



**INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS ART
MOVEMENT**

AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS ART COMPETITION



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Wole Adedoyin
Director
IHRAM African Secretariat

On the cover: "Child Not Bomber," Omolara Elizabeth Adenugba

The International Human Rights Art Movement's (IHRAM) African Secretariat is thrilled to present the selected participants in the African Human Rights Art Competition. The nearly thirty entries come from a diverse array of participants representing thirteen countries including Nigeria, the Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Eswatini (Swaziland), Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, India, the UK, and Malawi. This competition captured the imagination and creativity of artists across the African continent and beyond.

This competition is a testimony to the power of art in reflecting and addressing critical human rights issues that resonate deeply within African communities.

The competition serves as a significant platform for artists to engage with and explore various facets of human rights through their artistic expressions. By encouraging participants to articulate their perspectives on pivotal human rights themes through painting and drawing, IHRAM aims to foster a robust dialogue that sheds light on the rich and varied narratives surrounding human rights in Africa.

The African Human Rights Art Competition, an initiative of the International Human Rights Art Movement (IHRAM), continues the work of the IHRAM African Secretariat to serve as a pivotal platform for African artists to engage with and amplify crucial human rights narratives. Through their artwork, participants not only celebrate the power of artistic expression but also contribute to a broader discourse on the importance of human rights in shaping a more just and inclusive society.

Wole Adedoyin
Director
IHRAM African Secretariat
Ibadan, Nigeria
July 7, 2024

Prizes

FIRST - Omolara Elizabeth Adenugba (Nigeria)
SECOND - Oyedokun Ezekiel (Nigeria)
THIRD - Beaula-Bertha Likambale Ng'ombe (Malawi)

HONORABLE MENTION

Adelina Ndunguru (Tanzania)
Tracy Jamgbadi (Nigeria)
Devrigan Rakwom (Kenya)
Blessing Ita Frank (Nigeria)
Elle Belle Art (South Africa)



Title: More than a thousand words

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 3ft x 4ft

ABOUT THE WORK

This artwork is a powerful advocacy for victims of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). It portrays the profiles of crying voices, the child of the victim, fear, anxiety, violence, struggle, stigmatization, regret, and rape—all harrowing experiences endured by sexually abused women that transcend words.

The colors in the artwork represent streams of emotions and storms of pain. These women exist everywhere—in homes, schools, markets, churches, and society at large. Some remain unseen and unheard, some are traumatized, and some are trying to move on. We see you, and no matter what others may say, WE BELIEVE YOU.

Justice speaks.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chidera Confidence Uzoma is a versatile multidisciplinary artist from Urualla, Imo State. She earned her B.Sc. in Fine and Applied Arts from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, in 2019. Chidera is passionate about life sketching, abstract painting, graphic design, illustration, and coaching.

Her paintings often utilize lines and shapes to convey themes of life, culture, and personal experiences. Her unique "Cubic-abstract" style is inspired by Cubism, where she believes every line and color has a specific significance, and she meticulously incorporates them into her artwork.

Chidera's work has been showcased in 19 art exhibitions across various states, organized by both national and international bodies in Nigeria. She received the 3rd Award at the Art of Sports Exhibition 2022, was a Top 5 finalist for the Artist Residency Lagos-Hamburg Project, and a Top 100 finalist for the LIMCAF Exhibition 2023.

She serves as the South-East Zonal Coordinator of the Female Artists Association of Nigeria (FEAAN), the Member Relations Officer and Social Media Manager of the Society of Nigerian Artists, Awka, and a Gold Member of Friends of International Art. Additionally, she is the past President of Omenka Ndi Imo Contemporary Arts in Imo State and the founder of De A.C.T Initiative under the Dera Soars (Virtual) Art Gallery, where she trains young people in drawing, painting, bead crafts, wool crafts, and mobile graphic design.

Chidera is happily married to Dr. Henry Uzoma.



Title: Footsteps away from a place called home

Theme: Forced evictions

Year: 2021

Medium: Photograph

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sinenkosi Msomi was born in Mbabane, the capital city of Eswatini. He holds an Associate Degree in Business Management and a Bachelor's of Commerce in Marketing. Sinenkosi is a self-taught photographer who has always been captivated by art, believing it allows his imagination to run free. In 2018, he decided to pursue his passion for art full-time.

