

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY TOCHUKWU ORAZULIKE

The Order of Decay

Humans do the Earth, what Termites do to Wood

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 to curate the programming of the organisation.

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

[EN]

"The Order of Decay" by Tochukwu Orazulike, delves into the striking parallel between human behaviour and the actions of termites. By drawing a dialogue between these seemingly distant entities, the artwork serves as a powerful commentary on the unintentional but significant impact of human activity on the environment. Much like termites unknowingly erode structures, humans often unwittingly deplete our natural resources and contribute to environmental degradation.

Through his thought-provoking art, Tochukwu aims to prompt contemplation on the prospective consequences of our actions in a world abundant with resources. By highlighting the parallels between human behaviour and termite activity, the artwork invites viewers to reflect on the ways in which our actions shape the world around us. "The Order of Decay" seeks to raise awareness of the urgent need for conservation and sustainable practices. By confronting viewers with the sobering reality of our environmental impact, the artwork challenges us to reconsider our relationship with the earth and take proactive steps towards preserving and protecting our planet for future generations.

This exhibition serves as a poignant reminder of the intertwined realities of all living beings and the profound responsibility we humans bear towards our environment. Through contemplation and reflection, the artwork encourages us to adopt more mindful and responsible actions that honour the delicate balance of nature.

[FR]

"The Order of Decay" de Tochukwu Orazulike explore le parallèle frappant entre le comportement humain et les actions des termites. En établissant un dialogue entre ces entités apparemment éloignées, l'œuvre d'art sert de commentaire puissant sur l'impact involontaire mais significatif de l'activité humaine sur l'environnement. Tout comme les termites érodent les structures sans le savoir, les humains épuisent souvent sans le vouloir nos ressources naturelles et contribuent à la dégradation de l'environnement.

Grâce à son art qui suscite la réflexion, Tochukwu vise à encourager la contemplation des conséquences potentielles de nos actions dans un monde qui regorge de ressources. En soulignant les parallèles entre le comportement humain et l'activité des termites, l'œuvre invite les spectateurs à réfléchir à la manière dont nos actions façonnent le monde qui nous entoure. "The Order of Decay" vise à sensibiliser le public à l'urgence de la conservation et des pratiques durables. En confrontant les spectateurs à la triste réalité de notre impact sur l'environnement, l'œuvre d'art nous incite à reconsidérer notre relation avec la terre et à prendre des mesures proactives pour préserver et protéger notre planète pour les générations futures.

Cette exposition est un rappel poignant des réalités interdépendantes de tous les êtres vivants et de la responsabilité profonde que nous, les humains, portons à l'égard de notre environnement. Par la contemplation et la réflexion, l'œuvre d'art nous encourage à adopter des actions plus attentives et responsables qui honorent l'équilibre délicat de la nature.

Curatorial advisory by: / Conseil du commissaire d'exposition:

Ladunni Lambo

ARTIST BIO



Tochukwu Orazulike is a contemporary artist known for his surreal imagery that navigates the complexities of societal issues. With a masterful blend of bliss and struggle, his works evoke profound emotions and invite viewers to contemplate thought-provoking themes. Proficient in various mediums including spray paints, oil, and acrylics, Tochukwu's artistic prowess shines through in every piece.

Born in Nigeria in 1996, Tochukwu holds a Higher National Diploma in painting from the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu (2019), complemented by a National Diploma in Fine Art.

