



**Moments in
Monochrome**
EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



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

Simon Ojeaga
Nneka Chima
Ladunni Lambo
Amandine Mariama
Seyi Akinwumi
Opeyemi Karunwi
Omolola Coker

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

"Moments in Monochrome" invites you to embark on a visual journey where shades of black and white converge to capture the essence of time, emotion, and narrative. Through the absence of color, each frame becomes a canvas of contrasts, unveiling the power of light and shadow in shaping unforgettable moments.

In this monochromatic collection, each artist has skillfully utilized the simplicity of black and white to craft moments frozen in time. Through the delicate strokes of pencil, the bold lines of ink, and meticulous printmaking, each piece becomes a testament to the artists' ability to distill the essence of their subjects into a powerful visual language where form, contrast, and texture take center stage.

As you navigate through this exhibition, you are invited to engage with the intricacy and subtlety of art in this form, where the absence of colour becomes a canvas for boundless creativity. Join us in celebrating the ability of different media to transform fleeting moments into enduring monochromatic artworks.

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.

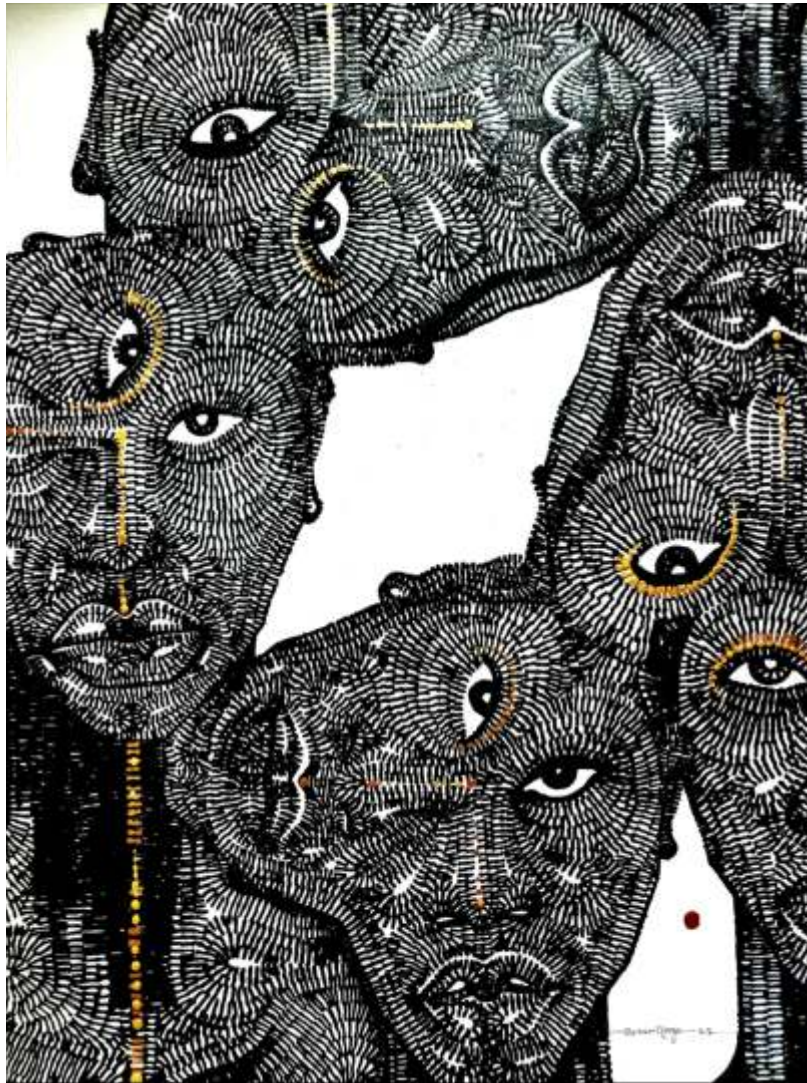
Umah is known for her collaborative approach in forging partnerships and building relationships that enhance the cultural ecosystem, and her desire to foster inclusivity and representation has championed the success of emerging artists, amplifying their voices and supporting their growth in the creative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

Simon Ojeaga (b. 1996)

