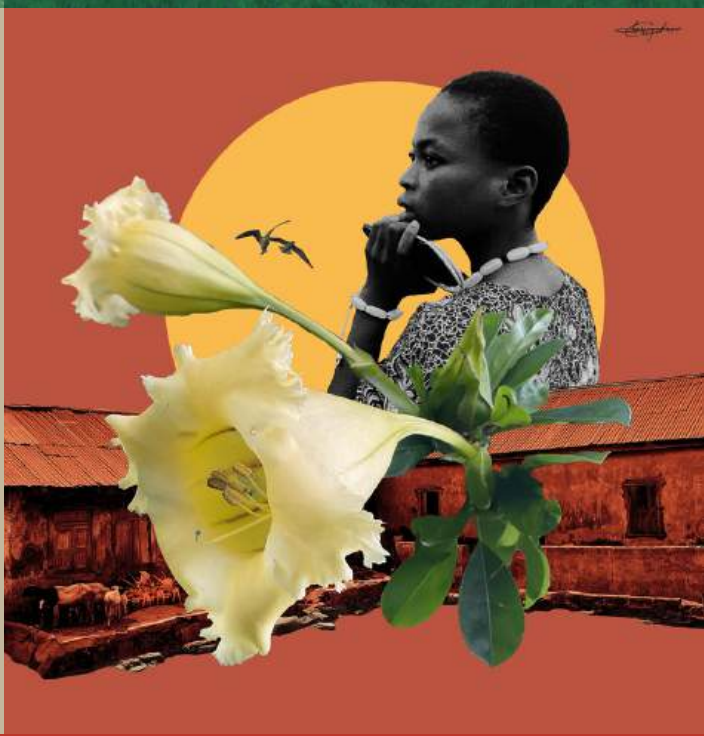


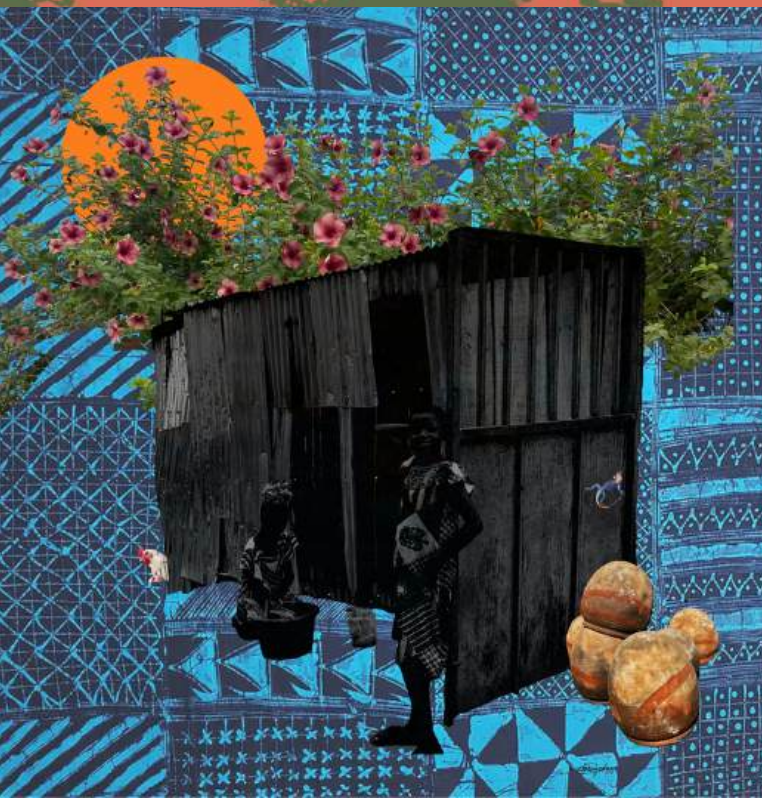
The Scrapbook



By Folu Oyefeso



Collection Catalog





Alliance Française

Lagos

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]

This exhibition invites you to explore intricate sections of art, culture, and storytelling, brought together by artist, Folu Oyefeso. This debut solo exhibition celebrates a dynamic journey spanning fine art, photography, and collaging, unified by a singular focus—uncovering beauty and meaning in everyday life.