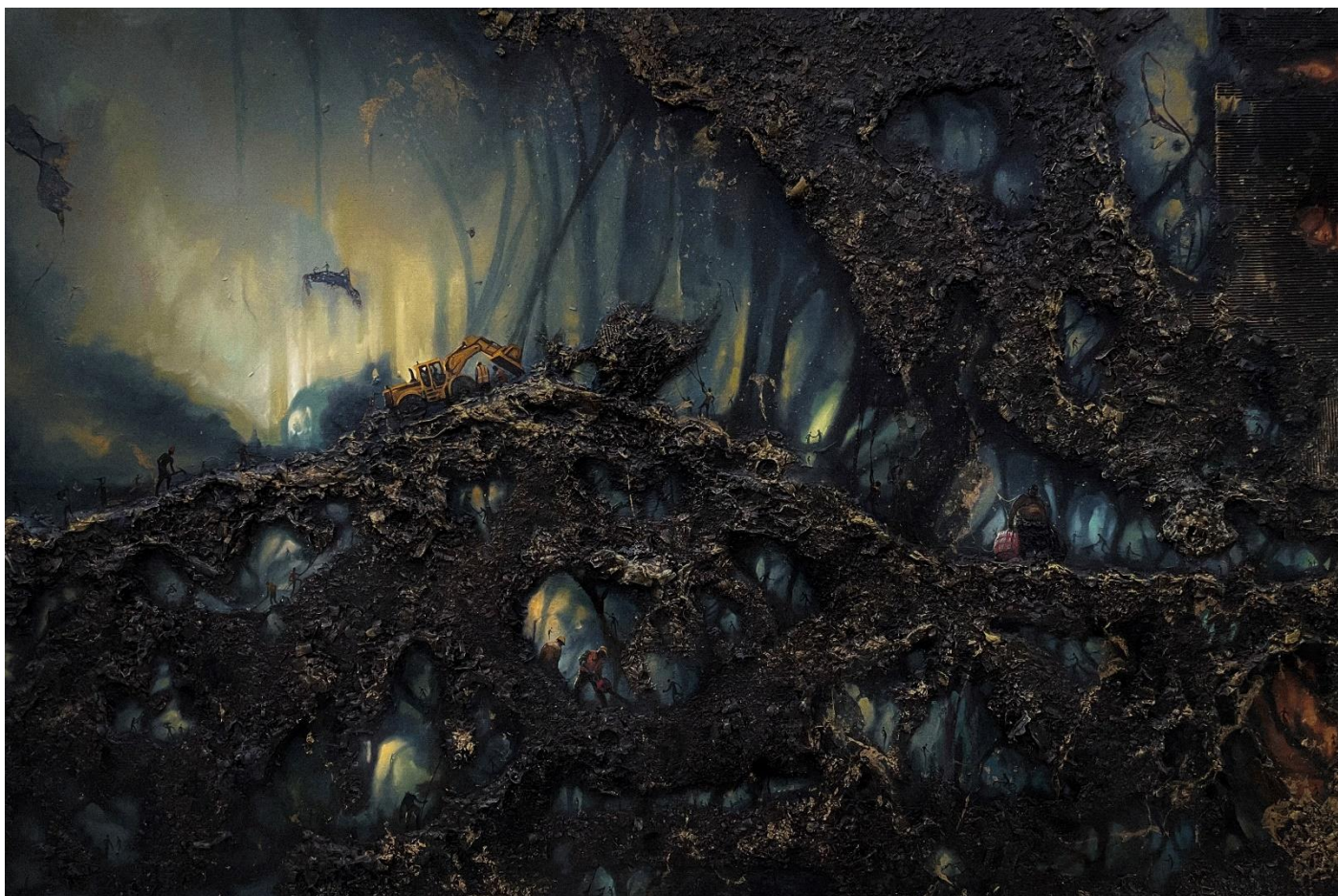
His art has been showcased in prestigious exhibitions such as the Lagos Biennial Off-ish group exhibition titled “Refuge in Community” at the Nomadic Art Gallery in 2024. Tochukwu has also participated in significant residencies, including the 1952 Africa Art Residency in Lagos. His work has garnered attention in prominent group exhibitions like the ‘SOGAL African Original Contemporary & Modern Art Auction 2023’ at the Signature Beyond Art Gallery and ‘Undiscovered’ at Thought Pyramid Lagos 2023.



Title: **Sculpting Scarcity**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 120cm x 180cm.

