

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

BY

SEGUN AKANO

GEMS

PRESENTED

BY

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

GEMS

1ST, OCTOBER 2021

Signature Beyond Art Gallery Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

GEMS

INTRODUCTION

9 GEMS documents various old and timeless ethics, and ways of living, ways of life, which bothers on our roots, our stories and our identity.

The body of work was inspired by our history, the stories of our fathers and forefathers, their experiences, their values, ethics and traditions.

9GEMS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My immense gratitude and appreciation to God Almighty for the tremendous gift of Art bestowed upon me and the inspiration that birthed 9 GEMS.

The thousands of moving parts of this exhibition required the dedication of great many individuals working together as a team.

First and foremost, special thanks to Mr. Rahman Akar, MD Signature Art Gallery and the Management for the invaluable support and encouragement, throughout the entire planning and implementation process for the massive effort was mirrored by the enthusiasm and support of all the team members.

Special thanks to my collectors both in Nigeria and outside Nigeria; my immense appreciation for your trust and support.

A heartfelt thanks and appreciation to my wife family for the unwavering efforts and enthusiastically embracing the Exhibition.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Derive your pattern, be diligent and consistent in your pattern.
Everyone is always excited about their potentials;
About what they can do.
Not everyone believes in the process.
Potentials subjected to process equals possibilities and actualities

SEGUN AKANO'S PROFILE

Segun Akano Makes Art from Screws.

Nigerian artist, Segun Akano is among artists who makes art from unusual materials. He focuses his art on relief sculptures and models with light and optical illusion.

Using a small cog capable of maintaining monumental and durable structures, the artist shapes people in bas-relief using screws, constructing visual nuances to reveal light and shadow.

Segun's works revolve around the female form, womanhood, African culture and legendary stories. He started creating art after graduating with his first degree in Analytical Chemistry from the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology in 2008.

Segun Akano's strength is displayed not only in the skill of his gesture in screwing in the materials he uses but also in the care given to the nuances that he constructs by the different heights of these same tools. These shades allow for the shaping of the folds of the fabrics, which he somehow manages to sculpt just like the intricacies of human anatomy.

Segun Akano held his recent solo exhibition at CAL Bank Head Office, 23 Independence Avenue, Ridge, Accra, Ghana, organized by Kalizma Art.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND COMMISSIONS

EXHIBITIONS:

- National Youth Service Corps "Our Influence" – National Art Gallery, Abuja, Nigeria 2009
- Reflections on Niger (Solo Exhibition) – Council for Art and Culture, Minna, Niger State 2010
- Fragments – Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt, Rivers State 2010

• EKO Art Expo – EKO Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria 2017

• IN OUR TIME
Total upstream Victoria Island Lagos, Nigeria 2017

• Sogal Art Auction "ACQUIRE" – Porsche Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria 2017

• WOMANHOOD
Solo Exhibition of Steel Screw Sculptures Signature Art Gallery Ikoyi, Lagos Island.
Nigeria. 2017.

• Sogal Art Auction "ACQUIRE" – Porsche Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria 2018

• Artx lagos
West Africa's Premier International Art fair. Civic center Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. 2018

• NEW BEGINNINGS
Solo Exhibition of Steel Screw Sculptures Cal Bank Head Office Accra, Ghana 2019.
Organized by Kalizma Art

COMMISSIONS
• Hibernation – Commissioned by General A. A Abdulsalam Abubakar(GCFR), Maizube Farms, Minna, Niger State 2008

• After Jumat – Commissioned by Alhaji Yakubu Abubakar, Managing Director Maizube Farms, Minna, Niger State 2009

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VIEW EXHIBITIONS



PA KI O TAN

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THE “PA KI O TAN” PIECE

Bothers on a true life story of a great Hunter; aboriginal settler, a scouts and pathfinder who led the first settler groups to the traditional homeland Ogbomoso.

Man has hunted animals for millions of years (Hill 1982). From being a mere means of subsistence, hunting has evolved into a cultural complex with different significance for different peoples. In traditional Yoruba society, the hunters were the elite on whom society depended for its security and intelligence. To date, the same nominal ọdẹ denotes hunter and security guard.