At its core, this exhibition reimagines the African aesthetic, presenting signature portraits of Nigeria's culture, history, and people. Through bold digital collages crafted from four years of travel and exploration, Oyefeso weaves narratives of spirituality, architecture, and the individuals who fuel the nation's heartbeat. These works challenge stereotypes and foster a deeper appreciation of Africa's cultural richness.

Each piece immerses viewers in Oyefeso's layered worlds, sparking imagination, and encouraging the renewal of preconceived personal and collective narratives. The Scrapbook is a call for communal awareness, to encourage travel and curiosity to explore, and celebrate the message to become co-creators of a brighter future.

[FR]

Cette exposition vous invite à explorer des sections complexes d'art, de culture et de narration, réunies par l'artiste Folu Oyefeso. Cette première exposition solo célèbre un parcours dynamique couvrant les beaux-arts, la photographie et le collage, unifié par un objectif singulier : découvrir la beauté et le sens de la vie quotidienne.

Au fond, cette exposition réimagine l'esthétique africaine, en présentant des portraits emblématiques de la culture, de l'histoire et du peuple nigériens. Grâce à d'audacieux collages numériques réalisés au cours de quatre années de voyage et d'exploration, Oyefeso tisse des récits sur la spiritualité, l'architecture et les individus qui font battre le cœur de la nation. Ces œuvres remettent en question les stéréotypes et favorisent une meilleure appréciation de la richesse culturelle de l'Afrique.

Chaque œuvre plonge le spectateur dans les mondes stratifiés d'Oyefeso, suscitant l'imagination et encourageant le renouvellement des récits personnels et collectifs préconçus. The Scrapbook est un appel à la prise de conscience collective, à l'incitation au voyage et à la curiosité pour explorer, et à la célébration du message pour devenir les co-créateurs d'un avenir plus radieux.

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

Ladunni Lambo

Artist Biography



Folu Oyefeso is a Nigerian photography artist and creative entrepreneur whose work aims to capture the beauty, diversity, and resilience of Nigerian and African people. Through photography and storytelling, Oyefeso challenges stereotypes and assumptions about the continent, and presents a more nuanced and authentic portrayal of the landscape and its people.

Oyefeso's work often focuses on the rich cultural traditions and heritage of Nigeria and West Africa, as well as the daily experiences and challenges of its people. His imagery, articles and videos capture the vibrant energy and spirit, as well as highlight the beauty and diversity of landscapes, cultures, food, architecture and communities.

His efforts since 2020 have resulted in a rich tapestry of experiences which are archived on his personal website - www.foluoyefeso.com. This collection of short stories and pictures has grown into an online cultural repository with a steady stream of visitors from all over the world who use it for planning tourist trips, historical research and much more.

Oyefeso's goal is to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of Nigeria and Africa, and inspire viewers to see the continent and its people in its rightfully positive light. He is passionate about improving the tourism landscape and the longevity of small and medium sized businesses, to promote economic growth and wealth building for the continent

A collage collection from the tourism archives of photography artist, Folu Oyefeso (2020 - 2024)

Available as canvas prints
Editions of 3

Dedicated to my family, and friends that have become family.

Volume I - Nigeria and Benin Republic

Follow links in the element key to learn about the people and places that make up these works of art.

You Are A Creation Story, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

30x30 inches

This piece is a reminder to everyone that they are a creation story. As much as we are part of the greater cosmic dance, orchestrated by supreme beings, is the same way we play an active role in weaving our own realities. Themes of the Yoruba creation story are present in the chain and the chickens and spiral symbols at the center, the rose and the snail shell talk about the infinite knowledge and capabilities we possess as grounded and divine beings.

Element Key

Basket weaver from Lekki Arts Market, Lagos

Tree roots from Olumo Rock, Abeokuta

The Kids Will Be Fine, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

30x30 inches

A hopeful reminder that the kids now, and those yet to be born will be fine thanks to the ancestral spirits that watch over them. They have given us all we need to thrive in the modern world, we simply have to take the time to listen

Element Key

Architecture from Oja Oba (Kings Market) at [Irefin Palace](#), Ibadan
Boys from beach in Ouidah during [The Voodoo festival](#), Benin Republic

Vibrancy in Youth, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

20x20 inches

Sometimes I get flashbacks of a much simpler time. A time when the only worries I had were where to play football and which tree to climb. These flashbacks, carried with me everywhere, provide the fuel for today's efforts and I pray we never forget the things that make life so vibrant.

