

OLUWOLE OMOFEMI



EMANCIPATION

6/2 - 14/3/21

Barcelona - Spain



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

Born 1988, Ibadan, Nigeria

Works and lives in Ibadan, Nigeria

MESMERIZING MUSES OF OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

Oluwole Omofemi's work can best be described in his own words, 'unapologetic'.

His muses; black women depicted with skin as dark and rich as the oil that serves as the lifeblood of the artist's home country of Nigeria, are adorned with deep tribal marks, and crowned with engulfing halo-esque afros that are reminiscent of past martyrs of the black power movement that swept the global African diaspora in the late 1960's right through to the early 1980's.

Oluwole's depiction of untamed manes, midnight hue skin, and deep, penetrating tribal marks is a rallying cry against what he views as the deterioration of the pride and self-esteem amongst his 'black sisters' today; both in Nigeria, and abroad, whom he believes have been most subjected by post-colonial indoctrination and pandering to Western society's ideal of beauty and civilisation.

Raised predominantly in the company of his grandfather who shaped Oluwole's worldview and greatly informed his understanding of his culture, and his appreciation for his heritage and identity; Oluwole was inspired by his grandfather's period which nurtured the generation of Nigerians who fought for independence against colonial rule, and embraced the notion of self determination, and their Africanness.

Prevalent in his work are overtones of nostalgia and longing for what the artist suggests to be a golden age for the esteem, strength and beauty of black women. Conversely, Oluwole's work infers that as time has proceeded, there has actually been a regression in the true liberty and emancipation of black women as far as their ability to embrace their most true and authentic versions of themselves, which is anchored in their Africanness, seen and felt viscerally through their skin tone and hair.

Moreover, Oluwole's commentary on the suggested regression and plight of modern black women, and the need to reflect on and return to their former glory, has implications for the familial and relationship dynamic between black men and black women, and the topical subject of the decline of intermarriage, understanding and cohesion between the two. Yet, despite what on face value could appear to be a bleak outlook, Oluwole's overarching raison d'être and mission is to showcase afrocentric pride, which he maintains can only truly be championed through how black women, his muses, view themselves, and in turn are viewed by others.

For Oluwole, true liberty and emancipation for Africa, and black people at large, can only be achieved and realised once, black women are free to be their true selves and embraced and celebrated as they are.

Raphael Dapaah

Art writer, consultant & contributor

| Dapaah Gallery | Polo Lifestyles Magazine



UNARMED | 2020

137,5cm H x 185,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





EDUCATION

2015 - 2017 | Higher National Diploma – The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

2010 - 2014 | National Diploma – The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

2001 - 2007 | Community Grammar School, Mokola, Ibadan, Nigeria

1994 - 2000 | Saviour Apostolic Primary School, Ekotedo, Ibadan, Nigeria

SOLO SHOWS

2020 | “The Way we were” – Signature African Art – London, UK

2019 | “Iri” (Experience) – Allexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria

ABENI | 2020

150cm H x 136,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







GROUP SHOWS

2021 | Duo show “Emancipation” with Rewa - OOA Gallery –
Barcelona, Spain

“Can’t stop our flow”– JM Gallery – London, UK

“Locality and the Status Quo” - Pacers Art Gallery – Lagos,
Nigeria

“Say my Name” – Signature African Art – London, UK

Piasa Auction – Paris, France

INNER PEACE | 2020

133cm H x 117,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - **SOLD**







2019 | “Rise Up” - Signature African Art – London, UK
“Mayfair” - Signature African Art – London, UK
“Fashion and Art Show” – Belgium
“Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
“Impact Artist Fair” – Eko Atlantic City - Lagos, Nigeria
Second Ibadan Affordable Art Fair – Ibadan, Nigeria
Sogal Art Auction – Signature Beyond - Lagos, Nigeria
“Bald is Beautiful” – Alexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
“Starting point” – Lagos, Nigeria

EQUITY | 2020

170,5cm H x 136,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - **SOLD**



Charles Johnson





HOW TO
LOVE

2018 | Sogal Art Auction – Signature Beyond -Lagos, Nigeria

“New Horizon” – Discova Art Centre - Port Harcourt,
Nigeria

“Fair & Square” – Alexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria

“Next of Kin” – Thought Pyramid Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria

BLACK GIRL | 2020

139,5cm H x 149,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







2016 | “Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria

2015 | “The Return of the Slave” – Accra, Ghana

“Art for Heart” – Lagos, Nigeria

“Curore di Donna” – World Art Exhibition – Italy

“Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Exhibition - Lagos,
Nigeria

OMONALISA IV | 2020

135cm H x 123cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







2014 | “Emergency” – Lagos, Nigeria

2013 | “Life in my city Festival” – Alliance Française – Ibadan,
Nigeria

“Unity” – National Museum - Ibadan, Nigeria

BLUE CUP | 2020

132,5cm H x 126,5cm W | Oil and acrylic on canvas - **SOLD**



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For enquiries please contact

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