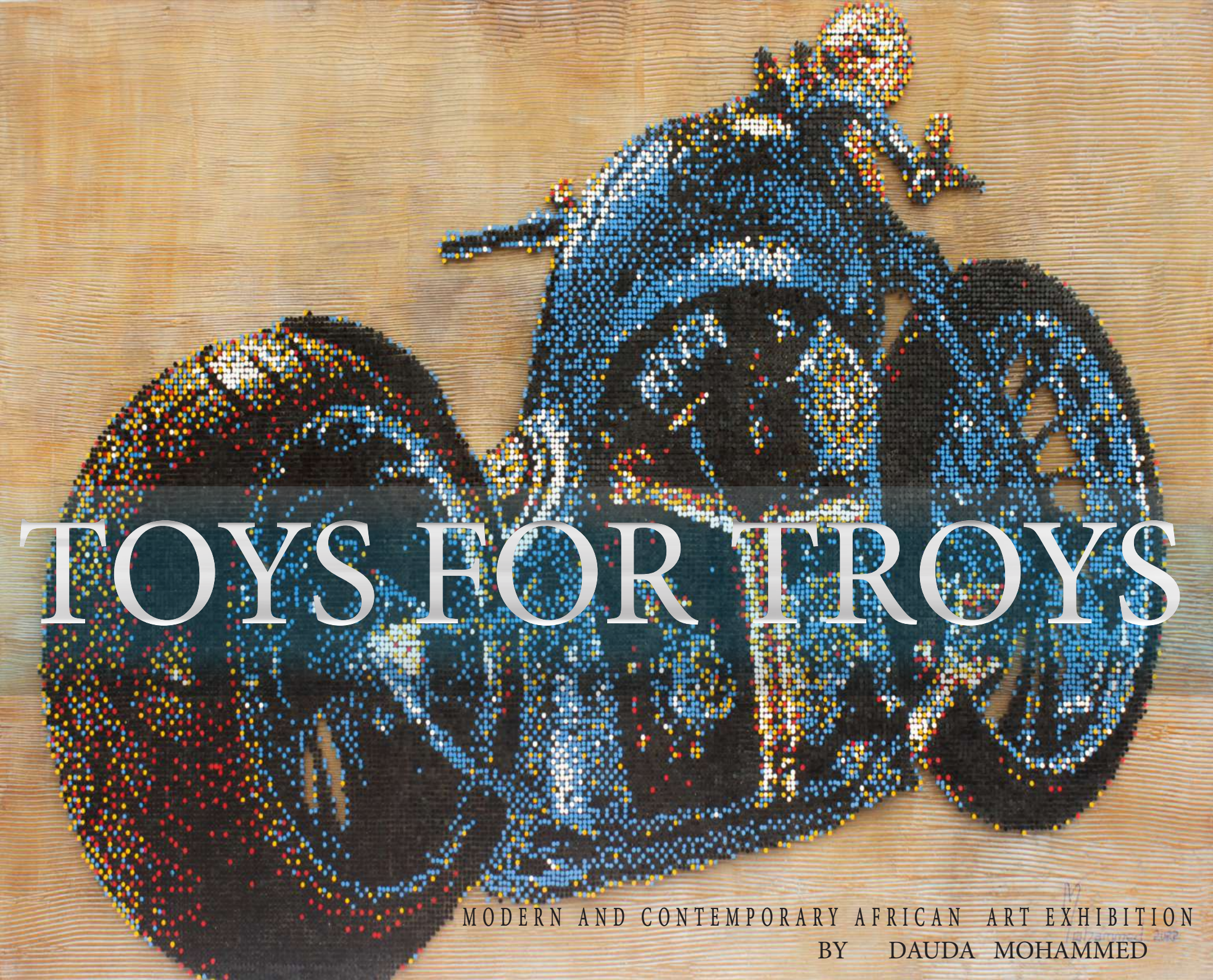

TOYS FOR TROYS

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

BY DAUDA MOHAMMED

PRESENTED

BY

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

TOYS FOR TROYS

BY DAUDA MOHAMMED

2nd SEPTEMBER 2023

Signature Beyond Art Gallery Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

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

INTRODUCTION

In ancient Greek literature, troy Is portrayed as a powerful kingdom of heroic age, a mystic era when monsters roamed the earth and gods interacted directly with humans. Troy was an ancient city located at Hissarlik in present day Turkey, 30 kilometers (19 miles) south-west of Canakkale and about 6 kilometers (4 miles) east of Aegean Sea. It is known as the setting for the Trojan war.
Troy is a powerful kingdom with heroes like Hector who was a Trojan prince and the greatest warrior for Troy during the Trojan war. Hector led the Trojan warriors and their allies in defense of Troy, killing countless Greek warriors. He was ultimately killed by Achilles who later dragged his dead body around the city of troy behind his chariot. The Trojan war erupted because Helen a queen of Sparta was abducted by Paris, The son of Troy's King Priam.