Drawing inspiration from his inner feelings, childhood memories, self-expressions, and the beautiful bond between humans and nature, Sinenkosi uses photography as a powerful tool for

activism. He believes that photography can address complex issues that are often too challenging to tackle in formal settings.

His work features staged and conceptual photographs that invite the audience to engage with and express themselves toward one another, particularly within the African diaspora. Through his lens, Sinenkosi aims to foster a deeper understanding and connection among people, using his art to inspire and provoke thought.

ABOUT THE WORK

The submitted artwork confronts the harsh reality that Swazis from various communities are being forcibly removed from their homes and villages in parts of Eswatini. These cruel evictions violate their human rights, leaving many without shelter and dependent on contributions as they struggle to resettle.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Adedokun Sharon Eniola is a young woman who considers herself an embodiment of art. She is gifted in various forms of art, including music, fashion designing, drawing, painting, crafts, and writing. Dedicated to God, she firmly believes in the power of love and recognizes that humanity cannot survive without it. This belief has shaped her into a person full of love and compassion.

Adedokun Sharon Eniola is a graduate of Music from Mountain Top University.



Title: "AfrICAN"

ABOUT THE WORK

The above work highlights the essential human rights that African countries must recognize and uphold for the benefit and common good of all. These rights include the right to quality education for every person, especially the young, and the freedom to choose any career path regardless of religious or cultural differences. It also emphasizes the right to healthy and affordable food for everyone, proper healthcare for all irrespective of economic status, and equal treatment for both the rich and the poor.

Additionally, the artwork advocates for the right to own land for all indigenous people and tribes, protected by laws and relevant agencies. It underscores the right to self-expression and freedom of information without fear of harassment and oppression.

At the center of my drawing, within a circle, is an ordinary African family symbolizing unity and peace. They represent a community living in a country free from crime, judgment, discrimination, and hatred—a home filled with joy and positivity. This family epitomizes a resilient and strong people who work together for the betterment of their country and future generations.

Ultimately, the artwork conveys the message that, despite the obstacles and challenges they face, Africans can survive and thrive. Because they are "AfriCAN."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Johnry B. Cornico is a freelance visual artist, cartoonist, and illustrator. He is an inspiring resource speaker for art workshops and an award-winning artist with both national and international recognition.



Title: Solitude
Medium: Paper on Board
Size: 24" × 24"

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ojevwe Esther Onomigbo is a Nigerian paper collagist and multifaceted artist, born in the 1990s. Her work encompasses both conventional and non-conventional painting mediums. In 2014, she earned her first degree in Painting from the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. She furthered her education by obtaining a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Painting from the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, in 2019.

Onomigbo has participated in numerous local and international art exhibitions, competitions, workshops, and projects. Notable among these are the Art Project by the British Museum (Cambridge University) in collaboration with Nosona Art Gallery, Benin City, in 2019; the Art

Master Class organized by the Nigerian-German Center in 2021; and the Upcycling Redefined Workshop organized by the U.S. Embassy in 2021.

She currently resides in Lagos, Nigeria, where she continues her artistic practice.