Element Key

Feris Wheel from [Trans Amusement Park, Ibadan](#)

Boys on the beach, Ilashe, Lagos

To Love Is To Set Free, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

30x30 inches

My experience with love has taught me many things but the most important is that if you love something you set it free. Like a bird, you do not cage it, like a flower, you do not cut it from its stems, and like a woman, just do what she says.

Element Key

Woman frying puff puff from Offa, Kwara State

Flowers from the Botanical Garden, Ibadan

Bird silhouette from The Hinderer House, Ibadan

Ode to Osun, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

20x20 inches

In honor of the Yoruba Orisha of femininity, abundance and nurturing, this collage depicts my idea of the different ways Osun impacts our daily lives. By being a conduit of vitality, she flows through our rivers, trees and animals, and passes that vitality to us for nourishment of our body and souls.

Element Key

Mother and child from [Ojude Oba Festival](#), Ijebu Ode
Osun River from [Emerald Forest Reserve](#), Oyo-Osun boarder
Birds from [Greenfingers Conservatory](#), Sangotedo, Lagos
Fish from [Tarkwa Bay](#), Lagos
Osun Statue from [Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove](#)

Barka De Sallah, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

20x20 inches

To celebrate one of our Muslim holidays, this collage was assembled to display the piety and discipline the Islamic faith has taught me. Though not a Muslim, I've learned a lot through Muslim friends and family and there is a special sense of reverence about the faith which I apply to my daily life.

Element Key

Kobiti Mosque from Abeokuta

Central floating man from Eid prayer ground, Offa

Men prepping ram for slaughter from [K-AIR residency](#), Ibadan

Girl praying the Quran from Pinterest

Feeding The Machine, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

A reflection on how we consume and exploit both natural and man-made resources without thought for tomorrow. In this piece, I explore the consequences of this cycle, where the actions of today create cracks that future generations fall through. We must reconsider what we're feeding and the impact it leaves behind.

Element Key

Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre, Benin City

Woodcutter is a member of the Bronze guild, Benin City

Buldozer, Benin City

Let Me Help You Fix That, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

Not at a detriment to yourself, but whenever you are able to lend a hand to someone in need, you should. That 'insignificant' act of kindness causes ripple effects that could supercharge someone else's day.

Element Key

Mechanic from Lagos-Ibadan expressway

Narrowleaf Zinia Flower from [Our Home Studio](#), Ibadan

Drummers from [Ijakadi Festival](#), Offa

[Olumo Rock](#), Abeokuta

Knowledge Sapling, 2025



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

30x30 inches

This piece draws inspiration from the deep-rooted wisdom of elders and the enduring power of knowledge. The brain-shaped tree growing from the man's head symbolizes intellect and stoicism, reinforcing the idea that wisdom is both cultivated and passed down over time - a huge honour and an incredible responsibility. The structure, a presidential library in Abeokuta, built by President Olusegun Obasanjo, highlights the importance of preserving knowledge as a foundation for future generations.

Element Key

Stoic Elder during the Voodoo Festival, Benin Republic

The Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOPL), Abeokuta

Words With Friends, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

We celebrate the moments that root us. Through the laughter, the shared stories, the timeless games, we build bonds as strong as the trees that stand tall behind us. We find pockets of joy in our friendships, the simple interactions creating avenues for the deepest memories.

Element Key

Men playing Ayo from Osun Festival, Osogbo
Tree from Idere hills, Oyo State

Protest For The Ocean, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

It begets constant reminding, that our actions as human beings affect every other life on the planet, and in this one I'm speaking to the human habits and situations that affect ocean life. Waste products especially plastic, oil ventures, overfishing, we need to pay attention to.