When you talk about Troy, you are talking about a powerful kingdom with powerful and heroic warriors like Hector. If they were to be around today, what would be their toys? Definitely, it has to be unique, strong, durable, elegant, powerful and iconic and that will most definitely be the Harley Davidson and vespa.
Have you ever wondered how Harley Davidson bikes became the icons they are today? It began in a small shed in Milwaukee back in the early 1900s. After drawing up plans for a small engine designed to fit in a regular bike frame, William S. Harley worked with Arthur and Walter Davidson to build this "moto-bicycle". They finished the first model in 1903. They later created a bigger engine and loop frame design.

By 1906 Harley and the Davidson brothers moved out of their shed into their first factory, which was located at the current site of Harley Davidson headquarters. They produced 50 motorcycles during their first year in the factory 10 times more than the year before, by 1907 they produced 150 motorcycles and began selling them to police departments, The company continued to grow and improve yearly, new features and designs were constantly being introduced keeping up with the growing demands for Harley Davidson. Harley Davidson produced over 20,000 motorcycles for the U.S military during world war 1 and one of the two American motorcycle companies to survive the great depression. In world war 2, They produced over 90,000 motorcycles to use in the war, Harley Davidson was awarded 2 army-navy "E" awards for excellence in production, in honor of their effort during the war.
Over 119 years, Harley Davidson has grown from its humble beginning to an American icon. No matter how many things have changed over the years one thing has always remained the same, Harley Davidson's commission to producing a high quality, iconic, elegant, and innovative bike.

Using a 1.5(one and half) inch nails and some other variety of nails/screws painted with automobile nails and protective coat, I was able to bring back to life some of these iconic motorbikes dating from 1900 to date together with vespa an Italian luxury brand of scooters manufactured by Piaggio. The name means wasp in Italian, the vespa has evolved from a single model motor scooter manufactured in 1946 by Piaggio and co. From their inception, vespa scooters have been known for their painted, pressed, steel unibody which combines In a unified structural unit, a complete cowling for the engine (enclosing the engine mechanism and concealing dirt and grease) a floor board providing foot protection and a prominent front fairing providing wind protection.

FOREWORD

The Art of Painting is knowing professionally what to paint with. Like with drawing, anything that makes a mark on a plane surface can be used as a drawing tool or medium; In the same way, what suggest paint to a painter is for painting.

Where if all materials are paradigm for the creation of the art, creativity is limitless, and the creative mind of an active studio artist is ever ready to explore. In a world growing increasingly banal and familiar, what seems enigmatic instantly draws attention, and the mysteries with pigmentation is the dynamic for contemporary art in a contemporary world.

The theme of the exhibition "Toys for Troys" gives instances of fabricated machines for warriors. The ancient Greek, where Dauda still tap inspiration from is known for conquest and heroism. To mention a few of the major warriors in Troy, see with the ancient Greek, (Hector and Archilles) are clear examples of human capability, skills, and strategics that will heroism. Among kings, countesses, princes, emperors and other courtiers, they were the representation of gods to the affairs of mankind.

The lesson this exhibition portrays, is in two folds: first, the credit for an invention or creation is as important, if not more important, than invention itself. Dauda Mohammed has it with Harley Davidson bikes. Secondly, where talent is never enough, the gift of Art is about excellent creations. In this, the artist allows for himself to experience series of events, imaginations, and motivations to be inspired by them for his own creations.

For a lifetime nurturing experience, and still seen to be technology smart; Dauda's capability of applying colored screws and nails to accomplish pieces of such magnitude, so magnificent in technicality, process, and methods, I for one will say is one of his kind.

Like with the exponent of pointillism, (in my opinion), I have seen the African (George's- Pierre Seurat) in Dauda's application of different three-dimensional ornamented-colored objects like, pushpins, screws, nails, bottle-tops, etc. to achieve same technique.

With warm heart of concern after years of effective studio practice, Dauda Mohammed brings forth a collection of works such as this to harness the awareness of his audience about heroism, invention, and creativity. This is a course that has took him and his representative, Mr. Akar Abdulrahman of the (Signature Beyond Gallery), tremendous two years of preparation to reach this point to exhibit. To this, I will say congratulations to him: "holding his course" with hopes high, the sky is just the beginning...

And to his esteem audience with heroic mind of receptivity, I will say, happy viewing.

Ibiok Bright
Interdisciplinary / Visual Artist (Painter)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I will like to express my sincere gratitude to God Almighty and to several individuals for supporting me throughout this project.
First I wish to express my profound gratitude for Mr. Akar Abdulrahman of Signature Gallery for his mentorship, enthusiasm, patience, insightful comments, helpful information, unceasing ideas and positive criticis that have helped me tremendously at all times in completing this work.