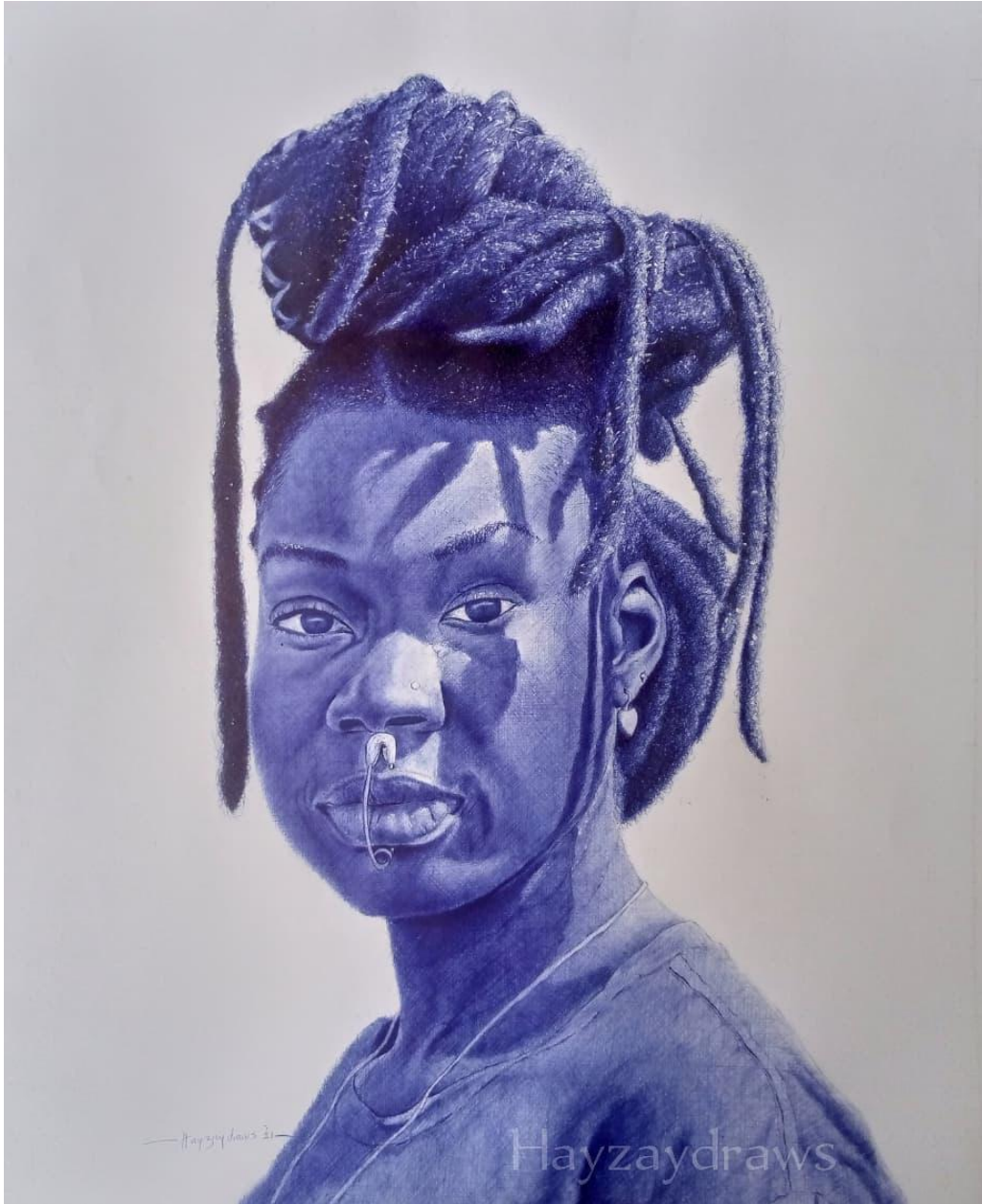


ABOUT THE WORK

Racism is like a virus that black people have been dealing with for decades. There is no reason for skin color to be seen as a threat. However, from birth, skin color often determines how the world will see and treat people. Being a black person often comes with oppression, discrimination and even murder. All people should have the right to be treated equally regardless of their skin color. I hope that my artwork will have a profound impact on others and will be used to raise awareness against racism.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rahmeen Fatima is a 15-year-old artist from Pakistan.



Title: Locked - My Hair My Pride

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Oyedokun Ezekiel is a professional pen and oil artist who communicates and educates the society about the women rights, morals and vices endangering human lives.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ejimuda Darlington Ikenna, born in 1993 in Anambra State, Nigeria, discovered his passion for art at a young age. He pursued his education in Fine Arts, first at the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu, where he obtained his National Diploma. He later earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts Education (B.A. Edu) from the University of Benin, Nigeria. Following his academic pursuits, he further developed his skills through workshops and artist residencies in Enugu and Benin City.



Title: Confined
Size: 20x12 inches
Medium: Sgraffito on paper

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Somawine Uche Victoria is from Aniocha South in Delta State, Nigeria. She pursued her studies in Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Benin, Benin City. A passionate artist, she delights in portraying the essence and beauty of nature through various mediums such as oil paints, acrylics, graphite, charcoal, and ink.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Esther .K. Oyewale, aged 22, is a graduate of the University of Benin, Edo State. Originally from Ogbomoso South, Oyo State, she currently resides in Bwari, Abuja. Her artistic inspiration stems from nature, music, cultural diversity, and everyday life experiences.

