



# HUES OF HAPPINESS

GROUP EXHIBITION



Alliance Française de Lagos is fostering and enabling arts and culture by providing a platform for creatives to share their craft. Through a yearly Open Call, a selection is made in order to curate the programming of the organisation.

## **ARTISTS**

Jesudara A. Hinmikaiye  
Folusho Oguntoye  
Peace Igele  
Tomiwa Adelagun  
Aladejare Ayodeju Oba

## EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Alliance Française is pleased to present Hues of Happiness, a group exhibition featuring 25 works from 5 Nigerian artists. The exhibition challenges viewers to examine their current state of mind, delve into what brings them joy and ultimately question their personal definitions of happiness.

Art has the remarkable power to transcend boundaries and evoke emotions that are universal. Color, as a language of its own, has long been an integral component of artistic expression. From delicate to bold brushstrokes, the artists harness the emotive potential of color to communicate their innermost thoughts and feelings. The artists elucidate the captivating relationship between colour and happiness, exploring how various styles and techniques can be used to evoke senses of delight, optimism, and serenity.

“The Shapes All Around Us” by Jesudara A. Hinmikaiye’s depicts an explosion of colours with which she celebrates and re-interprets the definition of humanity with strong visuals and a hint of storytelling.

Folusho Oguntoye shares an imaginative exploration of symbols, patterns and colours merged with nature and Yoruba mythology and spirituality which serves as a reminder to remain centered within nature and remember to reconnect with ourselves.

Peace Igele presents “Tales of You” an amalgamation of digital art created with photography and illustration that showcases people, patterns, places and culture. Each scenario serves as a prompt that each of us have stories and we all add colour to the world.

Tomiwa Adelagun, who describes himself as a remastered visual griot, uses vibrant strokes to reflect the beauty behind people and share multiple stories of contemporary Africa. His works invite visitors to question subjects around the social, emotional, economic and political aspects of life.

Finally, Aladejare Ayodeju Oba uses “Spheres of Light” to convey the beauty of people’s existence. As thoughts, beliefs, emotions and stories are being carried in our heads, the artist suggests that we ensure its bright, luminous and beautiful in our individual spheres.

## CURATOR PROFILE

As an art curator, cultural event producer and project manager, Chic Chic Umah's passion and dedication to the many divisions of the art world has naturally led her through the orchestration and successful execution of various projects to support and provide platforms for an array of creatives presenting themselves and their works in the uniquely expressive cultural landscape.

With a Master's degree in International Relations, Umah's diverse personal and academic background has provided her with an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of various cultures, histories and social dynamics, and in her role as the Cultural Coordinator of Alliance Française de Lagos Umah's collaborations with various artists, institutions, and community organizations has brought artistic visions to life, and her work garnering a reputable acclaim for authenticity and the ability to captivate audiences, along with her professionalism in organizing and overseeing numerous cultural events, exhibitions, art installations, screenings and workshops that celebrate the richness of various traditions and art forms.

Umah is known for her collaborative approach in forging partnerships and building relationships that enhance the cultural ecosystem, and her desire to foster inclusivity and representation has championed the success of emerging artists, amplifying their voices and supporting their growth in the creative scene.

## **Jesudara A. Hinmikaiye** (b. 2002)

Jesudara A. Hinmikaiya is a visual artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. Her love for high contrast colours as well as abstract art fuels her art style. She takes inspiration from little elements in everyday life ranging from nature to concepts like femininity paired with influence from various Nigerian cultures and customs she has been exposed to. With a passion for storytelling, this has led her to explore the world of print design using both traditional & digital painting techniques, to express her art beyond set limits. She has worked with small- and large-scale establishments such as Vlisco&co, Silks of Sheba, Nyosi Brand, SAOR & Grapes Pattern Bank to mention a few.