Element Key

Fisherman and Lighthouse from Lighthouse beach/ Tarkwa Bay, Lagos

Turtle from Lagos Yacht Club

Oil Ship from Lighthouse beach

Iyan Cosmic, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

20x20 inches

With every pound of the mortar, ancient ripples from daily rituals (such as making food) ripple through time. We mirror the hands of our ancestors, stirring cosmic wavelengths that shape both past and future. These traditions are like our stars, guiding us, flowing into the rhythm of the modern world, reminding us that the pulse of heritage is forever woven into our lives.

Element Key

Women pounding yam from Shooting Stars Buka, Ibadan
Rocks from [Emerald Forest Reserve](#), Osun/Ibadan Border
Coconut trees from [IITA](#), Ibadan

Reminds Me Of Home, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

Dedicated to my grandmothers, mother and aunts. This piece is in honor of the strongest women I've known but I find it problematic when we equate strength to how much one can endure. Strength is not just about what we bear, but also in our tenderness, our care, and our ability to create. I want to honor them not for what they survived, but for how they lived, loved, and shaped the world around them in ways that often go unnoticed.

Element Key

Ransome Kuti Heritage Museum, Abeokuta

Woman is an Osun devotee from Osun Sacred Grove

Bird of Paradise flower

Everything Is Connected, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

20x20 inches

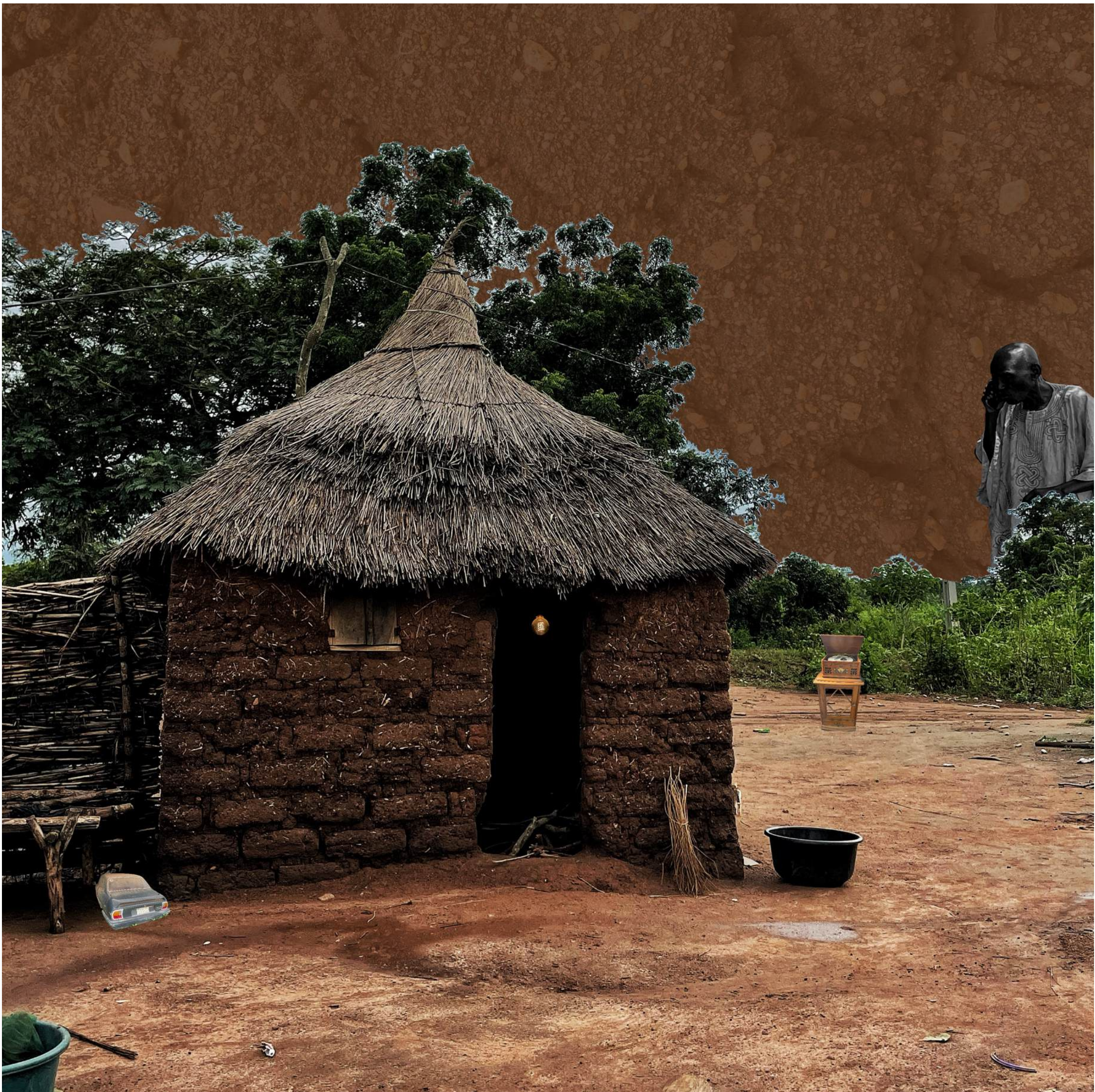
We often forget that the metaphysical segment of reality, the one that reminds us about our deep connection to all things in the universe and I like to depict that in the abstract shape of the Cape Honeysuckle flower and the different animals i have met on my journey.

