ALLI RAHEEM

EBONG EKWERE

DUAL EXHIBITION OF WOODEN SCULPTUFRES 2024

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

Present

ALLI RAHEEM
EBONG EKWURE

DUAL EXHIBITION OF WOODEN SCULPTUFRES

Saturday, 19th October - Saturday 26th October 2024

Signature Beyond Art Gallery
107 Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

INTRODUCTION

Signature Beyond Art Gallery is proud to host Expressions in Form, a dual exhibition of sculptures by acclaimed artists Alli Raheem and Ebong Ekwere. This exhibition celebrates the power of sculptural art in capturing the complexity and richness of the human experience. Both artists explore the transformative nature of wood, shaping it into evocative forms that bridge tradition and contemporary aesthetics.

Alli Raheem's, brings a bold, expressive energy to his sculptures. His works feature complex, intertwined figures and geometric motifs that speak to themes of connection, identity, and resilience. Alli Raheem's dynamic compositions make use of the natural texture and grain of the wood, infusing each piece with a tactile, almost tangible presence. His sculptures command attention and invite viewers to explore their intricate surfaces and hidden meanings.

Ebong Ekwere's works are a study in elegance and abstraction. His sculptures, defined by their smooth surfaces and elongated silhouettes, convey a sense of movement and serenity. Ebong draws inspiration from the organic shapes found in nature, skillfully translating these influences into sculptures that are both modern and timeless. His ability to capture fluidity and grace in solid material is a testament to his mastery of form.

Together, Raheem and Ekwere present a compelling conversation in wood, where fluidity meets structure, and abstraction engages with realism. Expressions in Form is an exploration of how sculpture, through the deft hands of these artists, can transcend its materiality to tell profound stories and evoke deep emotions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Signature Beyond Art Gallery expresses profound gratitude to Alli Raheem and Ebong Ekwere for bringing their inspiring works to life in this dual exhibition of sculptures. Their dedication to their craft is evident in the powerful forms and intricate details of each piece, showcasing their exceptional ability to translate emotion, culture, and imagination into three-dimensional art.

Alli Raheem's sculptures captivate with their fluid, abstract forms that explore the human figure and natural elements, creating a harmonious balance between realism and abstraction. Each piece is a testament to his refined skill in manipulating wood to express the subtleties of movement and rhythm.

Ebong Ekwere, on the other hand, approaches sculpture with an exploration of both organic and geometric shapes, transforming raw materials into evocative symbols of tradition and modernity. His works evoke thought and curiosity, bridging the gap between the tangible and the intangible, making this collection an enriching visual experience.

We appreciate the invaluable contribution of both artists in making this exhibition a celebration of creativity and sculptural excellence. Their works collectively engage the senses and provoke a deeper understanding of contemporary African art.

GALLERY STATEMENT

Signature Beyond Art Gallery is delighted to present Interwoven Forms, a dual exhibition of sculptures by the talented artists Alli Raheem and Ebong Ekwere. This exhibition is a celebration of the dynamic potential of sculpture as an art form, showcasing the artists' unique interpretations of human experience and cultural identity through meticulously carved wooden forms.

Alli Raheem's pieces, in contrast, explore the more complex intersections of form and texture. His sculptures are rich with layered meanings and intricate details, balancing both geometric and organic shapes Alli Raheem's bold approach to carving results in powerful forms that speak to the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Each work exudes a strong presence, utilizing the natural qualities of wood—its grain, texture, and warmth—to articulate themes of unity, resilience, and identity.

Ebong Ekwere's works are characterized by their sleek contours and minimalist yet evocative compositions. His sculptures, with their flowing lines and abstract shapes, capture the essence of movement and emotion. Ebong Ekwere's mastery of the medium reveals itself in his ability to imbue seemingly static forms with a sense of fluidity and rhythm, creating pieces that appear almost to dance within the space they occupy. His sculptures evoke a meditative calmness and invite the viewer to engage in an introspective dialogue.

Presented together, the sculptures of Raheem and Ekwere transform the gallery space into an arena of interplay between solidity and motion, simplicity and complexity. The exhibition offers a compelling dialogue between two artists who, while distinct in their styles, share a commitment to pushing the boundaries of contemporary African sculpture. Through this showcase, Interwoven Forms invites viewers to contemplate the relationship between tradition and modernity, and to appreciate the power of sculpture to convey meaning beyond the surface.

TABLE OF CONTENT

1-19

VIEW EXHIBITIONS

ALLI RAHEEM

Raheem Owolabi is a gifted artist specializing in both painting and sculpture. He obtained a Higher National Diploma from Auchi Polytechnic in 2013 and has since established a distinguished career as a full-time studio artist. Raheem's art has been showcased in numerous commissioned projects, exhibited both nationally and internationally.