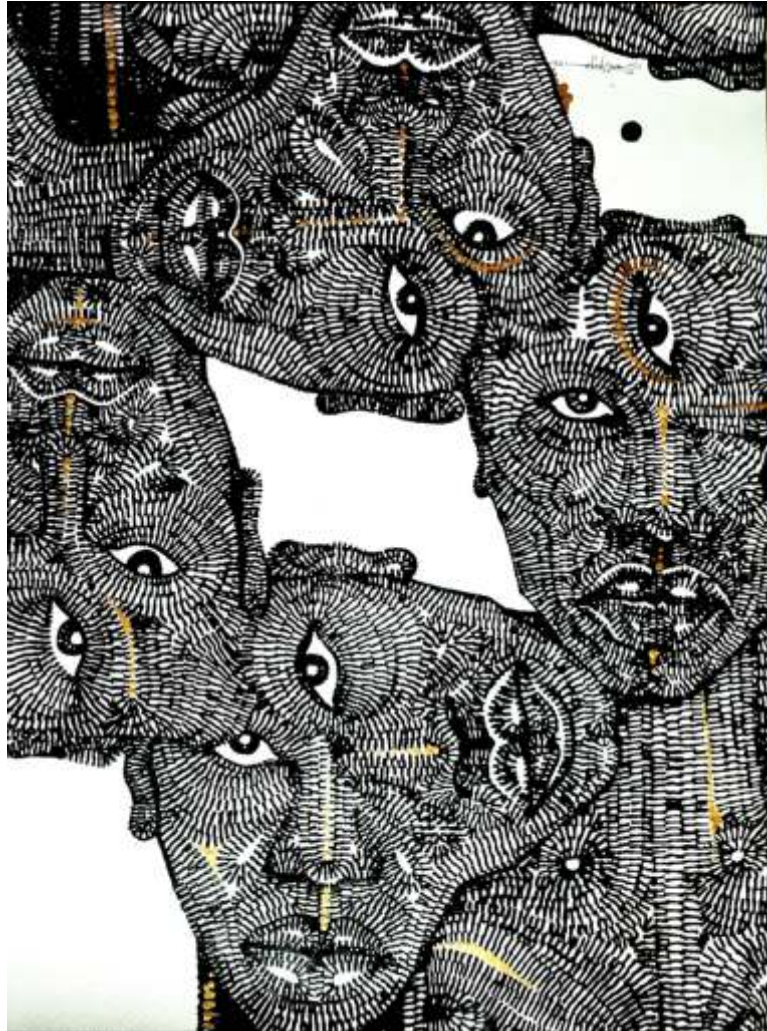
Figurative artist from Nigeria whose works are characterized by repetitive, rhythmic lines. These lines breathe life into the bodies and figures that adorn his drawings. His art invites us to engage with an almost hypnotic grace, as we see these lines become the very essence of his creations. Ultimately, he seeks to challenge preconceived notions of beauty and remains inspired by the rich cultural tapestry of the continent.

Ojeaga earned a distinction in Painting from Auchi Polytechnic School of Art and Industrial Design in 2019 and in the same year, he was awarded a 5-week residency by the OYASAF Foundation, established by Prince Yemisi Shyllon. In 2021, he was among the selected artists for the Beyond the Canvas mentorship program with Ndidi Emefiele and in 2022, he was mentored by Ayoola Gbolahan, under a mentorship program organized by AMG Projects.

His first solo showcase, *Lines and Wonder*, AMG Projects, Lagos (2022) explored various stages of familial interaction, capturing enduring human expressions during challenging circumstances. He also participated in groups shows; *Otherwordly*, O'Da Art, Lagos (2022), *Cadenza*, Affinity Gallery, Lagos (2023) and *Beyond the Lines*, Windsor Gallery, Abidjan(2023).