‘Sculpting Scarcity’ is a stark portrayal of deforestation’s impact, where trees fall to chainsaws and bulldozers, echoing the human footprint on Earth.’



Title: **Sculpting Scarcity II**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 120cm x 180cm.

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Title: **Eroding Foundations**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 90cm x 90cm.

This painting represents how human actions can gradually weaken the essential elements that support our lives and well-being, similar to how termites slowly damage the foundations of a structure.



Title: **After the War**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 80cm x 100cm.

In 'After the War,' I depict the aftermath of conflict on Earth, revealing a landscape marred by destruction. The painting portrays a view from underground, with holes reminiscent of bomb craters, and the earth stained with the scars of war.



Title: **After the War II**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 80cm x 60cm.

In 'After the War,' I depict the aftermath of conflict on Earth, revealing a landscape marred by destruction. The painting portrays a view from underground, with holes reminiscent of bomb craters, and the earth stained with the scars of war.



Title: **We can Coexist**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 120cm x 90cm.

In 'We Can Coexist,' I take a departure from our ongoing exploration in 'Humans Are Termites' to offer a hopeful reminder: we have the ability to live in harmony with nature. The painting celebrates the possibility of coexistence, with lush trees surrounding us, clean seas free from pollution, and effective measures in place to control oil spills. It's a gentle nudge to remember our responsibility to the environment.



Title: **We can Coexist II**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 120cm x 90cm.

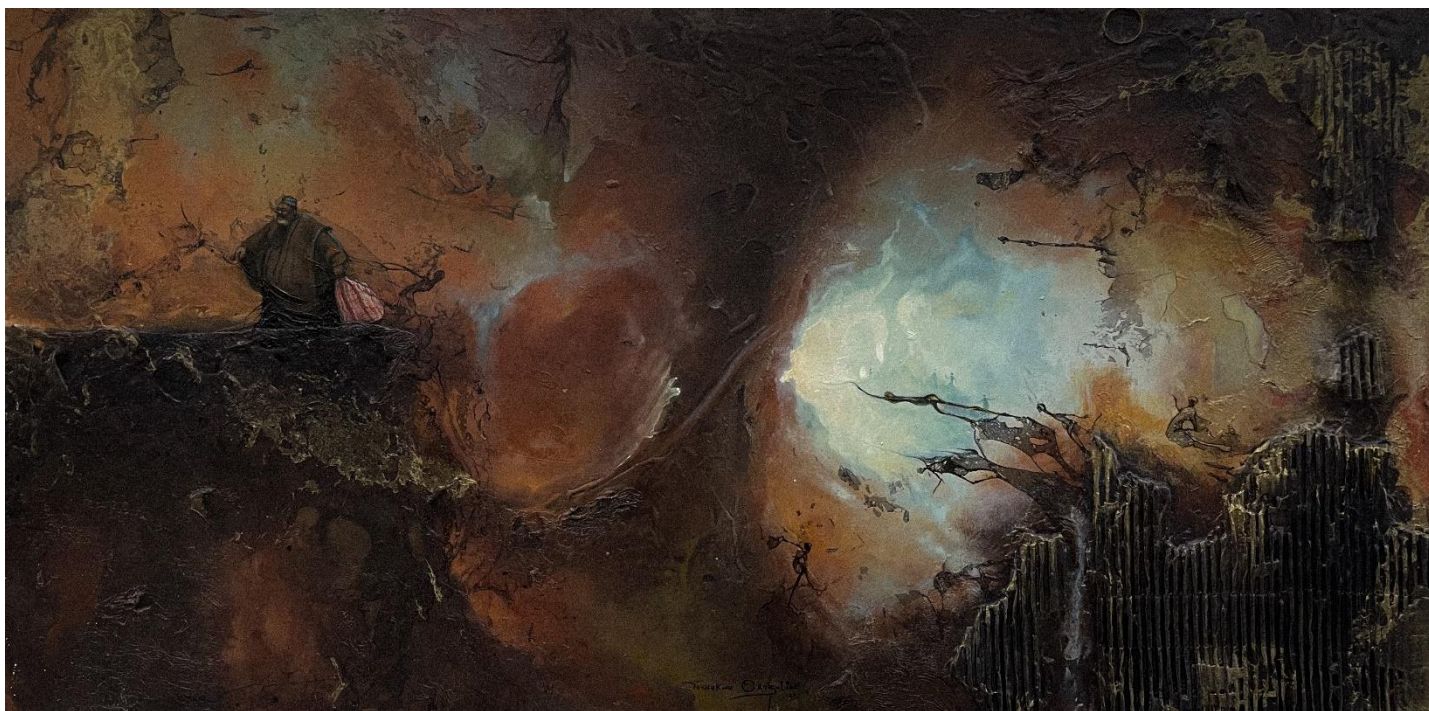
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Title: **The Rippers**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 50cm x 100cm.

