

OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

hubeChoice

For Nigerian artist and curator Oluwole Omofemi, painting is a means of capturing the beauty he sees in the world and in the people around him. It is a language that he uses to tell not only the stories of the people from his hometown, Ibadan, but also his own.

He frequently employs vivid colour with a sensibility and technical mastery reminiscent of the Old Masters. “From the background colours to the skin tone of my subjects, colour usage for me is by all means symbolic. The vibrant background colours are intended to draw attention to the details surrounding my heroes. I believe colour creates life in my paintings; to imitate life is to choose the colours that appeal to life. For example, in one of my recent works titled *Virgin*, brilliant red signifies the sacred art of purity intertwined with the presence of sexuality and a tenderness that alludes to love.”

The subjects of Omofemi’s portraits range from his family to his friends and strangers. Perhaps most notable amongst them are his arresting portraits of Black women, whose halo-esque hairstyles stand boldly against brightly coloured and tonal backgrounds. Every canvas represents an intangible, intimate dialogue between the subject and the artist. “Each time I paint, I work to understand the soulful desires of my subject, their feelings, their subconscious thoughts, and their mind. This creates a very strong sense of awareness and understanding of these people whom I find most interesting in intricate ways. Sometimes, the volatile feelings of my heroes may interfere with my ability to express their true being, but eventually, recognising their unique nature and distinctive qualities helps me to capture their essence in captivating ways.”

With thanks to OOA Gallery (Out of Africa Gallery)



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Mixed feelings, 2022
Oil and acrylic on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Invader II, 2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY

Oluwole Omofemi



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Invader III, 2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Invader I, 2021
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Abeni, 2020
Oil and acrylic on canvas
150 x 136.5 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY

Oluwole Omofemi



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Sooner than expected, YEAR
Oil and acrylic on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
Connection, 2022
Oil and acrylic on canvas
150 x 120 cm
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY



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OLUWOLE OMOFEMI
The other side, 2021
120 x 212 cm
Oil and acrylic on canvas
Courtesy of OOA GALLERY

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