The Pakiotan story is a true story about the artist’s great great grandfather. He was said to be one of the greatest hunters from Ogbomoso, who migrated by foot all the way from Kwara s tate to Ogbomoso, Oyo state hunting through the thick forest sleeping and living in the midst of wild animals as he moved from one location to another.

He killed several wild animals to survive, “Pa kio tan” can be translated to mean; The animals were inexhaustible despite the numerous killings by him.

He kept hunting for several days until he began to meet humans like him on his path.

It was told in the history of pakiotan that he possessed and acquired all the Land he hunted on from the borders of Ogbomoso until he finally settled down somewhere he was comfortable with in Ogbomoso.

He eventually became the chief (baale) of his settlement / clan named after him as Pakiotan. In communities like Tedé, Àgó -Àrẹ and Sakí, all in the Òkè -Ògùn area of Oyo State, the contemporary hunter is also a security guard, the one who protects his society from the other, the unknown and the unpleasant. The stories of origin generally depict hunters as aboriginal settlers and often as scouts and pathfinders who led the first settler groups to the traditional homeland.
The origin narratives of such Yoruba towns and cities as Ògbómòsó, Ẹdẹ and
Òsogbo are ready examples. Specifically, the Ògbómòsó narrative, entitled Ogbori Elemoso by Lere Paimo, has been performed in the last three decades as a TV drama, stage play and home video.



LIBERATED

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Manifest the “clean slate” energy and pur ified vibrational state that comes through the Power of For-giveness, whether you need to forgive others, or you are the one needing to be forgiven.

Hate is a strong emotion. This mental venom can pollute your spirit, poison your soul and seep into all of the relationships that surround you. Anyone who has found themselves wrapped up in the arms of hate knows how damaging and mind -consuming it can beco me.

While hate can be directed at almost anything – animals, foods, jobs, movies – the most destructive is hatred toward other people.

Forgiveness is one of the most misunderstood spiritual concepts.

What comes to mind for many of us when we think about f orgiveness, is “excusing” toxic and harmful behavior, or “letting others off the hook” for mistreating us so that they, on many levels, appear to have gotten away with it. What forgiveness truly means is “to set free” or “to liberate“.

And, often unbeknownst to us, the very one being set free is us.



SISI EKO

SISI EKO

She seems to know everyone and certainly everyone knows at least of her.

The Sisi Eko uses her endless connections and interminably deep pockets to score an invite to every event worth mentioning and is heavily armed with an extensive wardrobe full of designer pieces to look the part.

The Sisi Eko is usually an Ajebutter, but might be an Ajepako with an Alhaji behind her. Some lucky Sisi Ekos have no job to speak of, but most hold down a well -paying day job to bankroll their glamorous lives.



OJULOGE

OJULOGE

This name denotes face is beauty. It is often given as pets name to wives who are beautiful. It presupposes the existence of other "elements or qualities" of beauty like wealth and children which the rivals of the name -giver often pride in. The giver believes that she is able to sustain and conquer her husband through her charm.

Ojuloge means the beauty of a woman is in her face and eyes, more than this, the inner sight (eye of the heart , inner eye)

Yoruba adage that says "oju ni obinrin fi nmu ohun loja"

(a woman picks things and makes choices at the market place with her inner eyes/sight).

When your inner sight is well nurtured and trained it brings great success and beauty to her family and the nation as a whole.



EJA OSAN

EJA OSAN

One of Nigeria's highly priced seafood item, the fish known in Yoruba as Eja Osan or Dansarki in Hausa or in Igbo its called Azu Asa. It is a highly regarded and expensive delicacy and often used as part of paying dowry / bride price. Its so highly regarded, a famous Nigerian musician sang about it, one the very popular Owanmbe party songs of KSA was;

"Kile le le yi o eja Osan

Eja tutu Sokoyokoto...."

Not everyone in the country has access to this fish as it is only sold in specific locations . It is not farmed, those sold are caught in the wild, making them even more desirable.