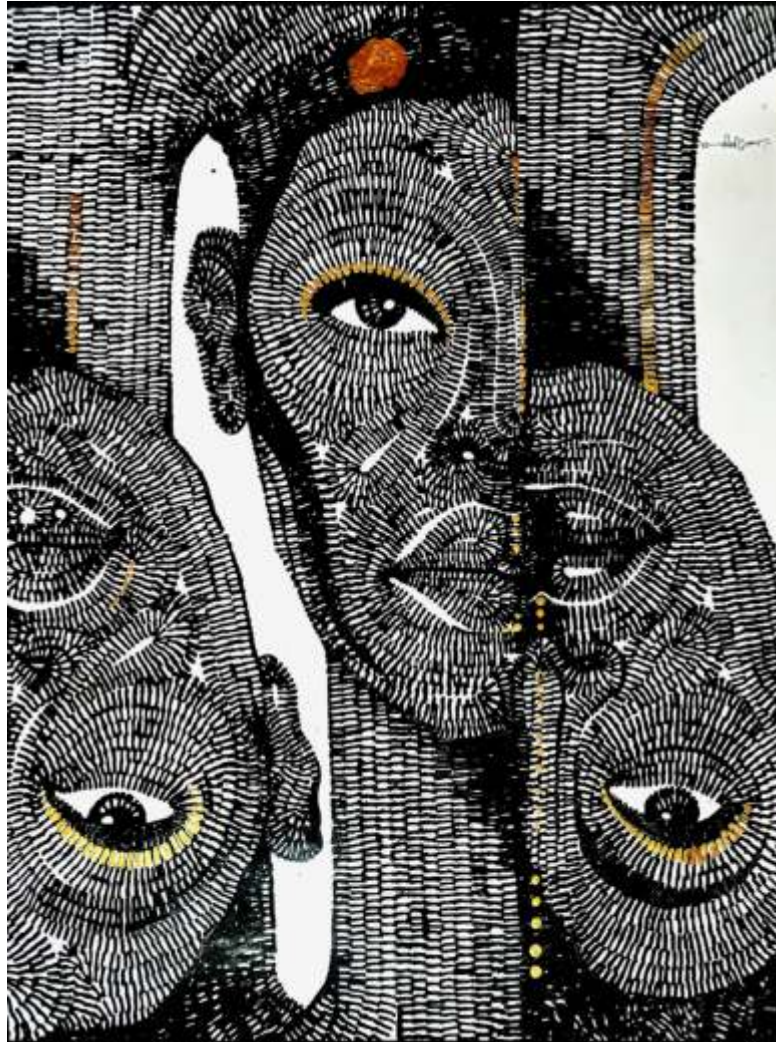
Title: ***Reflections and Personality I*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylics on strathmore paper
Size: 53 x 69cm



Title: ***Reflections and Personality II*** (2023)

Medium: Acrylics on strathmore paper

Size: 53 x 69cm



Title: ***Three Reflections*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylics on strathmore paper
Size: 53 x 69 cm



Title: ***Atinuke*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylics on strathmore paper
Size: 53 x 69 cm

Nneka Chima (b. 1986)

Nneka employs linocut printmaking as a visual language and storytelling tool. She discovered this medium while studying at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria and has since mastered the intricate technique, evident in her stylistic consistency and attention to details. Her works merge realism, surrealism and abstraction to create a sentimental longing and evoke memories often depicted through distorted figures, bold patterns, floral landscapes and vibrant colours.

Her works were first featured at the Moeshen Gallery, Abuja in 2019 then she participated in The No Dead Artists Call, Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, New Orleans (2023), Fluidity, Art Bridge and AMG Projects, Lagos (2023) and Young Contemporary Printmakers, Fresco (2023).

« I draw inspiration from the unexpressed thoughts, feelings, and expressions of people. My art usually features a monochrome palette, although I occasionally incorporate other mediums like gouache and ballpoint pens to further convey my thoughts. My goal is for viewers to reflect and experience a sense of nostalgia. »



Title: **Surprise** (2023)
Medium: Printing Ink and Gouche on Paper
Size: 39.5 x 39.5" / 100.3 x 100.3 cm

