

UNRAVEL
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

Nojeem Muse
Gbenga Matthew
Josiah C. Josiah
Nwakuso Edozien

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Step into a realm where conventional boundaries fade away, and the essence of identity bursts forth in a mesmerizing display of vivid colors, dynamic shapes, and elusive forms.

As you venture through this abstract landscape, get ready to embark on a profound journey of self-discovery.

"Unravel" showcases the creative brilliance of four Nigerian contemporary artists, extending an invitation to explore the intricate layers of human existence and unravel the complex tapestry that constitutes our individual identities.

At the heart of this exhibition lies the multifaceted concept of identity, intricately woven from a myriad of threads: our diverse experiences, deeply-rooted beliefs, rich cultures, and personal histories. It serves as a profound reflection of our innermost selves, a fusion of both inherent traits and external influences we encounter in life.

As you immerse yourself in this thought-provoking journey, you'll find yourself pondering questions like: What occurs when we courageously question and untangle the threads that compose our identity? How do we navigate the delicate interplay between our authentic selves and the powerful external forces that help shape us?

The installation provides a platform to delve into these profound contemplations. It calls upon you to engage with the abstract art pieces that seamlessly intertwine with the complexities of human existence.

"Unravel" is an unforgettable experience where art and introspection merge, offering a gateway to self-discovery and an appreciation for the boundless expressions of identity.

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.

Nojeem Muse (b. 1988)

Self trained artist whose work is defined by texture and contrast. Known for his impasto technique, he directs his emotions, ideals and personality into his canvas.

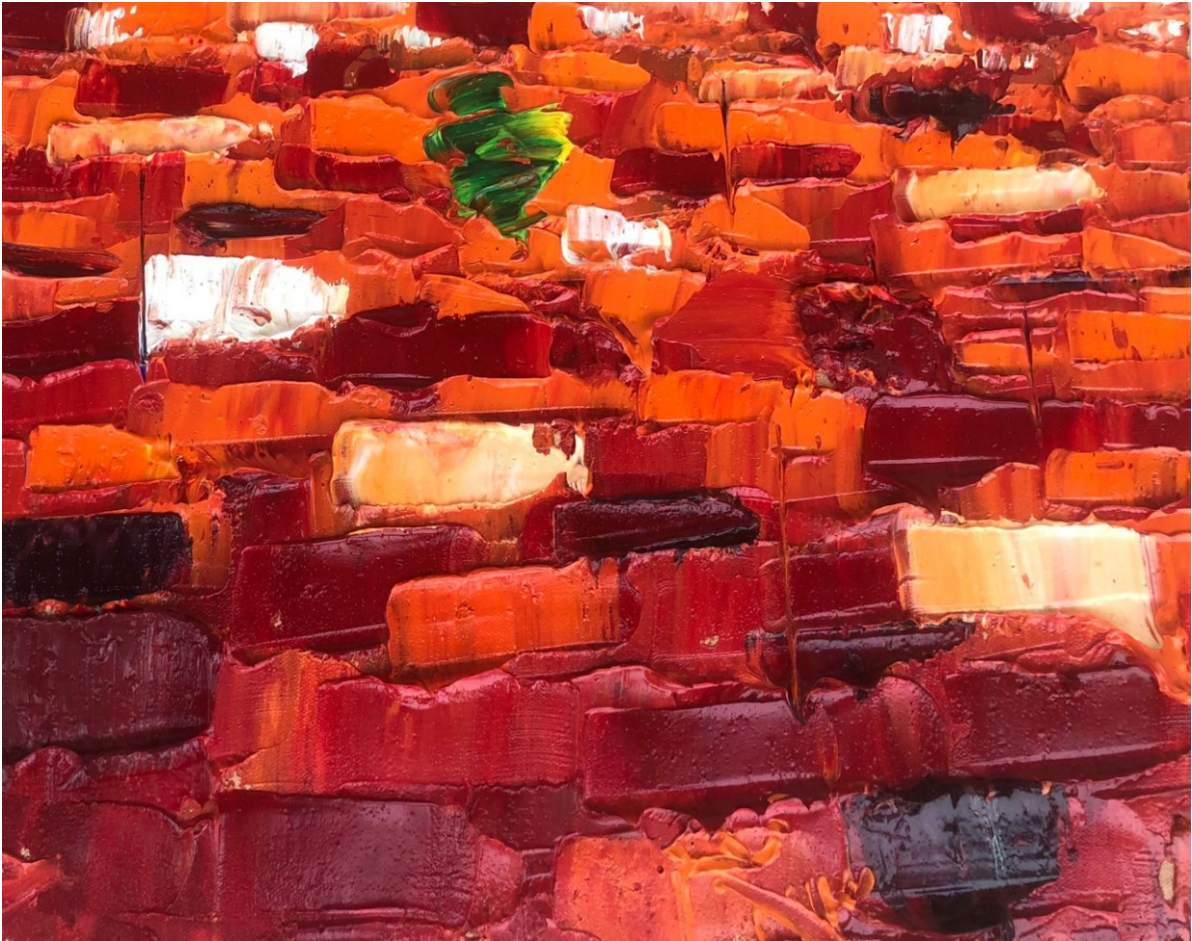
He studied drawing and painting at the Federal College of Education, Akoka, Yaba in Lagos and went on to do an Industrial Art internship in Labasco Art Studio, Ajah where he combined the latter with some graphic design for 6 years coupled with various practicals.