Element Key

flower - [The Botanical Garden, UI, Ibadan](#)

Animals - [UI Zoo](#), [Dominican Chapel](#), [Greenfingers Conservatory](#), [Polo Club](#), [Python Temple](#), Yatch Club

Digital Dash, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage on High Quality Canvas and Wood

25x25 inches

Digital dash is an exploration of past, present and future technologies in the African context. The traditional house juxtaposed with more modern elements such as the lightbulb, 504 motor car, record player and man on his mobile phone combine to make imagery that explores our digital footprint across the decades. The background depicts the earth/clay that everything started from.

Element Key

Man on the phone from [Awe Town](#), Oyo State

504 car from [The National Archives](#), Ibadan

Record player from [The Ransome Kuti Heritage Museum](#), Abeokuta

Wide POV, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Wide POV (Point Of View) is one of the few self portraits in the collection and it is a depiction of myself and my curious nature. The king's bust I put on my head represents the weight of the crown, something I often feel. The binoculars indicate a vision that peers deeply beyond with the green and illuminated gaze expressing the power and wisdom my journey holds.

Element Key

Architecture from Idere hills, Oyo State

Oba Bust from The Esie Museum, Kwara State

Beauty In The Mundane, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

A small reminder to take pleasure and observe the beauty in the simple and mundane things in our lives. Being able to slow down and be fully present open our eyes up to the things we possess rather than the things we lack, a very important trait for building a gratitude mindset.

Element Key

Girls and shack from [Irefin Palace](#), Ibadan

Ceramic pots from [Dada Pottery Village](#), Ilorin

The Christian Path, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Growing up Christian, I had always struggled with the version of the religion I had experienced here in Nigeria. Perhaps I am/was too critical, but it opened my eyes to the corruption of human beings that sully the religion. I am learning now to separate the man from the God, and rediscovering the bright, beautiful and lessons the faith handed to me.

Element Key

Priest from the Dominican Chapel, Ibadan

Building is the CSS Bookshop, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ibadan

Nature Is The Brightest Idea, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

In my times of unease and confusion, spending time in nature has been a vital activity for providing clarity. A short walk, a picnic, a hike or a camping trip, can be the key to much needed illumination in our lives and will always be my brightest idea in times of haze.

Element Key

Light bulb from Bolivar, Lagos

Flower from Botanical Garden, UI, Ibadan

Do Hard Things, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Nothing good comes from staying in our comfort zones. Have those hard but healthy conversations, tackle your biggest fears and climb your steepest obstacles!

Element Key

Woman hugging from [Egungun Festival 2023, Ibadan](#)

Time Doesn't Wait, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Using the petals of the Barbados Lily as a natural clock, I emphasize the value of hard work. The slow and steady daily grind that is involved in building solid foundations is often more rewarding than shortcuts so everyday counts. No matter how small, do it everyday.

Element Key

Flower from Lakowe Lakes Golf Resort, Lagos
Clocktower at Trenchard Hall, UI, Ibadan

Sun, Clay and Nostalgia, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Distant but familiar, near but out of reach, sometimes it's there like nostalgia, sometimes "oh what was he trying to preach"?