Title: ***Storm & Sun***, (2021)  
Gouache & ink on paper  
11.7 cm x 16.5 cm





Title: ***Rain Show*** (2021)  
Gouache & ink on paper  
11.7 cm x 16.5 cm





Title: ***The Connection Between Two Lovers***, (2021)  
Oil on canvas  
24 cm x 32 cm



Title: ***So, You Like Flowers Too?*** (2022)  
Oil on canvas  
15 cm x 15 cm



Title: **Stage One** (2023)  
Mixed Media on canvas  
24 cm x 24 cm





Title: ***Dead Butterfly*** (2023)  
Acrylic on canvas  
11.6 cm x 11.6 cm



Title: ***Women Love To Have Fun*** (2023)  
Oil on canvas  
36 cm x 24 cm



Title: ***Drunken Celebration*** (2023)

Oil on canvas  
4 cm x 5 cm

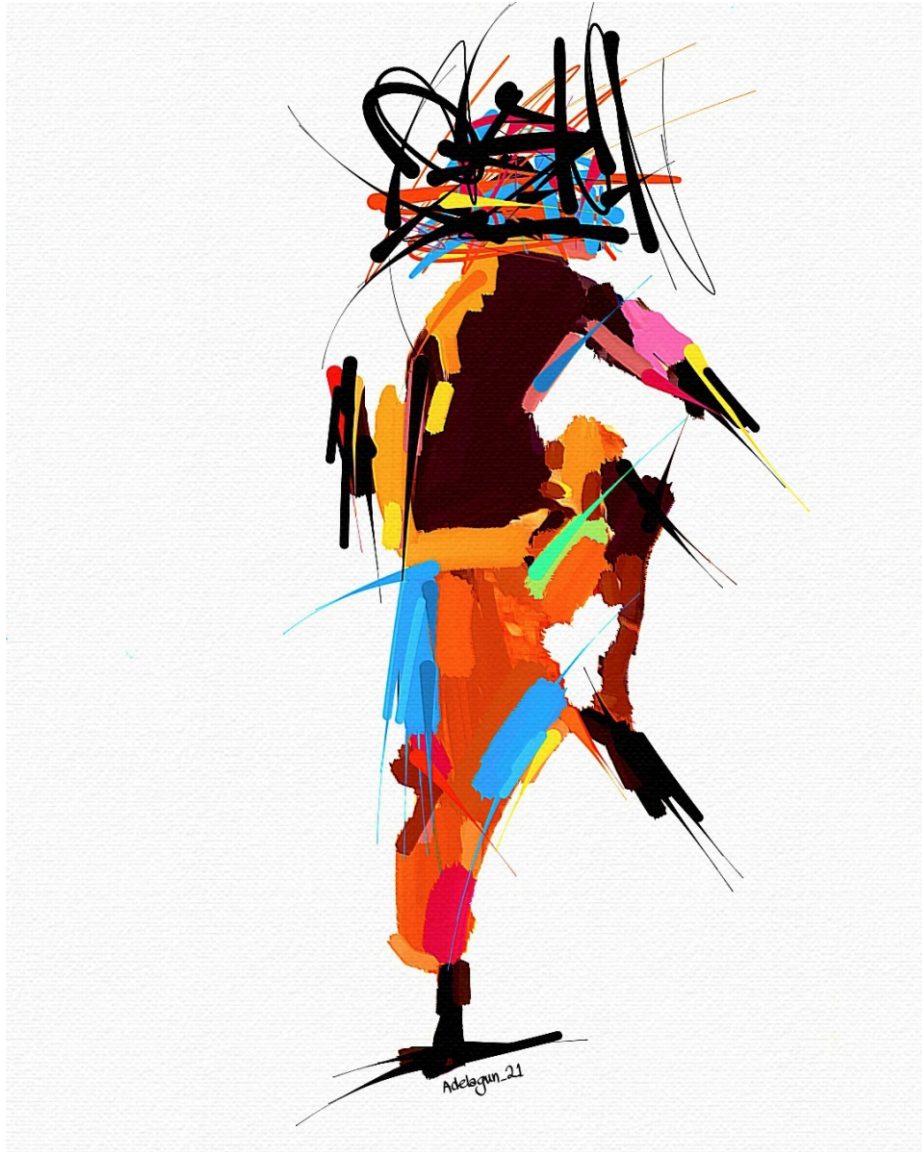


## **Tomiwa Adelagun** (b. 1980)

Tomiwa Adelagun (b.1980) is a self-taught, multi-disciplinary artist who creates paintings to express African culture and traditions. His paintings are characterized by abstract figuration and he describes his work as ink pigmentation. Tomiwa began his career in 2015 after gaining access to instructional materials from YouTube. Being an artist living between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, he uses his art as a figure of speech that explores contemporary topics around society, emotions and socio economic aspects of life.