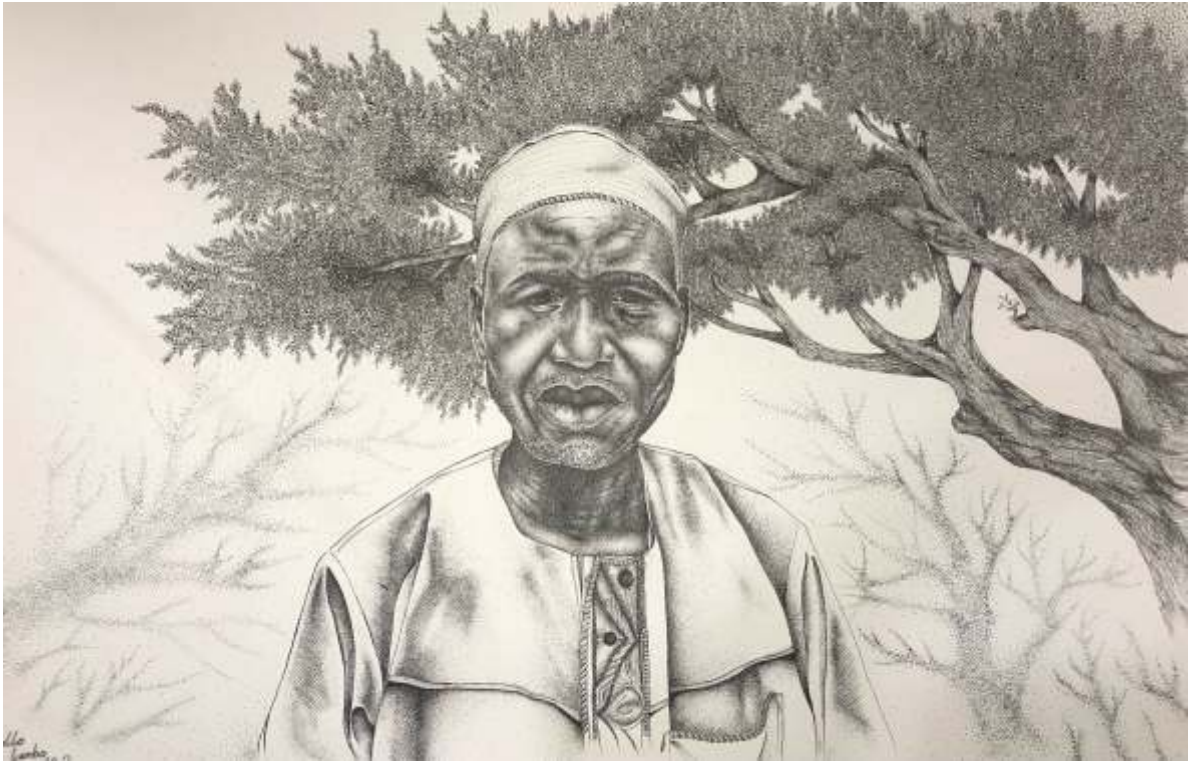
Ladunni Lambo (b. 1991)

Lagos based realism artist who specializes in pen and ink as her primary medium. Her artistic creations are motivated by a desire for intentionality, paying meticulous attention to detail throughout the creative process. Through her art, she captures intricate and detailed depictions of everyday life amidst the hustle and bustle of fast-paced environments dominated by worldly affairs. Ladunni's artworks invite viewers to ponder on the essence of time, the simplicity of creation, and the artistic techniques that embody the human touch.