The fish has an eel like appearance but in contrast, has scales and an unusually rat -like tail. It is covered in scales with an undulating dorsal fin. It generates elec tricity like other eels but not enough to affect humans. Like other fish, Eja osan is a good source of protein with some nutritionally beneficial fats/oils.

Eja Osa which in referred to as Aba Knifefish in other parts of the world, is cooked fresh in soups and stews and it can also be smoked and dried to preserve it.



KINGFISHER

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About 90 species of birds in three families (Alcedinidae, Halcyonidae, and Cerylidae), noted for their spectacular dives into water. They are worldwide in distribution but are chiefly tropical. Kingfishers, ranging in length from 10 to 42 cm (4 to 16.5 in ches), have a large head, a long and massive bill, and a compact body. Their feet are small, and, with a few exceptions, the tail is short or medium -length.

These vocal, colourful birds are renowned for their dramatic hunting techniques. Typically, the bi rd sits still, watching for movement from a favourite perch. Having sighted its quarry, it plunges into the water and catches the fish usually no deeper than 25 cm (10 inches) below the surface in its dagger -shaped bill. With a swift downstroke of the wing s, it bobs to the surface. It then takes the prey back to the perch and stuns the fish by beating it against the perch before swallowing it. Many species also eat crustaceans, amphibians, and reptiles.

This handsome crested bird flies off over the water w hen disturbed, uttering a loud rattling call. It is about 30 cm (12 inches) long and is bluish gray above and across the breast and white below. Only the females sport the brownish red band or "belt" across the lower breast. The male in its courtship ritua l offers fish to the female as she perches. After copulation the pair circle high overhead and chase each other

While crying shrilly, stretching 43 cm (17 inches) long and weighing 465 grams (16 ounces), the largest of all kingfishers is the kookaburra, kn own throughout Australia for its laughing call. The kookaburra's white head has a brown eye stripe, the back and wings are dark brown, and the underparts are white. Often found in urban and suburban areas, it can become quite tame and may be fed by hand.



HUMMINGBIRD

HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds are fascinating little birds with their long beaks and fast -moving wings. They can be seen darting around nectar feeders and flowers across the United States. How much do you know about these tiny feathered friends? These facts might surprise you and you might even learn a thing or two about your backyard visitors.

-They are the smallest migrating bird. They don't migrate in flocks like other species, and they typically travel alone for up to 500 miles at a time.

- The name, hummingbird, comes from the humming noise their wings make as they beat so fast.

- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

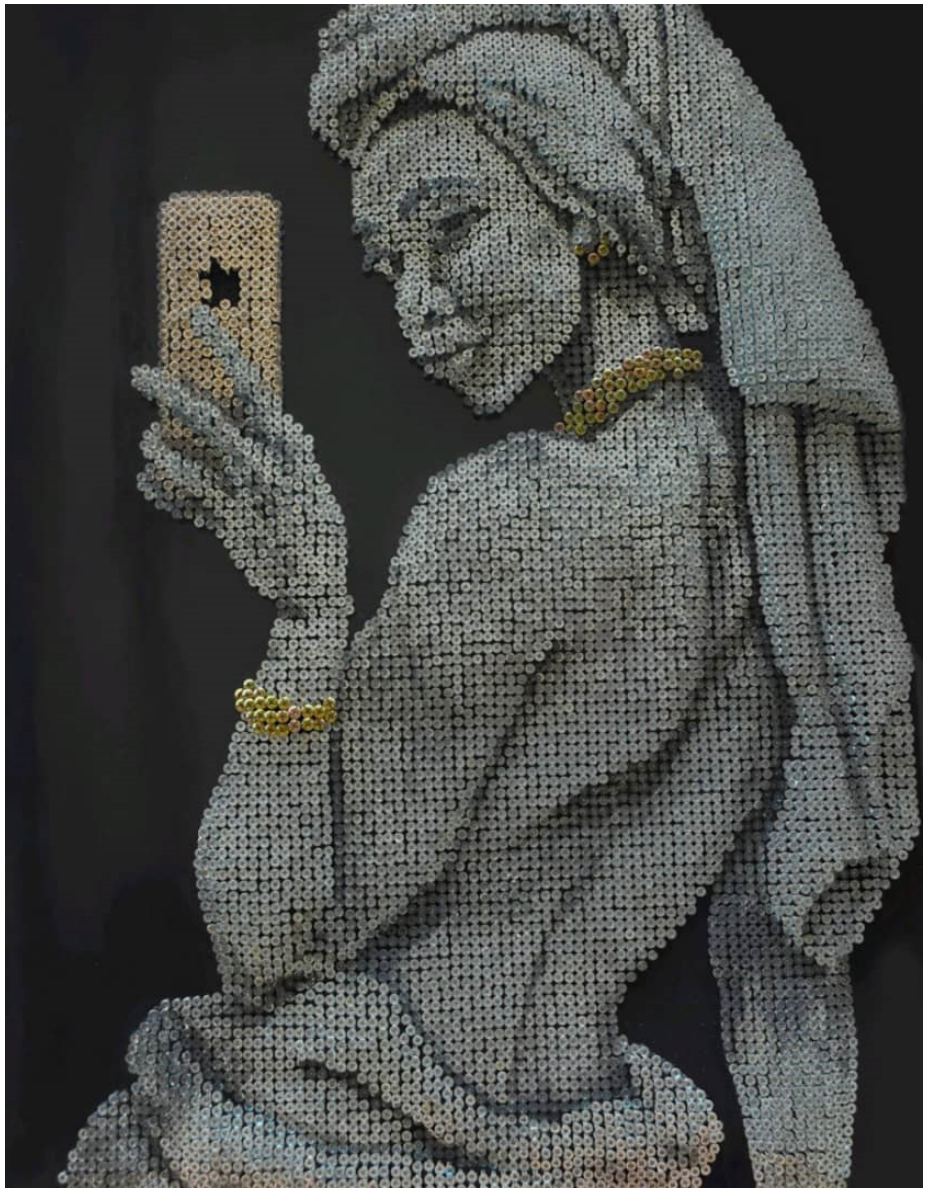
- Hummingbirds have no sense of smell. While they can't sniff out feeders, they do have good color vision. Some bi rds like the Ruby -throated Hummingbird prefer orange or red flowers. Despite this, red dye should not be used in nectar as it could harm the birds. Instead, plant naturally red or orange flowers or use feeders that have red coloring in their structure.

Hummingbird Facts

- The average weight of a hummingbird is less than a nickel.

-Their tiny legs are only used for perching and moving sideways while perched. They can't walk or hop.

- Hummingbirds drink the nectar found in feeders by moving their tongue in and out about 13 times per second. They can consume up to double their body weight in a day.