He has participated in several group exhibitions across Nigeria and online, and was featured in the 2019 "Simply 9ja" residency program, organized by Alexis Galleries. His work has also been highlighted in the Sogal Auction, organized by Signature Beyond Art Gallery, in 2022 and 2023, as well as in the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Conversation program.

In addition to his impressive exhibition history, Raheem has received multiple local and international awards for his artistic achievements. He is an active member of the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA), Lagos State Chapter, and continues to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the art community

ARTIST STATE MENT

My wood sculptural pieces are created in a stylized form that I have developed over time. I constantly sketch to capture depth and ideas, which are then translated into detailed maquettes before being transferred onto the log of wood.

My inspiration comes from nature and the striking things around me, mostly fueled by my imagination and thoughts.

I have a passion for working with wood because of its unpredictability and the curiosity sparked by the natural grain patterns.

Kiss The Bride
Stained Apa Wood
H 86 X W26 X D35CM
2024

Ego “Igberaga“
Stained Apa Wood
H 89 X W36 X D36CM
2024

Oju Koro
Stained Apa Wood
H 87 X W26 X D30CM
2024

Day Dream
Stained Apa Wood
H 188 X W30 X D30CM
2024

Y i n m u
Stained Apa Wood
H 92 X W30 X D30CM
2023

T h o u g h t
Stained Apa Wood
H 103 X W35 X D20CM
2023

Aromatic II
Stained Apa Wood
H 90 X W20 X D50CM
2024

R u m i n a t i n g
Stained Apa Wood
H 160 X W40 X D30CM
2024

EBONG EKWURE

Ebong Ekwere was born in 1961. He obtained a Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts, majoring in Sculpture, from Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, in 1985. Since 1999, he has worked with the Federal Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and National Orientation in Abuja, where he retired as a Chief Executive Officer.

Ekwere works with wood and metal in two broad representational styles: an academic mode through which he produces striking portraits of Nigerian personages, and a more stylized expression where he exaggerates several facets of his figures to achieve rhythm and movement.

Unknown to many followers of his art, Ekwere is also a master of the water pastel medium. He is a member of the Society of Nigerian Artists.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As much as we believe that art reflects our innermost thoughts and beliefs, it is also safe to say that it is an expression of our personality.

Perspective I
Wood
H 130 X W 30 X D31CM
2019

B o n d
Wood
H 123 X W40 X D30CM
2024

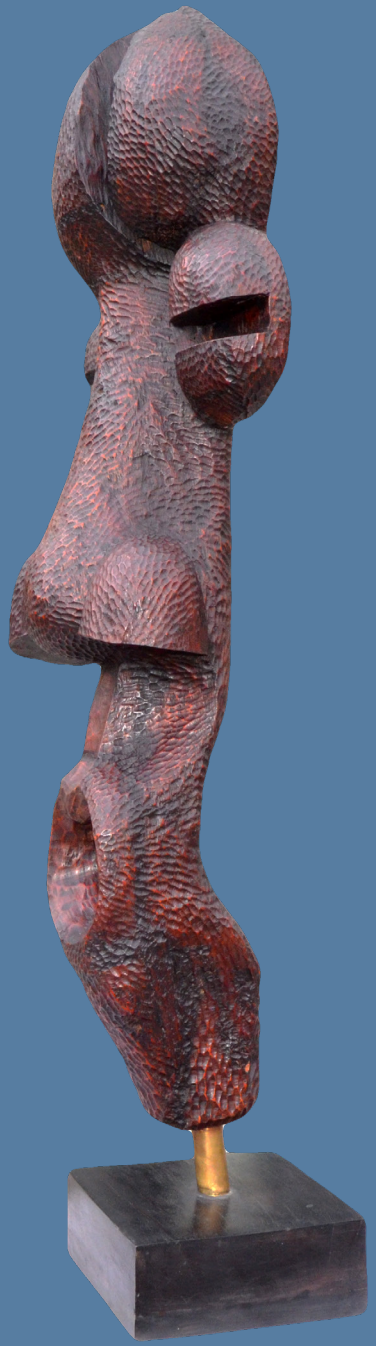
Elegance III
Wood
H 120 X W40 X D40CM
2024

Elegance II
Wood
H 143 X W40 X D30CM
2024

Perspective II
Wood
H 106 X W25 X D30CM
2024

Elegance I
Wood
H 139 X W30 X D25CM
2024

Masculinity
Wood
H 137 X W36 X D30CM
2022



M a n
Wood
H 132 X W40 X D25CM
2022

Signature

+234 803 317 7676, 902 722 7248

Signaturebeyond@gmail.com, Signaturebeyond@yahoo.com

Signatureandsogal @signaturebeyond1 signature-beyond

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+234(0)9057059567

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All Enquiries: | signaturebeyond@gmail.com
Lateef Aremu
+234(0)8033177676