MODERN & CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN



ART EXHIBITION 2024 BY KELLY OMODAMWEN

BEYOND MIMESIS

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

Present

BEYOND MIMESIS

BY

KELLY OMODAMWEN

11th of JANUARY - 25th of JANUARY 2024

Time : 09:00am - 05:00PM

107 AWOLOWO ROAD, IKOYI, LAGOS, NIGERIA.

INTRODUCTION

BEYOND MIMESIS

A conscious tilt-away from repetitive mode:

It is fascinating having the opportunity to introduce Kelly Omodamwen exquisite sculptures to this beautiful audience. Mimesis in its original context dwells mainly on the basic theoretical principles in the creation of art works. Kelly has stood on the frame works of Pluto and Aristotle's lines of thought to represent nature rather than copying it. As it where, he broke loose from imitative stereotypes that dominates the famous traditional Benin bronze casting practice both in concept, thematic and technomorphical approaches in materials usage.

The art objects presented to us are created purposively and intelligently with the sole aim of satisfying our perceptual appetite. As such, we should endeavor to intelligently look at them with high sense of purpose in other to be able to grasp and apprehend visually the spatial relationships that will aid in distinguishing between qualities of form of extreme subtleties and volumetric convolutions of mass sculptures that inhabit and expel space respectively.

It is a common knowledge that spectators often find it difficult to comprehend the convoluted volumetric arrangement of sculptures surface and internal structures, given to the fact that sculpture truly exists in the 3 Dimensional formations. People with highly developed intellectual and verbal skills hardly come to terms with the fact that in visual matters they may be less well-equipped. To understand sculpture one need to possess and acquire the habit of looking at sculpture for the sake of regarding it as something intended primarily to be perceived. However, we do not require much of these perceptual skills to appreciate the colour, texture, the patina, the subtle graduation of surface tones, the linear qualities of the contours, the silhouettes, the decorative patterns of the direct finger prints on wax that enliven the surfaces of Kelly's sculptures.

In recent times, there's a deathly downward slide in sculpture appreciate. This declination is overtly due to the degenerative decline of public perception, acceptance and favour to sculpture. Forces of hard political and religious fanaticism towards sculpture cannot also go unnoticed.

Art and artists through the ages are known to play different and important roles in contributing to the overall health development, and wellbeing of society. In this regard, Kelly has pretenses to unique stylistic trend with unified thematic direction. The arrays of his works nonetheless chart a common path in appealing to the human conscience through material exploration, philosophical admonition and promotion of cultural creative values.

The stylistic exposition of man's inner strength in all the works evokes an emblem of fixated stylistic consciousness that could be in the time and class of Brancusi and Henry Moore. The pieces are visually characterized by juxtapositioning of frail and deceptive out look that evokes a feel of weakness through starvation. Contrarily, the inner strength of man is exposed through rich titles like, 9-Lives, Patience, Quest, Resolute, Soul Mate, Trance, Ewan, Strategy, Strive, Adventure, and love encoded among others.

While "9-Lives" presents to us hope as a product and reward of courage in persistence, "patience" admonishes us to strive courageously in everyday challenges. Kelly has engaged the society thoughfully. He has made steps towards social progresses by visually documenting human collective emotions through the pieces "soul mate" and "love -encoded". These sculptures captured the trial of emotional bond between lovers; the lending of helping hand to each other in time of need and scarce trust that should

exist among lovers. The awesome momentary feel of soul in flight is captured in the piece, “Trance” which exposes man’s burning quest for celestial co-existence and momentary interactions. “Ewan” connotes the gift of natural intelligence as against artificial intelligence. This intelligence assists man in his “strive” to succeed. “Strategy” reminisces man’s age long schemes in conquering his fears which leads him to be “Adventure-rous”. “Isekhure” expresses the glory of favor around those whom the gods cherish; even disability is no barrier to their success.

Happy viewing.

Dr. Njoku Kenneth Iheukwumere (Ph.D)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To God, I give thanks for His divine wisdom and creativity bestowed on me during the time of creating these pieces and making dreams become a reality.

My sincere appreciation to Mr. Akar Rahman, CEO, signature beyond art gallery for time devoted and provided guidance throughout the period of this project.

My profound appreciation to Dr. Njoku Kenneth Iheukwumere (Ph.D.) for the curatorial documentation for this project.

I also want to thank the people of Sculp. Annie Tembest, sculp. Giacometti whose works have been a source of inspiration for me in style and approach, which was a drive. through my creative background

I wish to thank every single person who has contributed to this project from my studio assistant, intense, my family, and fellows whose words might have inspired certain concepts to achieve all that I have put together for this exhibition.

Thank you

ARTIST STATEMENT

Art is a reflection of its environment and time.

The voice of an artist depends largely on his or her technique and choice of medium. expression and the proper use of both enable the audience connect with the unspoken words of an artist.

Beyond mimes is an embodiment of deep, unspoken thoughts and innate expression of emotion through body language.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Kelly Omodamwen Born in 1993, he hails from the Oredo Local Government Area of Benin City, Edo State.



Kelly began his sculpting journey as a kid in his grandfather’s studio, who was a renowned traditional Benin bronze caster. He had his secondary education at Baptish High School in 2010, after which he proceeded to the Federal Polytechnic, Auchi where he obtained his National Diploma in general art and industrial design, 2015, and a Higher National Diploma with a distinction in sculpture, 2018. He also received the rector’s award (Certificate of Excellence) for best graduating student in 2018.