Since leaving school, he has made a conscious effort to teach and mentor other artists or aspiring artists. He is also the founding member of the Society of Nigerian Plein Air Artists.

With a long trail of group exhibitions, he has also had two solo exhibitions - Nimbus Gallery in 2015 and Signature in 2022.



Title: ***Energy Movement*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 11 x 12 inches



Title: ***Neighborhood*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 11 x 12 inches



Title: ***Somewhere in VI*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 11 x 12 inches

Gbenga Matthew (b. 1994)

Contemporary expressionist painter from Òwò, Òndó State in practice since 2018. His works are characterized by an ardent desire to explore freedom and self awareness, hence his self styled spontaneous symbolism. He is known for his heavy impasto technique, free form and text/image motifs. Gbenga began drawing at an early age making comic books with African characters. He is largely a self taught and self evolving artist.

In 2018 he studied drawing and painting at Xtetixupcycle art studio in Ile-Ife, went on to study the works of Voka, Basquiat, Frank Kline & Van Gogh and a few other masters. His artworks are extensions of his daily life as a self aware poet and musician.

He lives and maintains an art studio in Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria. His works can be found in significant private collections.



Title: **Kójú máribi** (Vigilance/Precaution)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 36 x 36 inches



Title: **Just a dream** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 60 x 48 inches



Title: **Cerebral** (2020)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 36 x 48 inches



Title: **Co-dependency** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 60 x 60 inches



Title: **Almost blue** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 60 x 96 inches

Josiah C. Josiah (b. 1992)

Lagos based artist from Owerri, Imo State. He obtained an Ordinary National Diploma and a Higher National Diploma in Painting. Josiah describes himself as a creator, he brings to life what he sees, feels and imagines. He wants his work to evoke various emotions and serve as a medium to deconstruct and rebuild notions surrounding identity and mental health. An emphasis on self reflection and unlocking consciousness is what motivates his works. Most times, he tries to bring to life images of characters that depict the realities; actions, emotions, feelings and thoughts of his environment. He has participated in several group exhibitions, including the Sogal Lagos Contemporary Art Auction 2021, Lagos Miniature Art Fair 2021, Lagos Miniature Art Fair 2019 and 2018.



Title: **Her episodes (Vee's episodes)** (2022)
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
Size: 96 x 108.2 inches



Title: **Untitled** (2022)
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
Size: 96.4 x 105.5 inches



Title: **Untitled** (2023)
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
Size: 96 x 108.2 inches



Title: **The Kissers** (2022)
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
Size: 60 x 60 inches

Nwakuso Edozien (b. 1996)

Nwakuso Edozien is a Cornell Architecture graduate who combines her skills and practice in painting, design, and sculpture to create multi-layered artworks. Through colour and movement, she explores her identity and its makeup, through both her experiences and cultural heritage, enhancing the depth and complexities of her work through her use of layering and texture.

She believes this exhibition is a questioning and unraveling of her personal identity, a deep dive into something that she feels she is only just rediscovering and finding again. To her, life is a journey of discovery that is never ending. It is a life's dedication to discover oneself, through the continuous experiences such as one's history and cultural background in depth.

The 6 pieces in this exhibition showcase the varying ways Nwakuso has begun to express her findings for the past year. She intends to convey the abstract and fluid forms of her history and emotions that travel through her. She prefers an abstraction of her research to be conveyed, in order to allow the viewers to reach their own conclusions and impressions of the work and the underlying year of research put into the body of art.

She hopes to awaken, within viewers, their own curiosity of their identity and reflect on how they have come to be; to question for themselves how their personal experiences and cultural histories relate back to their current and future selves.



Title: **Free** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 48 x 36 inches



Title: **The Search** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
Size: 60 x 48 inches



Title: **Rhythm and Blues** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 39.3 x 59 inches



Title: **Internal Blue** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
Size: 39.3 x 59 inches



Title: **Within the Turbulence, there is Expression** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
Size: 39.3 x 47.2 inches



Title: **Do you see, what i see** (2022)
Medium: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
Size: 39.3 x 47.2 inches

**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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