She held her debut solo exhibition on December 20, 2020. Additionally, on July 15, 2022, and again in 2023, she showcased her exquisite artworks at the World Youth Skills Day organized by the National Youth and Sports held at the National Abiola Stadium, FCT, Abuja. Esther was also

recognized as one of the top 100 finalists for LIMCAF 2023 and has participated in several other exhibitions.

Continuously exploring the art world, she remains dedicated to gaining more experience and exposure in her artistic journey.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jil Okonma is a self-taught digital artist from Nigeria, driven by a passion for narrating stories that honor African culture and experiences. Using vibrant illustrations and graphic designs, Jil delves into themes that highlight African excellence, resilience, and beauty. With a meticulous attention to detail and a deep love for storytelling, Jil aims to craft art that both inspires and fosters connections to the African continent.



"Forceful eviction tears at the fabric of belonging, leaving wounds that time alone cannot heal."

Title: Forceful Eviction.
OIL ON CANVAS
Size: 24/32

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Akinsowon James Oluwapelumi is a Nigerian Artist.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Adelina Vitus Ndunguru is an organized, efficient, and hardworking individual, always open to discovering and implementing new ideas effectively. She is a good listener and learner, capable of communicating well both in groups and on an individual level. Adelina possesses the ability to motivate and direct her talents and skills to achieve objectives successfully.



Title: Yoked

Medium: Oil on canvas

Size: 4 by 3 feet

ABOUT THE WORK

The work depicts about child abuse which are child trafficking, child sexual exploitation, bullying, etc.

The rope: In the work , the child's right hand is in a protesting position which shows that something in her is against the abuse but the rope which is tied on her hand signifies the threat she's getting from the abuser .

The Pen and the left hand: The pen and the left hand that is loosed signifies some slight chances she has to tell on the abuser. It's not obvious but "HELP" is written upside down on her left fingers. The "HELP" written on her hand is not obvious because she is not yet very mature minded to stand

her ground against the abuser. Maybe when she goes to school, church, or mosque, when topics like that are being taught she knows in her mind she is supposed to tell on the abuser but is silent because of the threats she receives.

The Zip: The zip on her mouth with a gift box as the zip head signifies element for silence. Instead of threatening the child or in addition to the threats the abuser offers the child enticing gifts to make the child silent.

The Wall: The wall signifies bondage spiritually and emotionally. It affects the child emotionally because as he/she grows the incident is always on the victim's mind

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mowhrode Fred Oghenero is a 300-level Fine Arts student at Delta State University, currently undertaking industrial training in Benin City, Nigeria. Specializing in realism, his artistic inspirations often come from movies, music, women, and children. He learned about the competition in Benin City.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anmol Mathur is a Professional Artist from India.



Title: Liberate Me

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sarah Hussein is a self-taught painter and sculptor who has been passionate about art since she began painting at the age of five. She draws inspiration from music, poetry, dreams, and the emotions and reactions of people, and her favorite medium is oil paint, though she also uses gouache and watercolors. Sarah explores themes such as the contrasting balance between light and dark, male and female, and life and death. She has exhibited her work in numerous judged exhibitions, showcasing her artistic vision internationally in Italy, Egypt, India, Taiwan, the UAE, and the USA. Her notable exhibitions include the Classical Roman Art Foundation in Rome (2024), the Farouk Hosny Foundation Award Art Exhibition in Egypt (2023), and the Art Revolution Taipei Fair in Taiwan (2019). Sarah has won several awards, including the Arabic Prize in Fine Arts (2018), the Bronze Medal in the International Embrace Design Competition (2022), and the Katara Novel and Fine Arts Competition (2022, 2023, and 2024). She was also shortlisted for the Alpine Fellowship Visual Art Prize (2022) and nominated for the Farouk Hosny Foundation Award (2023).



Title: Native Herdsboy

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tracy Jamgbadi is a self-taught artist from Nigeria who began her practice during the first lockdown while studying abroad in the UK. Since embarking on her artistic journey, she has experimented with various mediums, including beads, wool, oil, acrylic, and origami. Tracy primarily uses oil paint to create artwork focused on human figures, as well as abstract and landscape pieces. Most of her work has been relatively small in size, but the piece she is submitting today is her largest to date. This piece, "Native Herdsboy," represents a significant personal challenge for Tracy, breaking a self-imposed barrier in her art-making. "Native Herdsboy" reflects the issue of child labor in many African countries, where young children's ability to perform physical labor is often prioritized over their education and development.