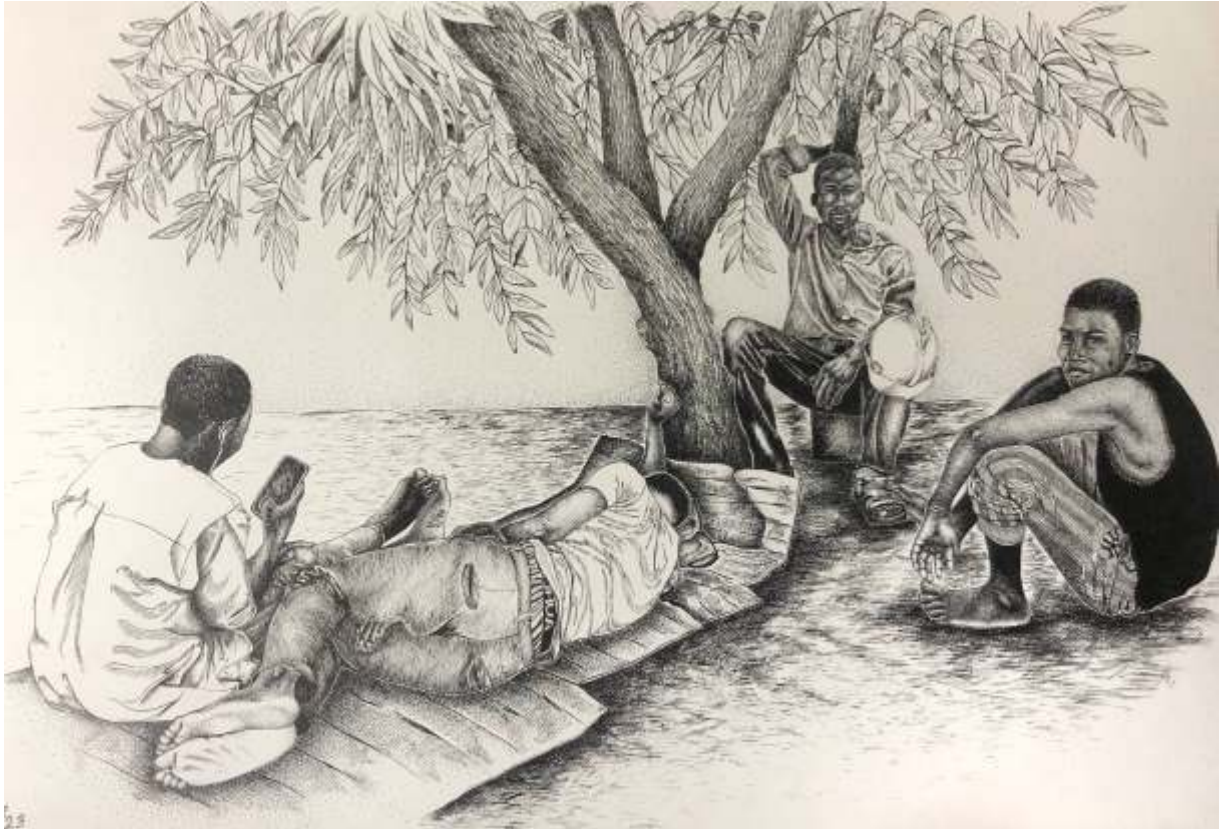
Ladunni Lambo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Nottingham Trent University (2012) and has gained substantial experience in the creative industry; with a strong background in prints, textile and fashion design and an enduring passion for drawing and storytelling. Her works are mostly held in private collections, and she is currently working towards an exhibition, to further explore her artistic practice and expand her portfolio of artworks.



Title: **Calabar Kitchen** (2023)
Medium: Pen and ink on Archival paper
Size: 53.9x35.5 cm



Title: ***At the gate*** (2023)
Medium: Pen and ink on Archival paper
Size: 35.5x55.8 cm



Title: **The Brothers** (20xx)
Medium: Pen and ink on Archival paper
Size: 35.5 x 55.8 cm



Title: **Old Marina** (2023)
Medium: Pen and ink on Archival paper
Size: 53.9x35.5 cm

Amandine Mariama (b. 19xx)

Amandine Mariama is a French self-taught artist based in Lagos. She has been practicing drawing and painting for decades with pencil, ink, printing techniques and oil paint as preferred mediums. Having grown up in different countries, including ten years in francophone West Africa, and having Senegalese origins from her mother's side, her influences are varied. An avid reader, she draws inspiration from books, fiction and childhood stories. She also takes inspiration from the narrative and storytelling produced and disseminated by our globalized and interconnected cultures. She has a multidisciplinary background in literature, history, international relations and urban planning from Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, and works for a French organization in Lagos.



Title: **Mona Lisa** (2023)
Medium: Litograph on paper (10 prints)
Size: 38x29 cm



Title: **Loyalty** (2023)
Medium: Monoprint on paper
Size: 24x32 cm



Title: **L'ennui** (2023)
Medium: Litograph on paper (8 prints)
Size: 31,5x46 cm



Title: **Mona Lisa II** (2023)
Medium: Litograph on paper (4 prints)
Size: 37x48 cm



Title: **Untitled** (2023)
Medium: Monoprint on Japanese paper (Awagami Kozo)
Size: 51x43 cm



Title: **Two Bad Girls in A Maybach** (2023)

Medium: Ink, pencil, acrylic on paper

Size: 42x30 cm

Seyi Akinwumi (b. 1988)

Seyi is a Lagos based artist whose work is inspired by tucked-away inner dialogues, expressed right from her late adolescence, which she channels into visual narrative. For this exhibition, Seyi draws from her own experience to inform these body of works; using themes on self awareness, memories and moments spent in solitude. Each drawings bears witness to the present, relating it to personal experiences and incorporating unique line and strokes.

The drawings in the 'Little Red' series comprises of 6 framed black and white sheets with highlights of distinct red, which she recounts as significant moments as a female protagonist, uses sly humor and a bit of ingenuity to turn a familiar tale (The Little Red Ridding Hood) into a feisty feminist tale. Her other work "See Now Unsee" also in series, black and white lose sketches; recount snippets of her present memories, transformed into a form of 'self-life drawing' purposefully deconstructed as a set of stories.

