

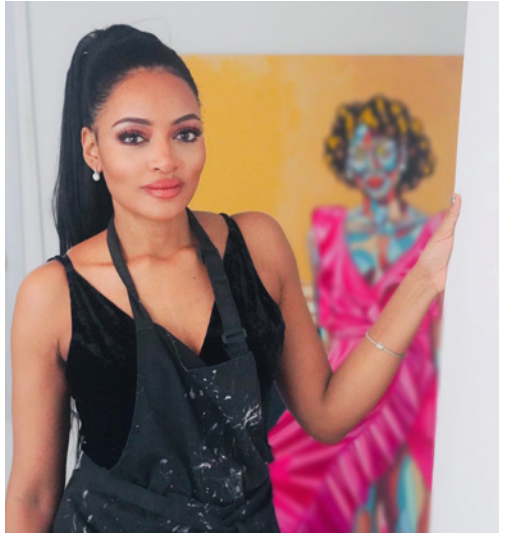
REWA



EMANCIPATION

6/2 - 14/3/21

Barcelona - Spain



REWA

Born 1987, Lagos. Nigeria
Works and lives in Lagos, Nigeria

ARTIST STATEMENT

Viewers largely label me under “Contemporary African Art”. I label my work as **Igbo Vernacular Art**. The reason for this is that I believe that I have created a truly original body of work that exists outside formal academic or Western dialogue. My art is drawn from life itself and deeply anchored in a place and culture from which it was derived. This is the Igbo culture pertaining to the Igbos of Nigeria.

I think that this description is more accurate as it implies a unique iteration of customs and tradition, bound to a particular location and a particular people.

Igbo Vernacular Art is not to be mistaken with Folk Art, but rather, concerns itself with an expressive aesthetic that would be more commonly associated with Contemporary Modern Art; form, composition and narrative. Vernacular dialects are anchored to a particular land, and in much the same way, my art contains a vocabulary that is built on a strong sense of place and is situated in a location and a history.

"It is my hope that one day, my work will be included in art historical dialogue about Africa and specifically Nigeria, beyond the confines of the wide-reaching Contemporary African Art designation". REWA.

BOLD PORTRAITS FROM THE AFROPOLITAN REWA

There's an unmistakable air of confidence and self-assuredness that radiates from the eyes of the muses, REWA masterfully captures on her canvases. Their gazes both invite you in like an old friend, yet still intimidate enough to keep you at bay, in the knowledge that the viewer is not entirely worthy of their presence.

Regality is the phrase best used to describe REWA's work. Not in the gaudy sense that imposes its will, or shines so brightly one is forced to turn away. But in the quiet, subdued manner that commands respect and holds your attention effortlessly.

REWA's bold figurative portraits are by all accounts an extension of the artist herself. A melting pot of varying influences, cultures, and experiences that have shaped and moulded a person that is as comfortable haggling the price of lace fabric in the heart of the hustle and bustle of Onitsha market, as they are blitzing through the high end boutiques of London and Paris.

KP'ARI (THE WOMEN OF ONITSHA) - 2020

181cm H x 121cm W - Acrylic and ink on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



2024
YWA





Born and raised between Nigeria and England, REWA's hybrid upbringing greatly informs her work, and indeed perfectly depicts the sensation that is the modern 'afropolitan' woman. Forward thinking, progressive, uninhibited, and self-aware, yet still rooted, albeit loosely, in the expectations, duty and responsibility that tradition and ancient customs dictate.

In REWA's case, that tradition and ancient custom is that of the Igbo people of South-East Nigeria, who are often described as Nigeria's most industrious and enterprising, as well as their most independent of thought and practice. The ancient value system and custom of the Igbo people and their fierce independence is evidenced in the themes REWA unpacks in her portraits, seen through a contemporary lens. Essential themes such as the importance of coming of age, engagement, marriage and playing one's part in their community and Igbo society at large are fundamental to REWA, and seamlessly blend the old with the modern; adapted, but never compromised to suit the times.

O GINI DU (WHAT IS IT?) - 2020

122cm H x 91,5cm W - Acrylic and ink on canvas - **SOLD**







What stands REWA apart from most contemporary artists today, is that she transcends the title of artist, and is all but in name, a historian, and chronicler of the evolution of her ethnic group, nation and continent in real time. Through her work, we witness firsthand the assertion and confidence of women; their ability to code switch, and dip effortlessly between the West and the African continent whilst retaining their essence, and above all else the liberty of having options, and not being restricted by the confines of patriarchy and perpetually subject to the male gaze as art history is all too often guilty of.

NEE M ANYA (LOOK AT ME) | 2020

122cm H x 91,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on canvas - **SOLD**



REWA
2020

Beyond being aesthetically captivating, REWA's work is intellectually stimulating, thought provoking and educational. Although working through the medium of acrylic paints, it is well within reason and justified to liken the importance of her practise to that of fellow compatriots and creative greats, Chinua Achebe and Chimamanda Ngozie Ndichie, whose work, like REWA's has put an illuminating spotlight on both past and contemporary Nigerian society; its inhabitants and their worldview.