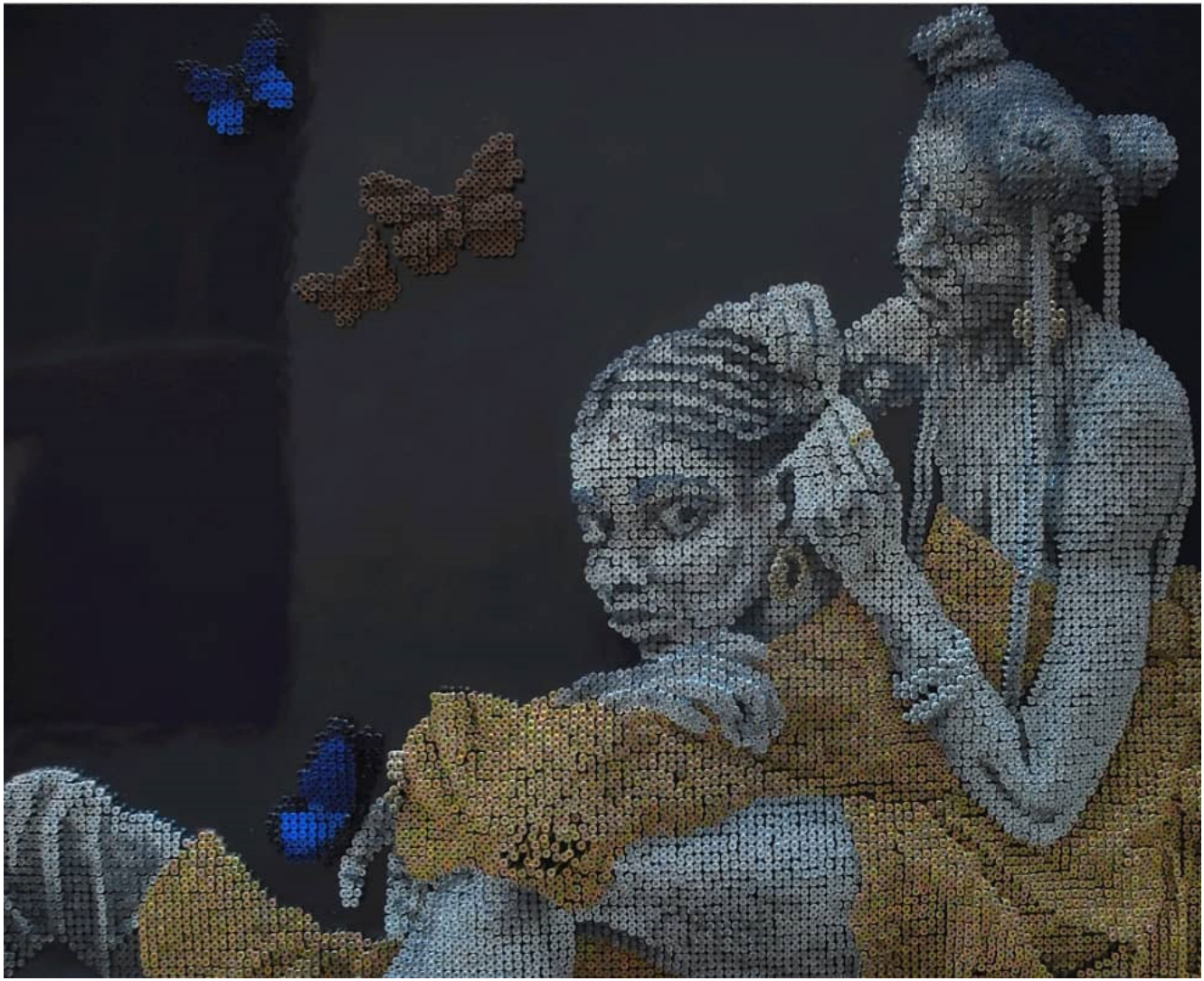


SELFIE

SELFIE

Scrolling through Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, you'd be forgiven for thinking that everyone else was having a better time than you.

"Social media can make it easy to feel like everyone else is awesome and perfect all the time, but that's really never true,"



MY COWN

MY CROWN

My hair is my pride.

My hair my Crown

My hair took a long time to get used to. I used to wish that my hair was straight and blonde. I'd love to explain to a seven -year-old me, that while white beauty standards temporarily ruined my self-concept, Iwould later pick up my own pieces and become strong, skilled, and satisfied with myself.

Black people have created so many hairstyles:

Cornrows, shuku, Eko Bridge, Police Cap, Patewo, Koroba, Two Steps, Telephone Wire, Round About, Alicia Keys, Abeti Aja, Beret, All Back and Base, Bob Marley, Didi, afros, braids, box braids, slick backs, afro puffs, twist outs.

The hair of a Nigerian woman is her crowning glory. These hairstyles help to show the beauty and strength of a woman. In time past women adorned their hair according to occasion and tribe, and cowry was the most common hair accessory.

Established in the early years of African civilisation, many famous styles like braids, twists and dreadlocks were used to symbolise a person's tribe, s ocial status and family background. Though it's hard to pinpoint the exact moment of creation, they were celebrated and worn with pride on both men and women for centuries, becoming the ultimate way to identify someone upon first glance.

Our hair is a sig nature of our deep rooted history.

NOTES

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