Title: ***Kakaki*** (2021)  
Limited Ed. Print on Fine Art Paper  
70 cm x 56 cm



Title: **First Dance Move** (2021)  
Limited ed. Print on Fine Art Paper  
70 cm x 56 cm



T. Adedagun\_21

Adedagun\_21

Title: ***Emeka and Ndid***, (2021)  
Limited Ed. Print on Fine Art Paper,  
80 cm x 63 cm





T. Adelaqun\_21

Title: ***The Union*** (2021)  
Limited Ed. Print on Fine Art Paper  
80 cm x 63 cm

## **Aladejare Ayodeji** (b. 1995)

Aladejare Ayodeji (b.1995) is a figurative and realist painter born in Ekiti State in the South-Western region of Nigeria. He studied Painting in the Art Education Department of the Yaba College of Technology in Nigeria. In 2014, he co-founded the Ayowole Academy of Art in Lagos which is a free art school for children where he teaches drawing and painting.

Spheres of light and humans are interconnected through various spiritual and metaphysical beliefs. The spheres, often referred to as energy or aura, are believed to surround and emanate from human beings. They are associated with different aspects of the individual, including emotions, thoughts, and spiritual essence.

According to many spiritual traditions, these spheres of light are considered to be manifestations of the life force or energy that flows through all living beings. They are believed to reflect a person's state of being, encompassing their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

While the existence and nature of these spheres of light are subjective and debated among different belief systems, the link between spheres of light and humans primarily lies in the understanding that humans possess a deeper energetic aspect beyond their physical form. Exploring and nurturing this connection may lead to enhanced self awareness, spiritual growth, and a greater sense of interconnectedness with the world.





Title: **Here Love Lives** (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 cm x 94 cm



Title: ***Light At The End of the Tunnel*** (2023)  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 cm x 94 cm



Title: ***Unresolved ii*** (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 cm x 94 cm



Title: **Glamour** (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 cm x 94 cm

## **Folusho Oguntoye** (b. 1994)

Folusho Oguntoye (b. 1994) is a visual artist from and currently based in Lagos, Nigeria and graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from Manchester School of Art/Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

He is especially drawn to the land, nature and plants and has had a close, experiential and working relationship with nature for over 6 years till now as a plantsman, which continues to deepen his curiosity for nature and inform his art and desire to merge nature work with his art practice. His work is particularly influenced by tropical indigenous flora, forests and landscapes and our/human relationship with them.

He explores this directly and indirectly through a subtle prism of West African mythology & folklore, spirituality & self discovery, contemporary context of climate crisis and the obscure future of our world along with the increasing need for environmental conservation, rebuilding, and reimagining, leading us to reconnect and rediscover ourselves and our connection to that which sustains us. He looks forward to continuously exploring and expanding these multilayered themes in his practice to see where it leads.

Recent exhibitions include Inner Space, Yenwa Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, 2023; Unearthed: Revealing The Roots Of Environmental Art In Africa, Latitudes Online, South Africa (Virtual), 2023; The World Reimagined-Journey of Discovery Sculpture trail, London, UK; Art at Ouida art Pop-up art exhibition by JCAA, Lagos, Nigeria, 2022 and Journey To The Greenprint I-(Independent Solo), Lagos, Nigeria, 2021





Title: ***The Three Graces - We Can Mend This Broken World*** (2019)  
Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas,  
110 cm x 90 cm





Title: ***Aye Loja | Aye Raye- The World is a Marketplace but Life is Eternal*** (2023)  
Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas,  
140 cm x 122 cm



Title: ***What Money Can't Buy*** (2020)  
Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas,  
110 cm x 90 cm

## **Peace Ondiana Igele** (b. 1994)

Peace Ondiana Igele (b. 1994) has a background in architecture and over a decade in experience in design strategy, branding and storytelling. She has built a career managing and helping fast-growing organisations translate business strategies using design solutions. For her, design changes the way people see the world, so if we want a better world, we have a responsibility to design better.

She strongly believes art is an efficient outlet for artist to share stories and freely express themselves.

“Each art is a scenario, an instance, a happenstance.  
It’s You and Me and a Tale of Us.”

When asked by the curator: What do you want people to take away from the pieces produced? She said; I want people to see a piece of themselves, a moment for them to live, to be, and realise that they too add colour to the world.