'The Rippers' represents a metaphorical depiction of entities or forces that aggressively exploit or degrade the environment. Similar to how termites slowly erode wood structures, "The Rippers" symbolize the rapid and often destructive actions of humans on Earth's resources.



Title: **Hidden Riches**

2023. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 60cm x 120cm.

'Hidden Riches' offers a symbolic portrayal of human greed and its pursuit of wealth at the expense of the environment, echoing the relentless consumption seen in termite behaviour. This painting serves as a cautionary reminder of the need for responsible stewardship of Earth's resources.



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Title: **Nature Under Siege**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 50cm x 100cm.

'Nature Under Siege' depicts a sense of urgency and alarm regarding the state of the natural world. This painting exposes that natural ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and environmental resources are facing significant pressures, such as deforestation, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and other forms of degradation.



Title: **Oil spillage**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 60cm x 60cm.

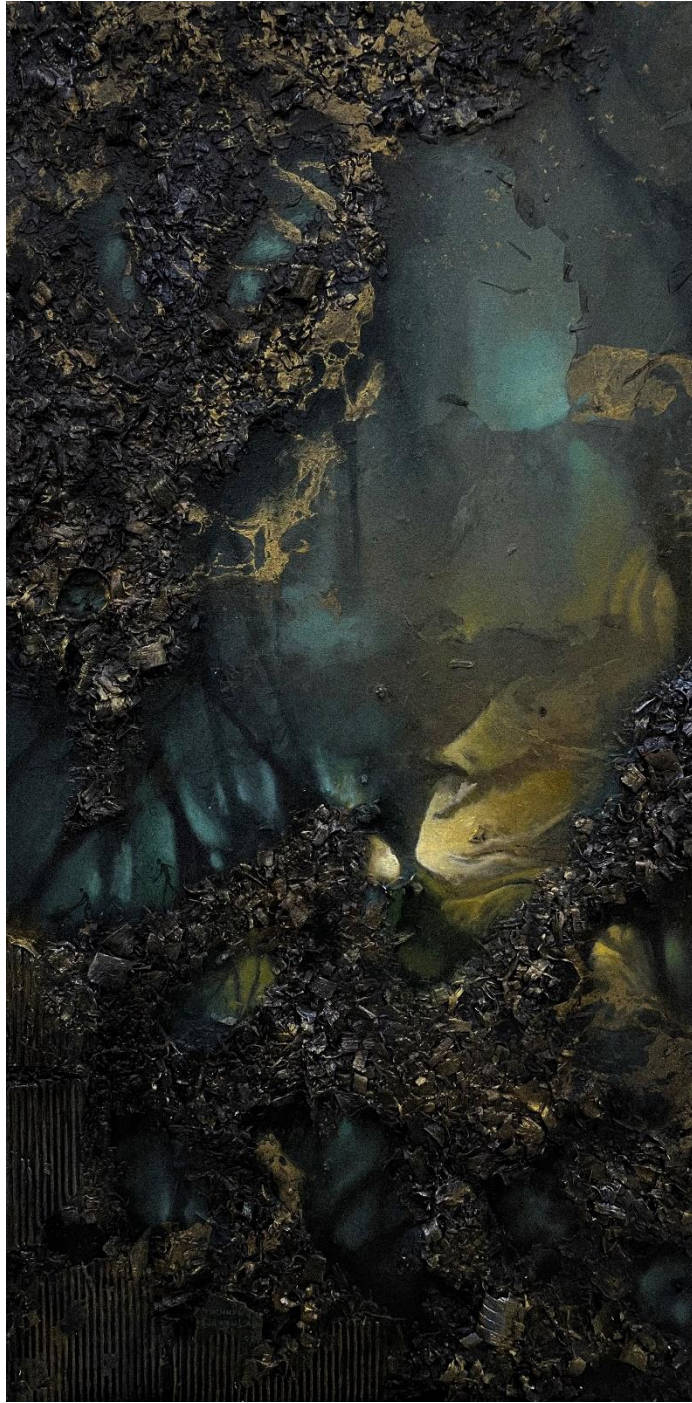
'Oil Spillage' represents the unintentional harm humans cause to the environment. Oil spills weaken ecosystems, harming marine life and polluting habitats. Preventing oil spills and implementing measures to minimize their environmental impact are crucial for protecting the health of the environment and its inhabitants.