Raphael Dapaah

Art writer, consultant & contributor

| Dapaah Gallery | Polo Lifestyles Magazine

ADIBA (PRINCESS OF THE COURT) | 2020

122cm H x 91,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on canvas - **SOLD**



BIOGRAPHY

REWA was born and raised between Nigeria and England and received a BSc. in Physiology and Pharmacology from University College London (UCL). Never having received formal art training, she is self-taught and developed her innate talent from a very early age. She finds that her spirit is moved by what she refers to as "depicted sentience" and through the celebration of the female form and bright, vivid colours. "My subject matter is woman, I celebrate her in many forms. I use traditional materials, ink, acrylic paints and brush on paper or on canvas, to capture an essence, making the paint assemble and the ink announce." REWA.

K'ODI (GOODBYE) | 2020

122cm H x 91,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



RENA
2020





Born and raised between Nigeria and England, REWA's hybrid upbringing greatly informs her work, and indeed perfectly depicts the sensation that is the modern 'afropolitan' woman. Forward thinking, progressive, uninhibited, and self-aware, yet still rooted, albeit loosely, in the expectations, duty and responsibility that tradition and ancient customs of the Igbo people of South-East Nigeria dictate.

REWA's work was featured at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA) in Brooklyn, New York, at the Zeitz MOCAA Museum, Cape Town, South Africa, at the Contemporary Art Centre New Orleans (CACNO), New Orleans, USA and at the Nigerian National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.

INUGO (HAVE YOU HEARD?) | 2020

122cm H x 76cm W | Acrylic and ink on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







EDUCATION

July 2016 | Gordon Institute of Business (GIBS), South Africa – The Business of Africa module; Johannesburg, Lagos & Nairobi immersion

March 2016 | Duke Corporate Education, Duke University – Experiential Learning; Design Innovation & Leading Change

September 2006-2009 | University College London (UCL) – B.Sc. (Combined Honours) – Physiology & Pharmacology

September 2004-2006 | William Morris Academy – 3A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, English Language & Literature, AS Level in Psychology

KA ANYI BIDO (LET US BEGIN) | 2020

122cm H x 76cm W | Acrylic and ink on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



SOLO SHOW

June/July 2021 | The Jonathan Ferrara Gallery – New Orleans, USA

April/June 2019 | Nwa Abgo (Entering Adolescence) – Jonathan Ferrara Gallery – New Orleans, USA

GROUP SHOWS

March 2021 | Art Dubai Art Fair – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

March 2021 | The Shape of the New virtual exhibition with Kroll (Duff & Phelps) in conjunction with Hauser+Wirth, HMRC – Demif Gallery and the British Art Market Foundation, Warrington, UK

February/March 2021 | Emancipation – Duo show with Oluwole Omofemi – OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain

January/February 2021 | In The Midst Of All That Is – Group show with Tiffany Delune and Kaye Freeman – Band Of Vices Gallery – Los Angeles, California, USA

ONYINYE (GOD'S GIFT) 2020

50,5cm H x 40,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on paper - [ENQUIRE](#)



REWA
2020

November/December 2020 | Inspiration In Isolation – Group show
– The Jonathan Ferrara Gallery – New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

August 2020 | Kwetu: A Celebration of Black Art – Virtual exhibition
with London.gov.uk

March 2020 | Art Dubai 2020 Art Fair – ReLe Gallery – Dubai, UAE

January/February 2020 | Young Contemporaries Alumni Exhibition
– Nigerian National Museum – Lagos, Nigeria

August/October 2019 | Identity Measures – Contemporary Art
Centre New Orleans (CACNO) – New Orleans, USA

July/October 2019 | Back to the future: Still Here Tomorrow to
High Five You Yesterday – Zeitz MOCAA – Cape Town, South Africa

September / October 2018 | No Dead Artists – The Jonathan
Ferrara Gallery – New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

June 2018 | Summer Art Fair – The Gallery of African Art (GAFRA) –
London, UK

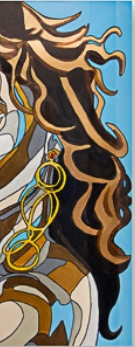
GEENAH II | 2020

50,5cm H x 40,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on paper - [ENQUIRE](#)



REWA
2020





November 2017 | Annual Masquerade Ball – Group exhibition & auction – Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCACA) – New York, USA

Sept/Oct 2017 | Her story: Sisterhood that transcends – The Gallery of African Art (GAFRA) – London, UK

January/February 2017 | ReLe Young Contemporaries 2017 Exhibition – ReLe Gallery – Lagos, Nigeria

January 2017 | Eko Art Expo – Eko Hotel – Lagos, Nigeria

OTHER PROJECTS

2019 | Nike Women's World Cup – Don't Change Your Dream. Change The World – Nike Gallery – Lagos, Nigeria

2019 | Vaseline Showcase – 2019 Essence Festival – Unilever

BLUE SOMADINA | 2020

50,5cm H x 40,5cm W | Acrylic and ink on paper - [ENQUIRE](#)



OOA | OUT OF AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART

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 Out of Africa Gallery

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ART SY

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