Seyi has exhibited nationally and internationally; Bloom Art Gallery, Lagos (2021), Mydrim Gallery, Lagos (2021), Art for Education, Hourglass Gallery, Lagos (2021), Ubuntu Art Gallery, Lagos (2021), 'What is a Man?', O'Da Gallery, Lagos (2022), June Creative Art Advisory, Lagos (2022), 'Vivid', O'Da Gallery, Lagos (2023), Lighthouse Gallery, London (2023), AMG Projects, Lagos (2023).



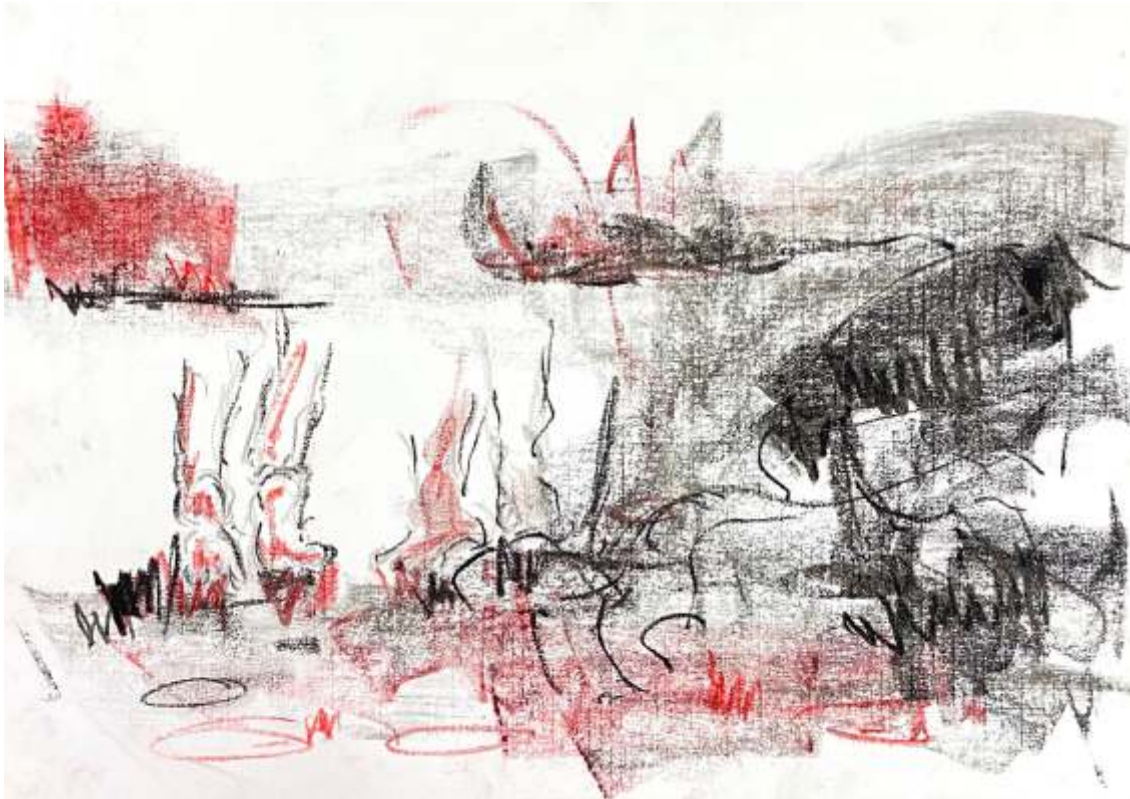
Title: **A Tale of Red** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **Little Red** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **Little Red II** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **I won't let you walk through my mind with your dirty feet** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **I am enough** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **Says Little Red** (2023)
Medium: Granite and Conte on Fabiano Paper
Size: 11.5 x 8.5 "



Title: **See & Unsee** (2023)
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 45.7x27.9 cm



Title: **Mind Over Matter** (2023)
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 45.7x27.9 cm



Title: **Excuse me, but no!** (2023)
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 45.7x27.9 cm



Title: **Self portrait** (2023)
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 45.7x27.9 cm

Opeyemi Karunwi (b. 1993)

Self-taught artist and doctor captivated by the expressive power of ink. Her fascination for the medium has led her to explore intricacies, using it to convey feelings and thoughts.