Kelly began producing his sculptures in bronze and in 2017, he discovered spark plugs as a medium in sculpture, which has gained him audience after his documentary with BBC PIDGIN in 2020.

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Rythm II
Bronze
H91 X W28 X D27CM
2022



Rythm I
Bronze
H71 X W39.5 X D28.5CM
2022

9 lives
Bronze
H40 X W15.5 X D68CM
2022



Patience
Bronze
H37.5 X W21 X D 75CM
2023





Quest
Bronze
H50 X W34 X D27CM
2023



Resolute
Bronze
H77 X W21 X D51CM
2022



Soul Mate
Bronze
H73 X W 24 X 21.5CM
2023



Love Encoded
Bronze
H43 X W60 X D51CM
2022



Trance
Bronze
H60 X W24 X D60CM
2023



Vouge
Bronze
H90 X W36 X D32CM
2022



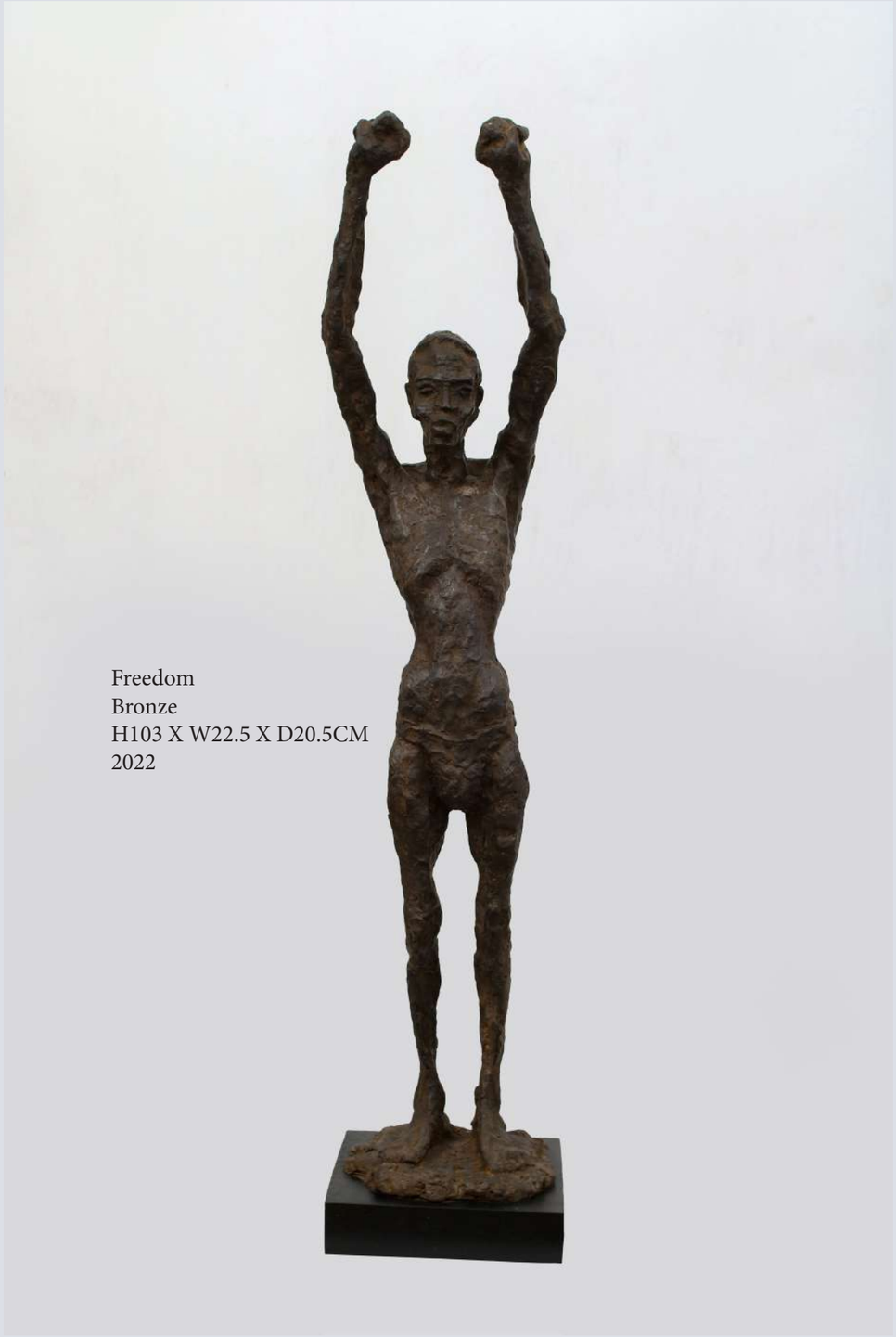
Ewan (Natural Intelligence)
Bronze
H86 X W40 X D22CM
2023



Strive
Bronze
H104 X W35 X D50CM
2022



Strategy
Bronze
H76 x W25 X D 40CM
2023



Freedom
Bronze
H103 X W22.5 X D20.5CM
2022



Adventure
Bronze
H73 X W25 X D35CM
2022



Isekhure
Bronze
H81 X W 22 X D20CM
2023



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