ABOUT THE WORK

A newly liberated woman, coming from a dark place of abuse and suffering, now for the first time experiencing and enjoying independence. She has taken herself to a resort along the lake and for the first time enjoying the beautiful morning, a cup of coffee by her side while looking at the flowers and the music by the birds outside. The open window represents freedom

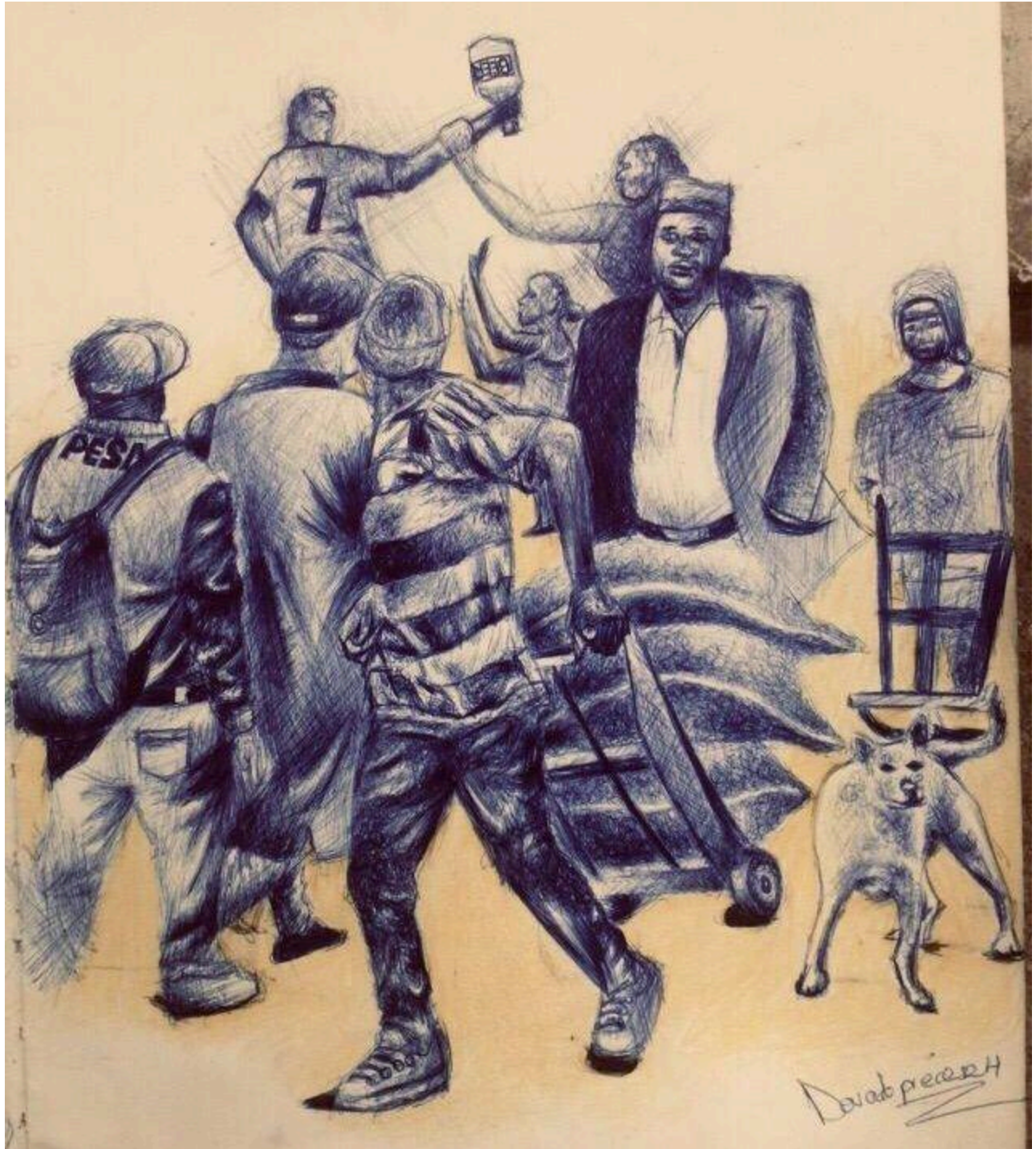
Her dressing represents the freedom she has just attained. Her face is full of bruises. In this picture, she is not hiding the scars, but they are being kissed by the morning sun, after a night of rain, the rain also represents the troubles that she had gone through.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Beaulla-Bertha Likambale Ng'ombe is a budding fictional writer and a passionate acrylic artist, specializing in love stories set in the African context. She has published two books on Amazon.com: "For the Love of Oly" (a novel) and "The Graveyard Meeting" (an anthology). Her upcoming publications include "Interview Gone Wrong," "Rescued by the Stranger," "Bullied into Love," "Surviving An Interview" (an interview guidebook), and "Becoming The Best Interviewer" (a sequel guidebook for panelists). Currently, she is working on three novels: "One Stormy Night," "Time Waster," and "Twice Lucky."