Element Key

Girl looking left from Olojo Festival, Ile-Ife

Architecture from [Salami Agbaje property](#), Beere, Ibadan

Hawaiin Lily from [K-AIR](#), Ibadan

A Celebration Of Music, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Music is my bridge to different realms and states of consciousness. Every beat, every note, takes me on a journey beyond the ordinary, and connects me with depths buried in my tradition and the infinite possibilities of my soul.

Element key

Men drumming and dancing from Osun Festival, Osogbo

Bridge from Osun Grove, Osogbo

Drums from Ijakadi Festival in Offa, Kwara State

Goats Playing Chess, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Goats playing chess is inspired by the beautiful game and the lovely chess stories being shared by organizations such as chess in slums. Thanks to chess.com, a simple chess app, I've picked up the game again and I play with my friends. Goats because along with their stubbornness required for the game, they seem to have deeper wisdom than we can understand.

Element Key

Goats from all over South West Nigeria
Landscape is Agbele hill, Igbeti, Oyo State

Small Boy Big Quest, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

This piece is a fun depiction of my spiritual and religious journey thus far. It begins with the guns, tools required for an uncertain journey and these are metaphors for the inert fire I possess. Along the journey I come across spiritual guides in churches, mosques and shrines.

Element Key

Architecture - Church, [Offa Central Mosque](#) and Irefin Palace

People - [Zangbeto festival](#), [Osun Priestess](#), Imam and Priest from [Dominican Chapel](#)

Landscape is [Wonderland Twin Peaks](#), Abuja, FCT

Time Weaver, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

This image of an Aso Oke practitioner spinning threads made me think about the hands of the clock and the threads of time. It is a common notion that time moves in a straight line, but I don't always think so, so I wanted to play with this concept.

Element Key

Aso Oke weaver from Iseyin, Oyo State

Forged on Igun Street, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

Igun Street, an unassuming street in Benin city where fire shapes both the bronze and the people. This piece reflects the strength and resilience of the Benin people and their culture. A tradition that has endured so much, it deserves to be preserved for the future and celebrated today.

Element Key

All sourced from Igun Street, Benin City

New Culture, 2024



Mixed Media, Fine Art Photography and Digital Collage

The New Culture Studio is one of the sites in Ibadan that motivated my journey as a tourism practitioner and an artist. Designed and built by self taught architect and artist Demas Nwoko, it is a beautiful example of what it means to evolve unapologetically as an African person and so I placed myself in the middle of it all.