Opeyemi uses her art to slow down time. The abstract creations are puzzle-like and filled with tiny details. She compares it to life; where important things are often hidden. Her method carries her wishes for stillness and showcases a mix of control, freedom and surprise. Welcome to quietude.



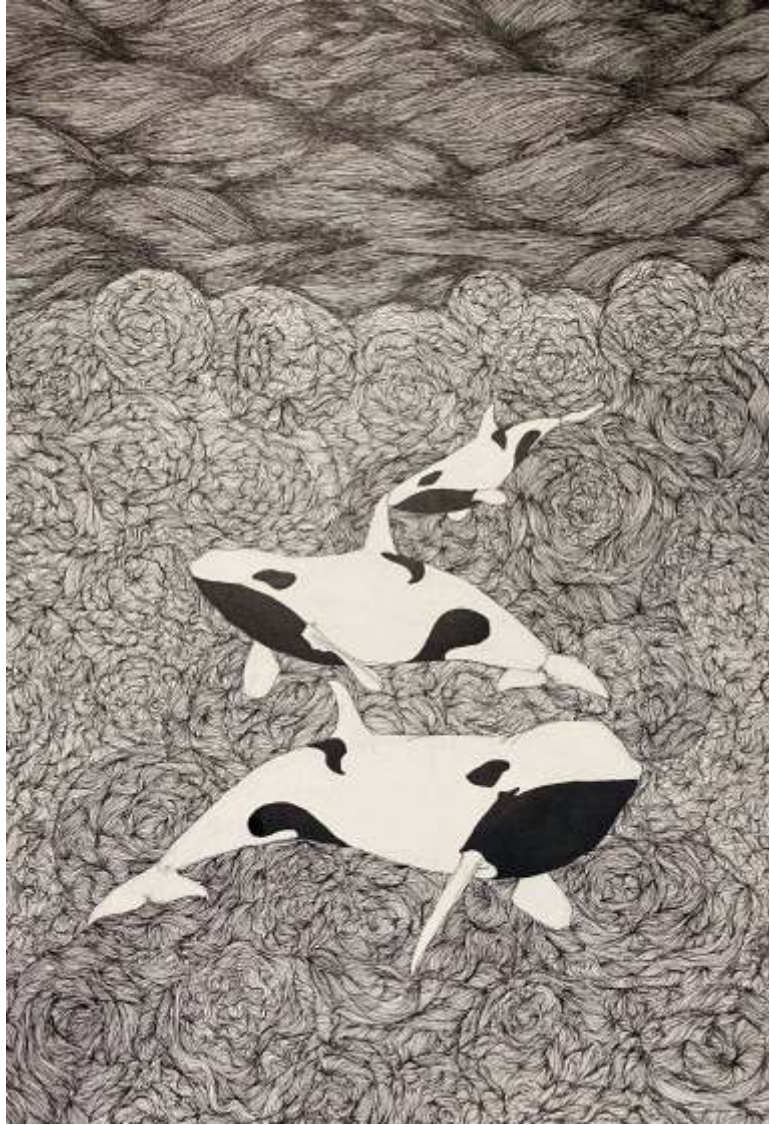
Title: ***Tree of Life I*** (2023)
Medium: Ink on Paper
Size: 56cm x 38cm



Title: ***Untitled I*** (2023)
Medium: Ink on Paper
Size: 56cm x 38cm



Title: ***Lost in Vastness I*** (2023)
Medium: Ink on Paper
Size: 46cm x 61cm



Title: ***Lost in Vastness II*** (2023)
Medium: Ink on Paper
Size: 74cm x 53cm

Omolola Coker (b. 1992)

Emerging Nigerian artist whose artwork is a journey through the intricate web of emotions, faith, and self-discovery.

Through the personification of feminine and masculine energies, her canvas is a means to unravel the different psyches of survival. Her female figures depict the vibrancy of nurture and freedom but with a stoicism and careful hopefulness borne of having experienced life. In both, the yearning for wholeness remains.

Coker's artwork is thoughtful, evocative and offers viewers an insider's glimpse into her personal growth, the universal experience of longing and the dynamic changes she observes in her surroundings at large.



Title: ***Untitled I*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 80x100 cm



Title: ***Untitled II*** (2023)
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 80x100 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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