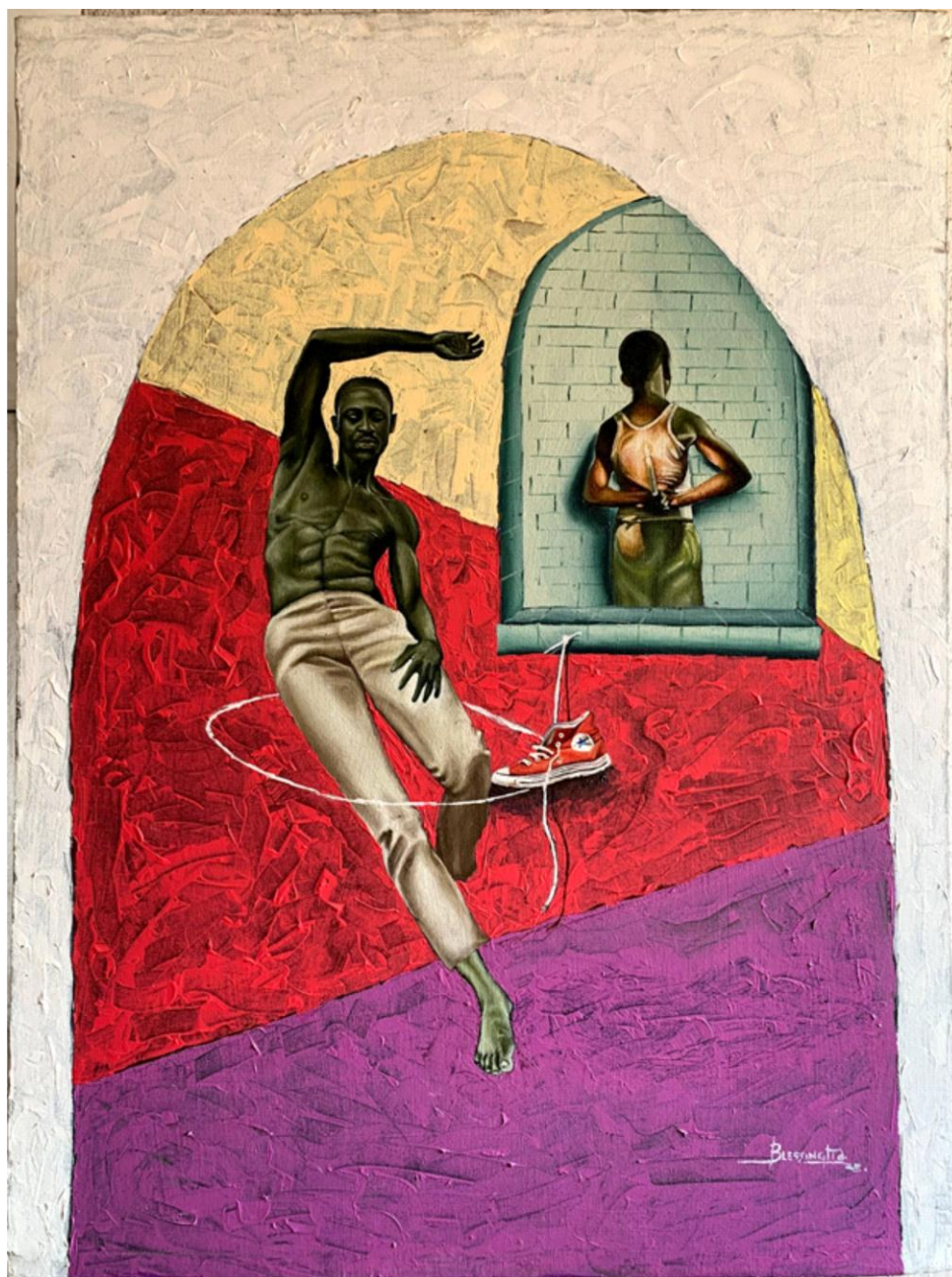
In 2018, Beaulla-Bertha earned 4th place in the Malawi Writers short story competition with "Because of His Skin," a story dedicated to the plight of people with albinism. In 2019, she secured 2nd place with "Twisted Fate," a story highlighting the struggles of a neglected child.