Title: **Extinction**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 60cm x 60cm.

'Extinction' is a natural process that has occurred throughout Earth's history, but the current rate of extinction is significantly accelerated due to human activities. This rapid loss of biodiversity poses serious ecological, economic, and social consequences, affecting ecosystems' stability, food webs, and the services they provide to humans.



Title: **Humans were here!**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 80cm x 40cm.

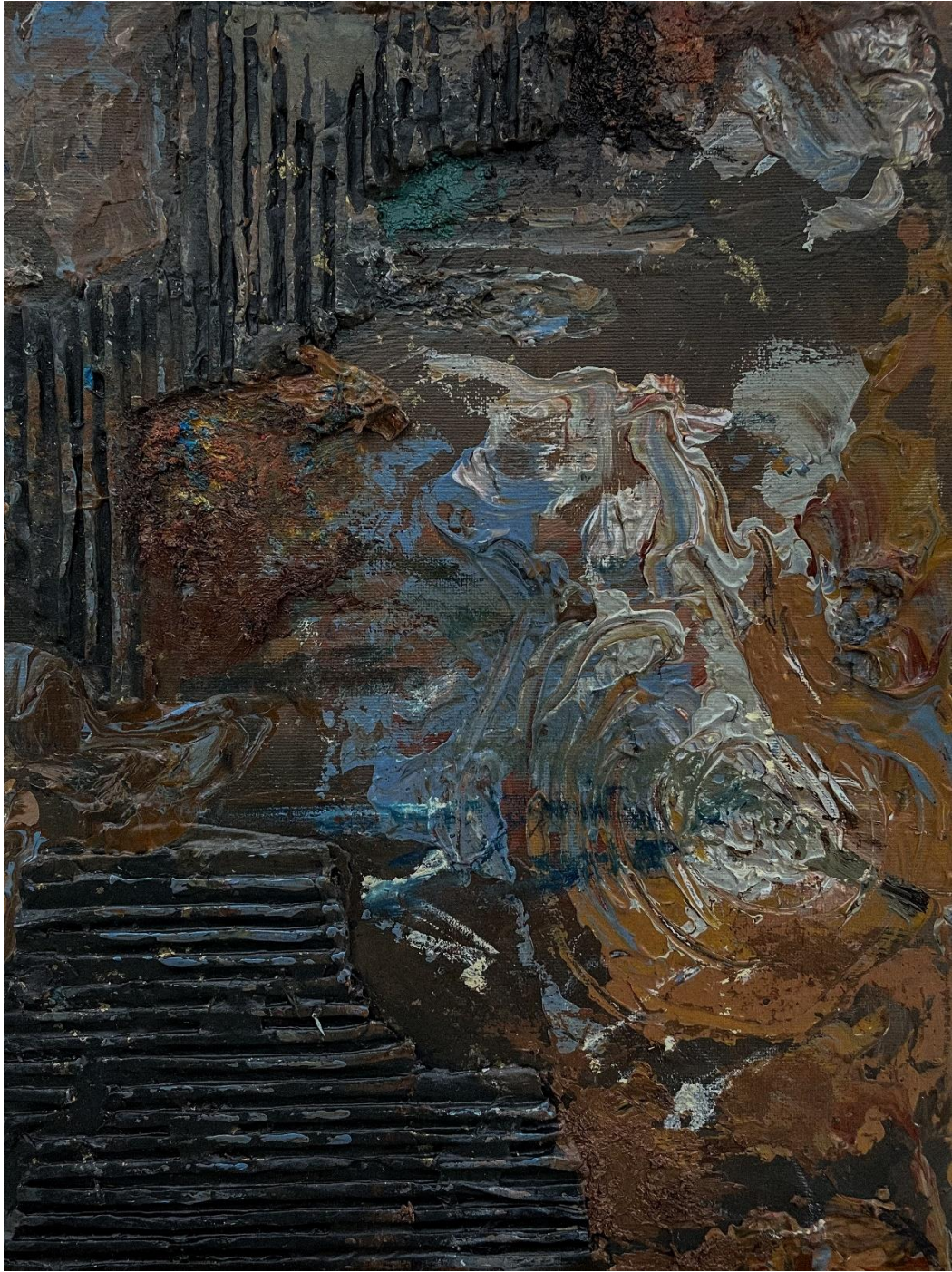
Captured in 'Humans Were Here,' the aftermath of human activity unfolds, revealing scars of war and the haunting echoes of deforestation. A stark reminder of our impact on the environment, urging reflection and responsible action.



