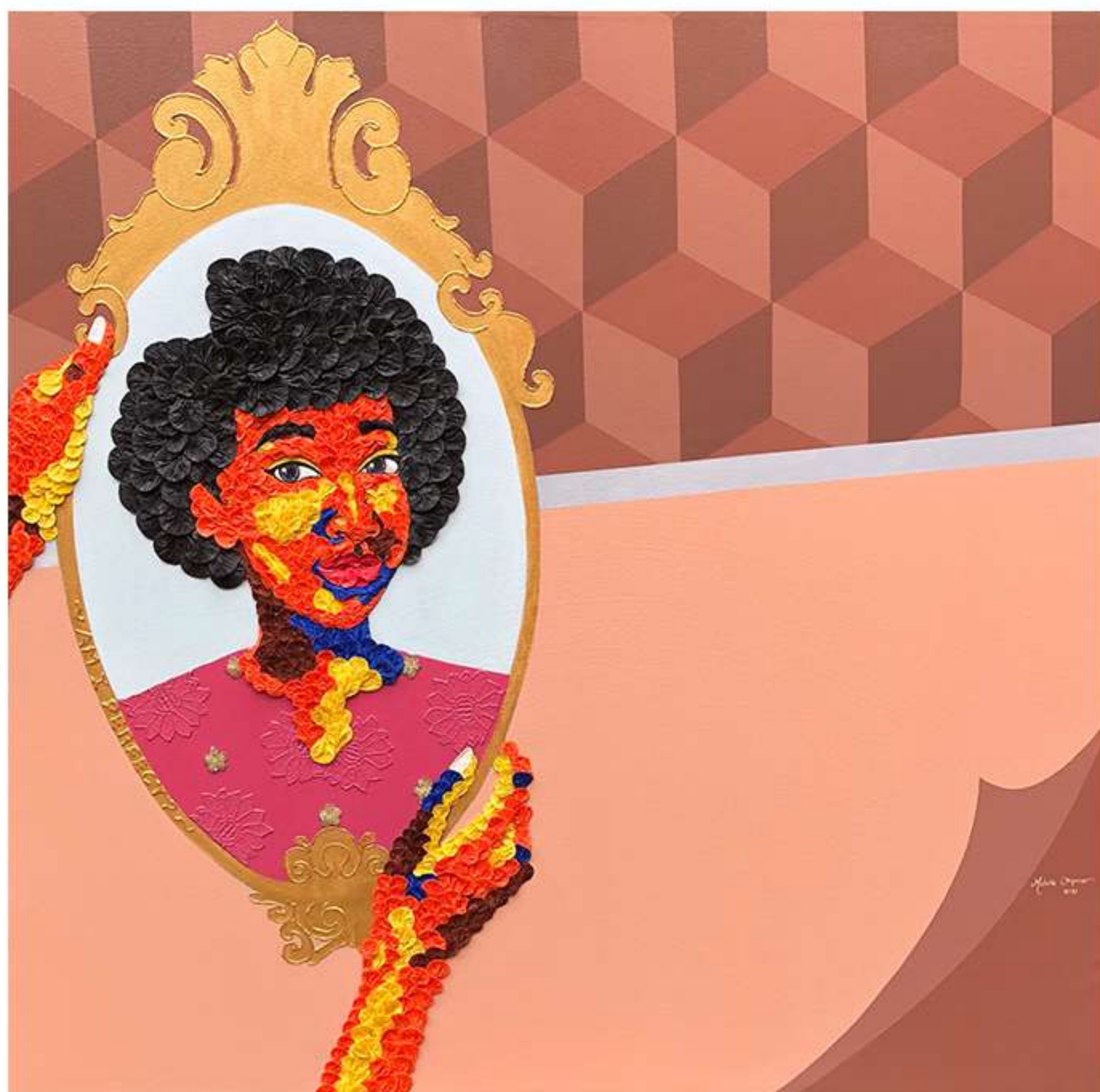


Should We All Have The Same Shape?, 2021

Crepe paper, acrylic & lace fabric on canvas

122 cm x 122 cm

€ 5,700.00

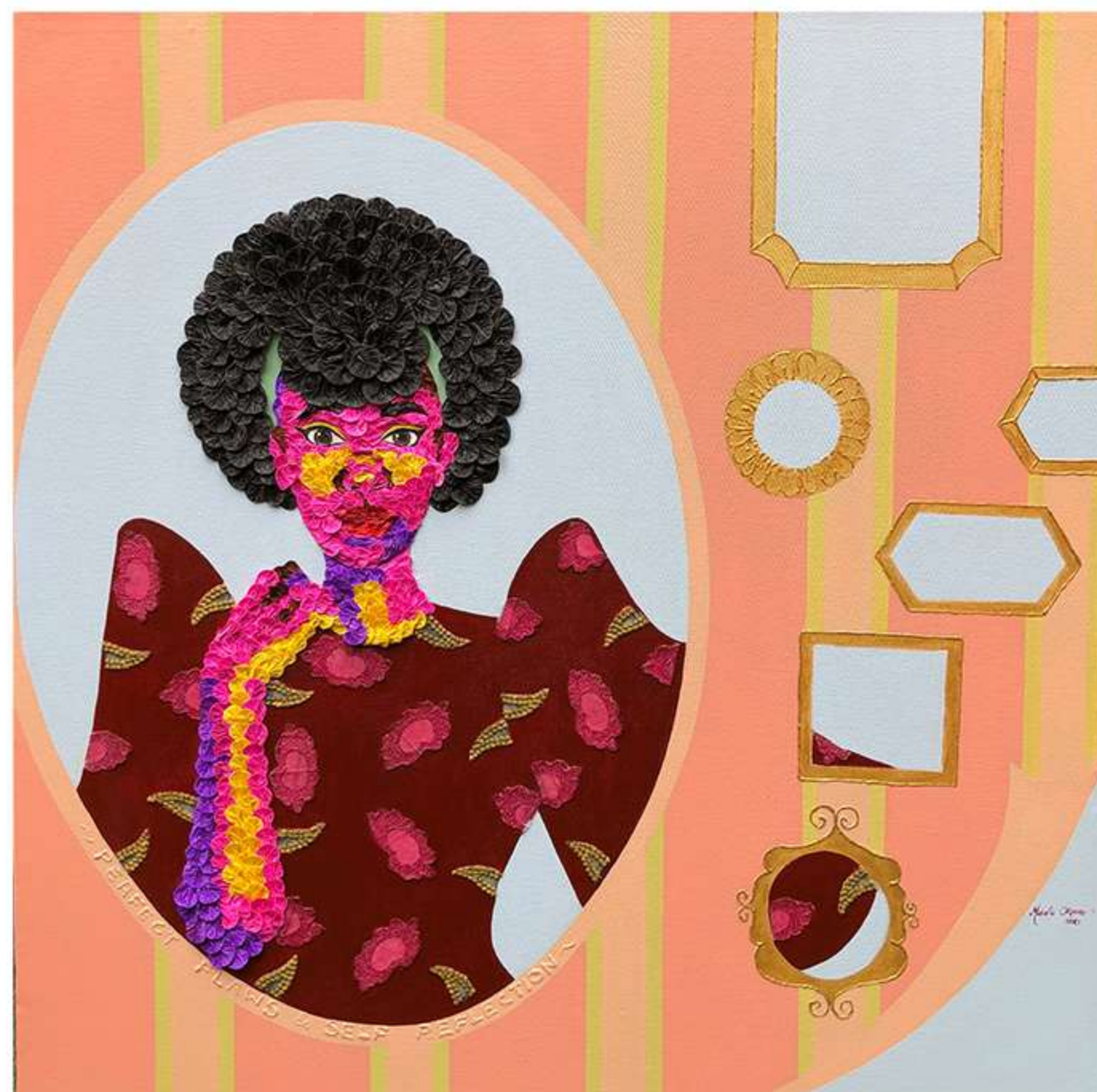


Am I Perfect, 2021

Crepe paper, acrylic & lace fabric on canvas

92 cm x 92 cm

€ 4,600.00



Perfect Flaws And Self Reflection, 2021

Crepe paper, acrylic & lace fabric on canvas

92 cm x 92 cm

€ 4,600.00

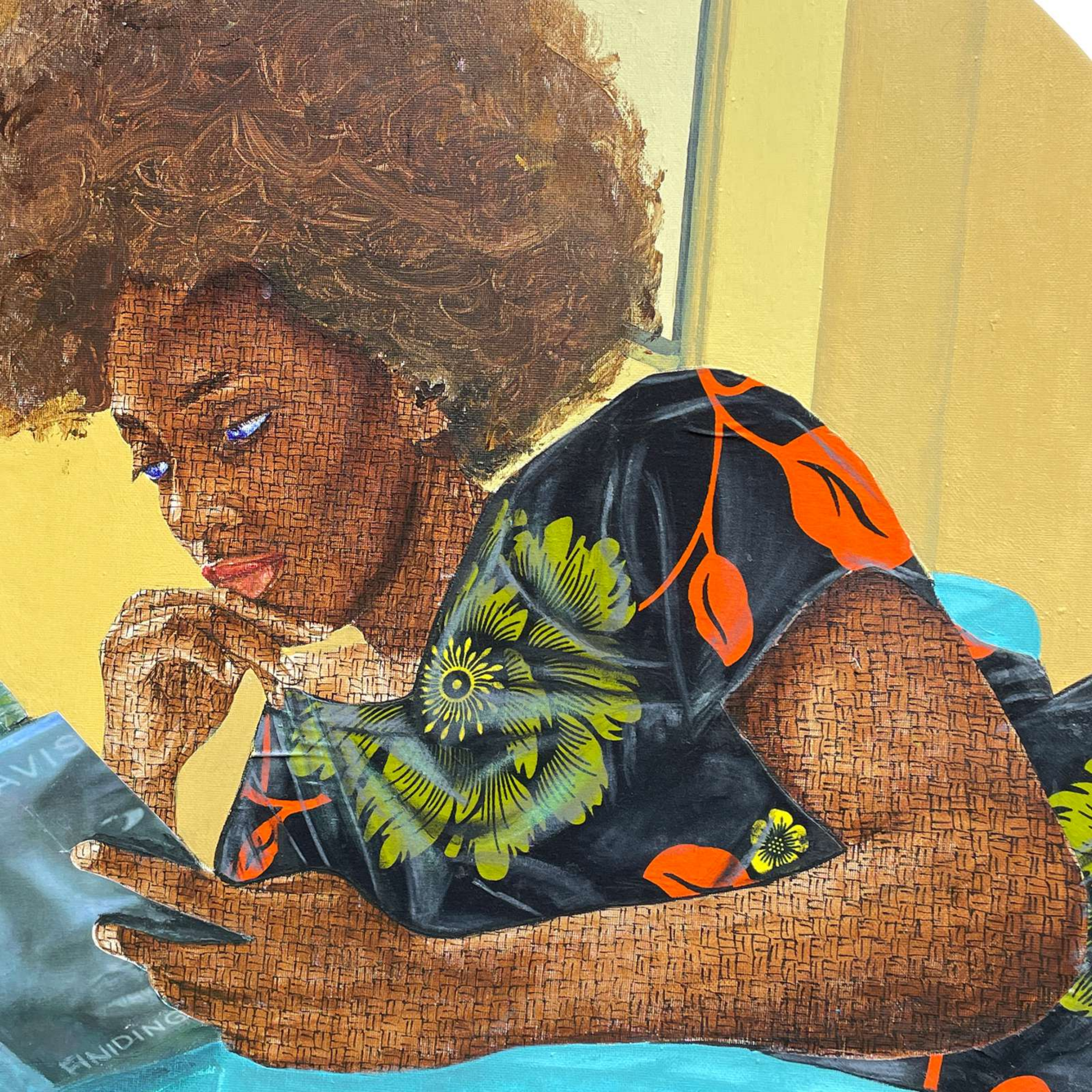


DAVID OLATOYE

Biography

David Olatoye (b. 1995) is a visual artist who takes inspiration from his close relationship with his mother, and his pride in family values. He is inspired by his mother's countless sacrifices to overcome the confines of life as a single mother. Olatoye uses his canvas to reimagine a home free of hardship. He employs acrylics to stage