Title: ***All the Bright Places*** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm





Title: **Reticence** (2021)  
16 cm x 16 cm



Title: **Kingie** (2021)  
16 cm x 16 cm





Title: **Childhood** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm



Title: **Homecoming** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm

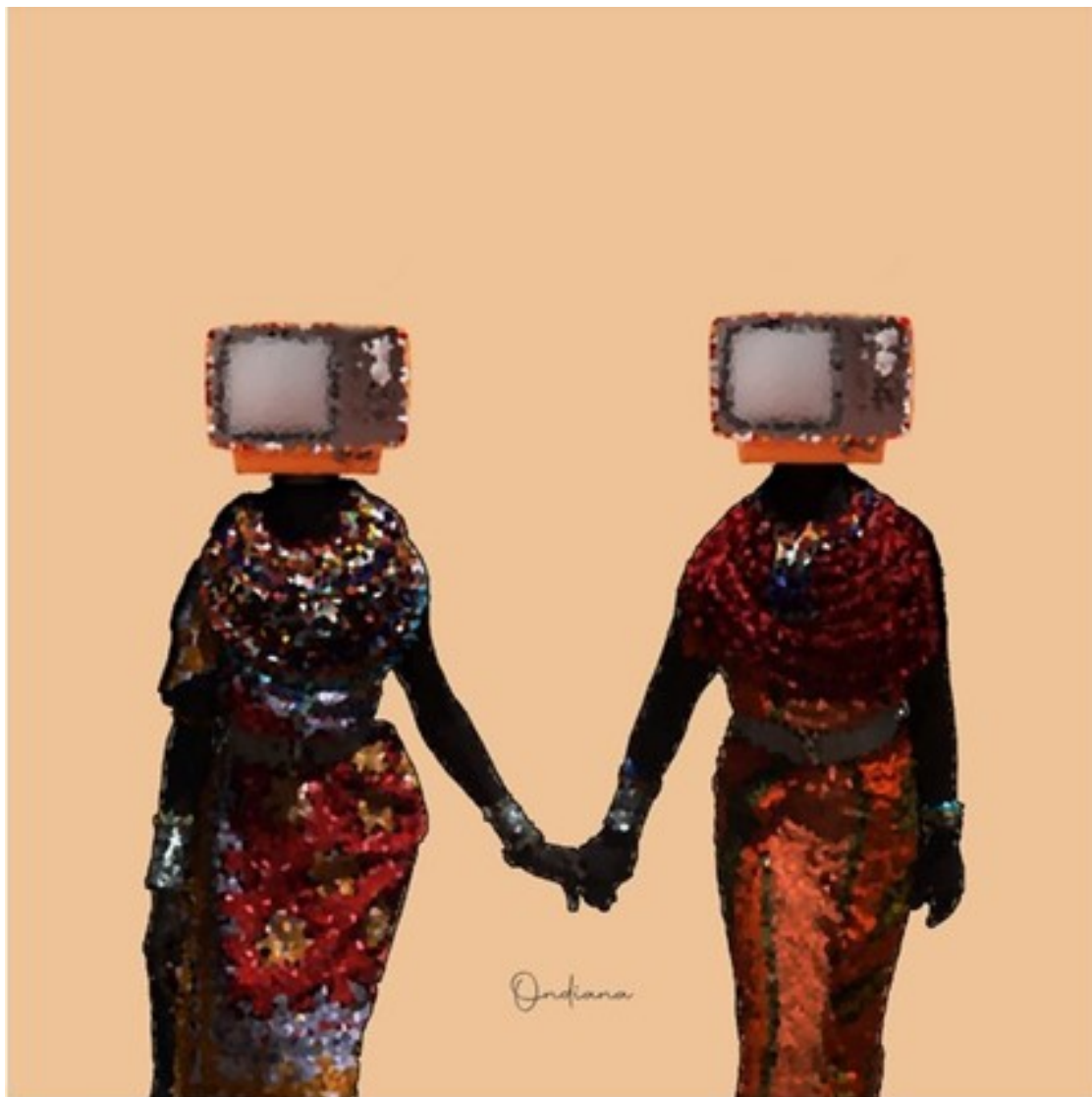


Title: **Homecoming** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm



Title: **Suspend** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm





Title: **You Me Us** (2020)  
16 cm x 16 cm

**Alliance Française de Lagos/  
Mike Adenuga Centre**

9, Osborne Road,  
Ikoyi

**Opening Hours**

*Mondays - Fridays*  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

*Saturdays*  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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