Beaulla-Bertha holds a Master of Science degree in Strategic Management from the University of Derby, UK. Since January 2021, she has been a lecturer at Malawi Adventist University, where she previously served as the Human Resource Manager from 2011 to 2020 and an adjunct lecturer in the Business Department from 2017 to 2020. Additionally, she is a philanthropist and an exceptional cook.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Devrigan Rakwom is a Kenyan Artist.



Title: Let your light shine

Medium: Oil and acrylic on canvas

Size: 3ft.5 x 2ft.6

ABOUT THE WORK

This painting was inspired by a period in my life when I resolved to follow my own path to destiny, regardless of how slow the journey might be. Success was my ultimate aim and goal. Reflecting on my journey, I recall how my childhood expectations were curtailed by my parents' desires for me to fulfill their dreams, as well as the community's imposition of a predetermined path they

deemed appropriate and successful. This painting speaks to everyone who has been affected, directly or indirectly, by such pressures. It aims to inspire hope and courage to take bold steps and make decisions that will be favorable in the long run, cherishing every memory along the way.

Feel free to express yourself and become who you truly wish and desire to be.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Blessing Ita Frank is an emerging Nigerian artist, born and raised in Ojodu, Lagos State. Discovering a passion for art at a very early age, Blessing worked diligently to carve out a niche in the art world. After being tutored as an apprentice by Sam Ovrati for several years, Blessing enrolled at Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos, to study Arts and Design in 2014. In 2023, Blessing earned a Bachelor's Degree in Art from the University of Benin, Edo State.

Currently, Blessing is a resident artist at the Edo Global Art Foundation, directed by Mr. Enotie Paul Ogbemor. Blessing's paintings draw inspiration from life, realities, dreams, mundane moments, and past and present experiences. They explore themes that revolve around and impact daily life, rendered in subtle tones and values. The paintings highlight the uniqueness of individual and private experiences, evoking mixed reactions from the audience through thoughtful compositions.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kenneth Alexander, 42, is a self-employed home maintenance professional from Cape Town, South Africa. Married with three children, Kenneth rekindled his passion for art after a 25-year hiatus. His artwork, titled "See, Speak & Hear No Evil," portrays the hardworking mine workers who extract natural minerals. The piece illustrates how these minerals are exported to the Western world, often at the cheapest price, as people turn a blind eye to the exploitation and injustices involved.



Title: "HerKeepingUp"

ABOUT THE WORK

The artwork depicts the hidden struggles of women facing gender-based violence, who must conceal their pain behind a smiling facade for societal acceptance. Domestic violence remains a widespread and troubling issue affecting countless women across Africa. Many endure physical, emotional, or psychological harm within abusive relationships, often feeling trapped and unable to escape. Through my mixed media art piece, I aim to visually convey the concept of scars hidden beneath a smile, symbolizing the internal suffering and resilience of these women.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Noel Kabiito is an Uganda Artist.



Artwork Dimensions: 70 cm length x 50 cm breadth

Medium: Charcoal and Conte pastel on canvas.

ABOUT THE WORK

Upon encountering the call for artworks by the International Human Rights Art Movement, I was compelled to address the distressing phenomenon of children exploited as "zombie bombers" through indoctrination. My inspiration stemmed from a tragic event in June 2019 in Konduga village, Northern Eastern Borno state, Nigeria, where two girls and a boy were manipulated into carrying out a bombing outside a video hall. Children, as the future leaders of our world, deserve protection and education. Educating a child enriches a nation; they are vessels of knowledge, not

tools of destruction. Innocent and inherently good, children's minds are characterized by playfulness, openness, and an absence of worldly negativity. It is unfathomable to exploit such innocence and subject these beloved children to such heinous acts.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Omolara Elizabeth Adenugba is a Nigerian Artist.