Title: **After the Raid**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 22cm x 30cm.

'After the Raid' depicts the aftermath of destruction, a sobering testament to the toll of conflict and the urgent need for healing and rebuilding.



Title: **After the Raid**

2024. Mixed media, Painting (Oil, spray paint & Acrylic on canvas). 40cm x 30cm.

'After the Raid' depicts the aftermath of destruction, a sobering testament to the toll of conflict and the urgent need for healing and rebuilding.



Title: **Mining to the core**

2024. Sculpture (Processed canvas material and spray paint). H-18cm L-40cm W-24cm.

Just as termites tunnel through wood to access resources, humans mine deep into the Earth in search of valuable resources, often with significant environmental impacts. This work underscores the theme of human exploitation of natural resources and the consequences thereof.



Title: **A Termite's Tale**

2024. Sculpture (Processed canvas material, protected termite woods and spray paint). H-15cm L-56cm W-26cm.

'A Termite's Tale' is a visual representation of the journey of termites as they interact with wood, It tells a tale of how termites have left their mark on the wood, showcasing their presence and impact on the environment. The sculpture serves as a warning; if we don't take care of the earth, we might end up doing to it what termites have done to the wood.



Title: **A World at War**

2024. Sculpture (Processed canvas material and spray paint). H-18cm L-32cm W-24cm.

This piece represents Earth during a period of widespread warfare and strife. The small holes dripping gold symbolize the damages caused by war bombs and guns in different parts of the world, serving as visual reminders of the destructive impact of conflict on the planet. 'A World at War' encapsulates the idea that war knows no boundaries and affects all corners of the globe. It conveys a sense of the interconnectedness of nations and the shared responsibility to strive for peace and understanding.



Title: **Termite Study**

2023. Photography.

Exploring Termite Worlds: Snapshots from my Live Study, understanding their behavior and different activities.



MIKE
ADENUGA
CENTRE

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

For enquiries:
Ladunni Lambo
+234 (0) 705 248 8010
culture.lagos@afnigeria.org