lush and muted tones of quiet, elegant domestic interiors centred around modestly resolute women. Olatoye received a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts from Obafemi Awolowo University and also received mentorship under the tutelage of Tope Fatunmibi.

His works have featured in the Contemporary African Art Vernissage at the 2018 Circle de Lorraine in Brussels, and he participated in the group exhibition "Young Contemporaries 2020" at Rele Art Gallery in Lagos State, amongst others.





Seeking Knowledge I, 2023

Pen, fabric and acrylic on canvas

65 cm

€ 5,100.00



Seeking Knowledge II, 2023

Pen, fabric and acrylic on canvas

65 cm

Sold



DAMILOLA OPEDUN

Biography

Damilola Moses Opedun, (b. 1983) is an artist who resides and creates in Lagos, Nigeria. His medium of choice is oil pigment on canvas, and his work blends contemporary and futuristic elements (such as modern-looking black figures and bold color combinations) with nods to times past (like Victorian fashion or centuries-old clothing). Through this fusion, Opedun aims to redefine true beauty and eliminate the racial divide. His work is a joyful retelling of our collective history, symbolically covering painful experiences with a fresh coat of paint and adding color to our painful past to make it more bearable to reminisce.





The Fruits of The Spirit, 2023

Oil on canvas
182 cm x 150cm

Sold



A Kingdom Outside The Box I, 2023

Mixed media on canvas

152 cm x 121 cm

€ 10,300.00



A Kingdom Outside The Box II, 2023

Mixed media on canvas

152 cm x 121 cm

€ 10,300.00

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