Title: consequences
Size: 40cm * 60cm,
Year: 2017

ABOUT THE WORK

The painting titled "Consequences" is inspired by the detrimental impact of poor electoral choices, a prevalent issue in Kenya and across East Africa. People often vote based on tribal affiliations or other non-merit factors rather than the qualifications of the candidates. This leads to rampant corruption that hinders national progress, exacerbating poverty and widening disparities. In the artwork, the old, worn-out shoe symbolizes the widespread poverty affecting a significant portion of the population. The newspaper article depicted highlights the severity of the situation, underscoring the pressing issues faced by the country as a result.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Stanley Cheche is a visual artist born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, boasting a career spanning over a decade. He has exhibited his artwork in a variety of prestigious venues, including the Affordable Art Show at the Kenya National Museum, Kenya Art Fair, East African Biennale, and Dusit Art Show. Stanley has also participated in numerous local and international art competitions, achieving victories in several, including online competitions in 2023.

Noteworthy among his accolades are winning the Kenya on Canvas Art Competition hosted by Safaricom, and the Environment Art Competition in Turkey. He was also a recipient in the Truth Vanquishes Lies Art Competition addressing the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Stanley's artistic repertoire is heavily influenced by his surroundings, covering a spectrum from political and economic themes to social issues. He works primarily in two mediums: mixed media abstracts on canvas and soft and oil pastels on textured paper. His artworks are prominently featured in private collections and corporate products such as diaries and calendars.



Title. Cry our beloved country
Acrylic, pastel, Crete stone on canvas.

ABOUT THE WORK

Our country is falling apart because of corrupt government that does not care about its people but rather worry about how many cars and houses they can own.

The Protea is our country's national flower. Therefore the crying Protea flower.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Elle Belle Art is a South African Artist.



Acrylic on canvas; 50*60 cm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Maha Abdelli hails from southern Tunisia, is a 26-year-old artist currently pursuing a master's degree in entrepreneurship. Alongside her academic pursuits, she actively engages as an activist in civil society initiatives.



Linoprint

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gary Frier (b. 1972, Cape Town) grew up in segregated Kuilsriver, Western Cape, and earned his Graphic Design qualification from Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2004. Transitioning from various design roles, Gary now focuses on creating deeply personal art. Alongside his independent art practice, he freelances as a designer/artist and teaches visual art and pottery at Valkenburg Psychiatric Hospital's occupational therapy department, supported by

Stonehage Financial Services for the Alcuin Charitable Trust Fund. Frier's work, known for its strong graphic quality, blends contemporary and historical African elements with urban culture, using masks, photography, and textures to explore socio-political themes. His art, exhibited widely locally and internationally, reflects emotive reflections on his place in the world. Based in Kuilsriver, Gary operates from his home studio, with his works held in public and private collections worldwide, including prestigious institutions like Oliewenhuis Art Museum and Iziko South African National Gallery.



Title: Black Boy's Dream.
Medium: Pastel and Charcoal on Paper.
Size: 144cm by 104cm.
Year: 2024.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Adebayo Victor OwolabiAdebayo, a visionary artist hailing from Nigeria, is the embodiment of creativity and emotion on canvas and paper. His art transcends conventional boundaries, effortlessly blending abstract concepts with raw, intense emotions. Adebayo's explore and shares his thoughts through pencil (graphite and charcoal) and chalk pastel on canvas, where he orchestrates a symphony of colors to evoke feelings that words often struggle to convey. Each stroke is deliberate, every hue carefully chosen to tell a unique story.

Inspired by the ebb and flow of life, Adebayo's work often explores themes of love, resilience, and the intricate dance between light and shadow. His pieces have graced exhibitions renowned in various events, earning him accolades for his ability to capture the human experience with unparalleled depth.

Adebayo believes that art is a universal language capable of transcending cultural barriers. He often engages with his audience, inviting them to interpret and connect with his creations in their own personal ways.

In a world where words may fail, Adebayo Owolabi's art speaks volumes, inviting viewers to delve into the profound landscapes of emotion and imagination he meticulously crafts.