Element Key

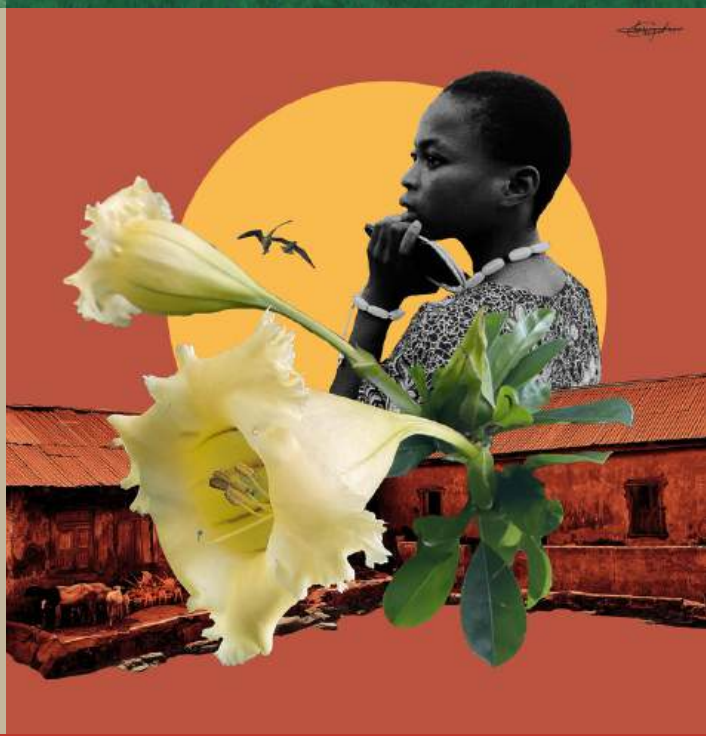
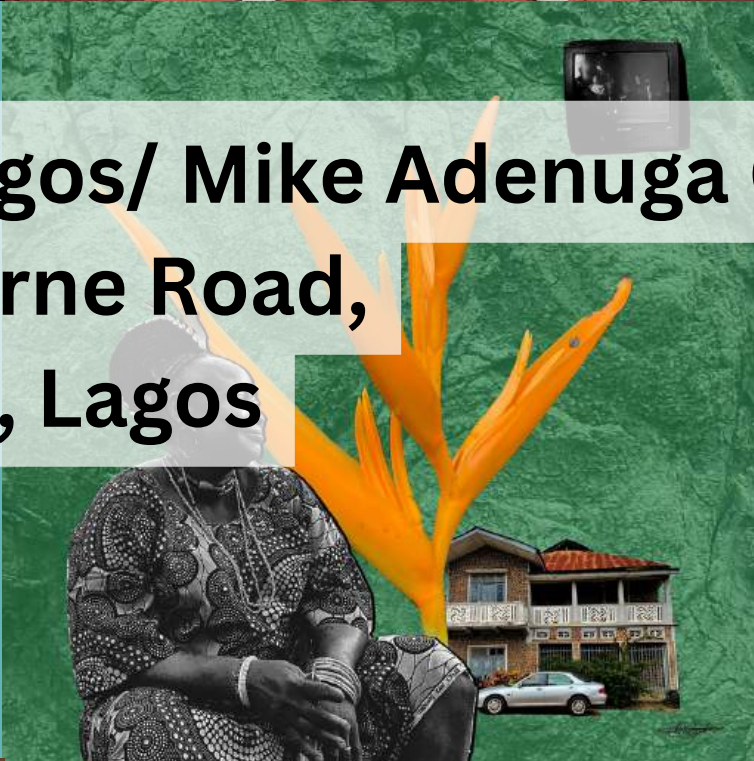
The New Culture Studio, Ibadan



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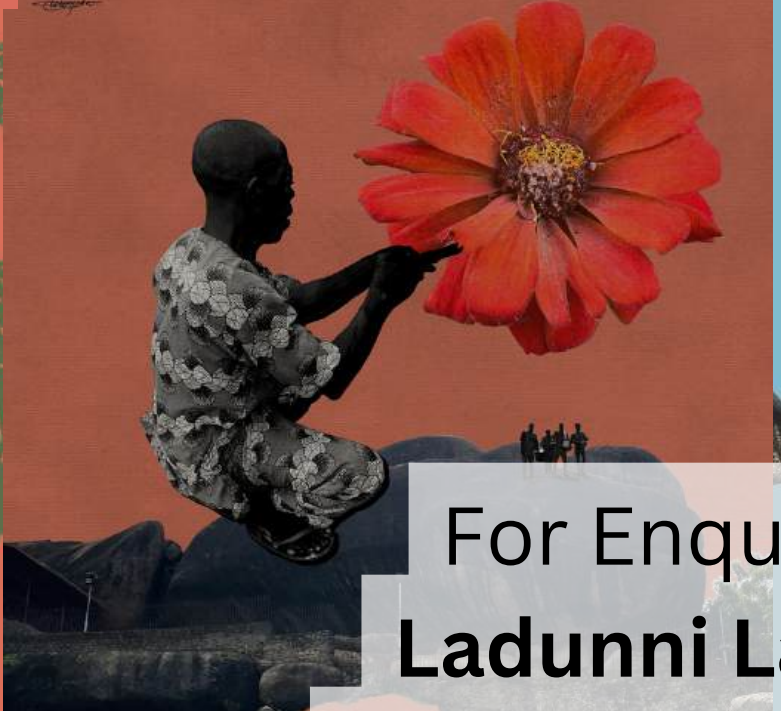
MIKE
ADENUGA
CENTRE

Alliance Française de Lagos/ Mike Adenuga Centre
9, Osborne Road,
Ikoyi, Lagos



Opening Hours
Mondays - Fridays
9am - 5pm

Saturdays
9am - 2pm



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