Without his support and guidance this project would not have been possible.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Lateef Aremu and the entire staff of Signature gallery. I am also grateful to Mr. Taofeeq Iyanda for his moral and financial support,also to my wife and children for their massive contribution also providing a conducive environment from the beginning of this project to the end and ensuring this exhibition a success.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my work I aim to explore themes of various dynamic subjects with five or more colours using 3dimensional objects like Wood Nails, Pushpins, Cotton buds, screw e.t.c to make something digital. I enjoy making work that requires a physical proximity, working from intangible to the tangible by invoking these mediums to generate a dialogue that has something to do with the effort, repetition, focus, discipline, absurdity and love that went into its making.

I enjoy when you look at the medium at close range seeing the homogeneous arrangement of the medium clearly as an object and when observe from afar seeing the medium as image.

My goal is to inspire those who see my work to look more carefully at the work from close range also from a distance and feel something in the process

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VIEW EXHIBITIONS

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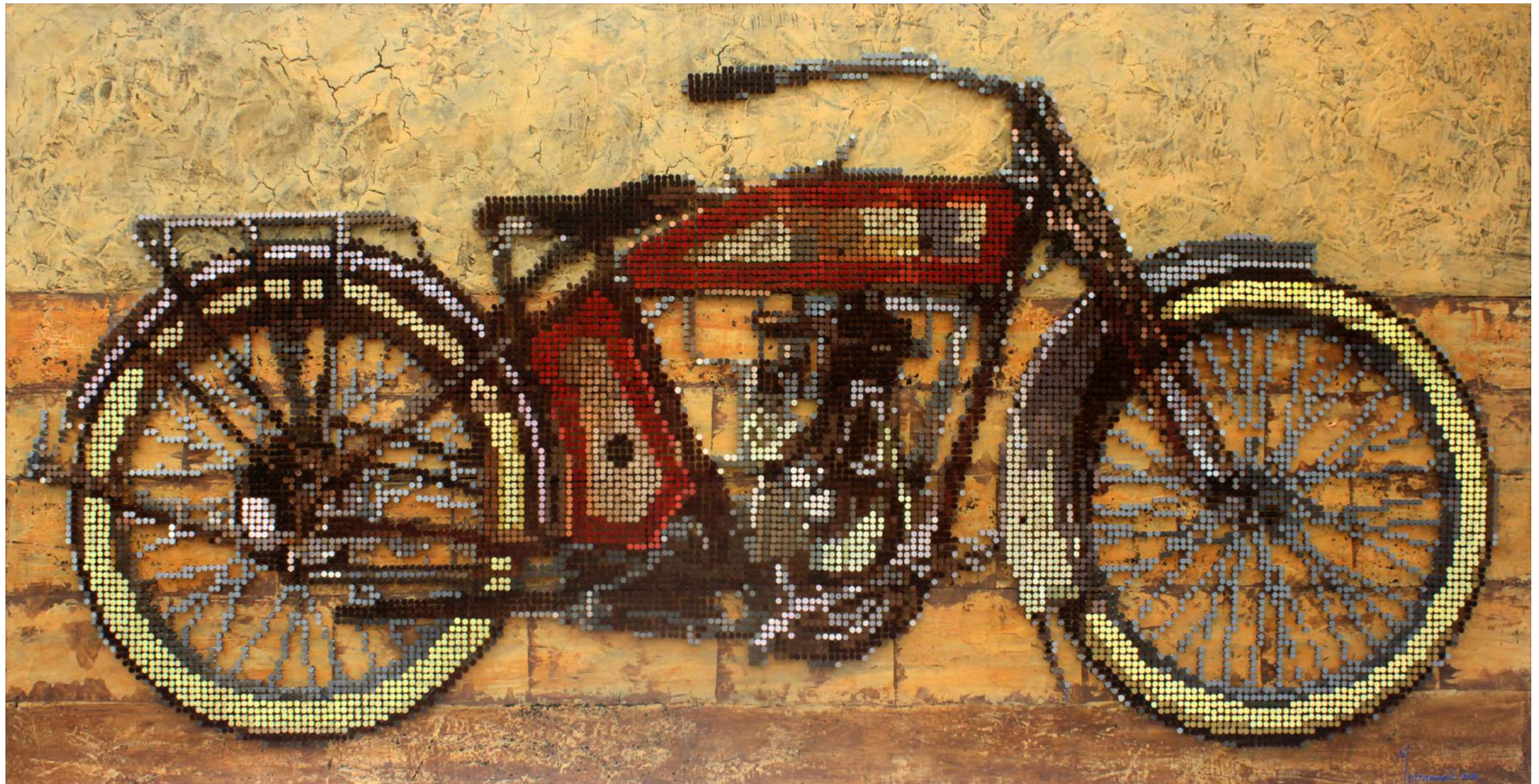
Title: Harley Davidson Board track racer 1916 (Fast and furious)
Dimension: (87X46)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.



Title: Harley Davidson 35ci Model 10B 1914 (pride on wheel)
Dimension: (92.7X48)inches.
Medium: 1inch electro galvanized roofing nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

Title: 2022 Harley Davidson CVO road glide(Road master)
Dimension: (88X46)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

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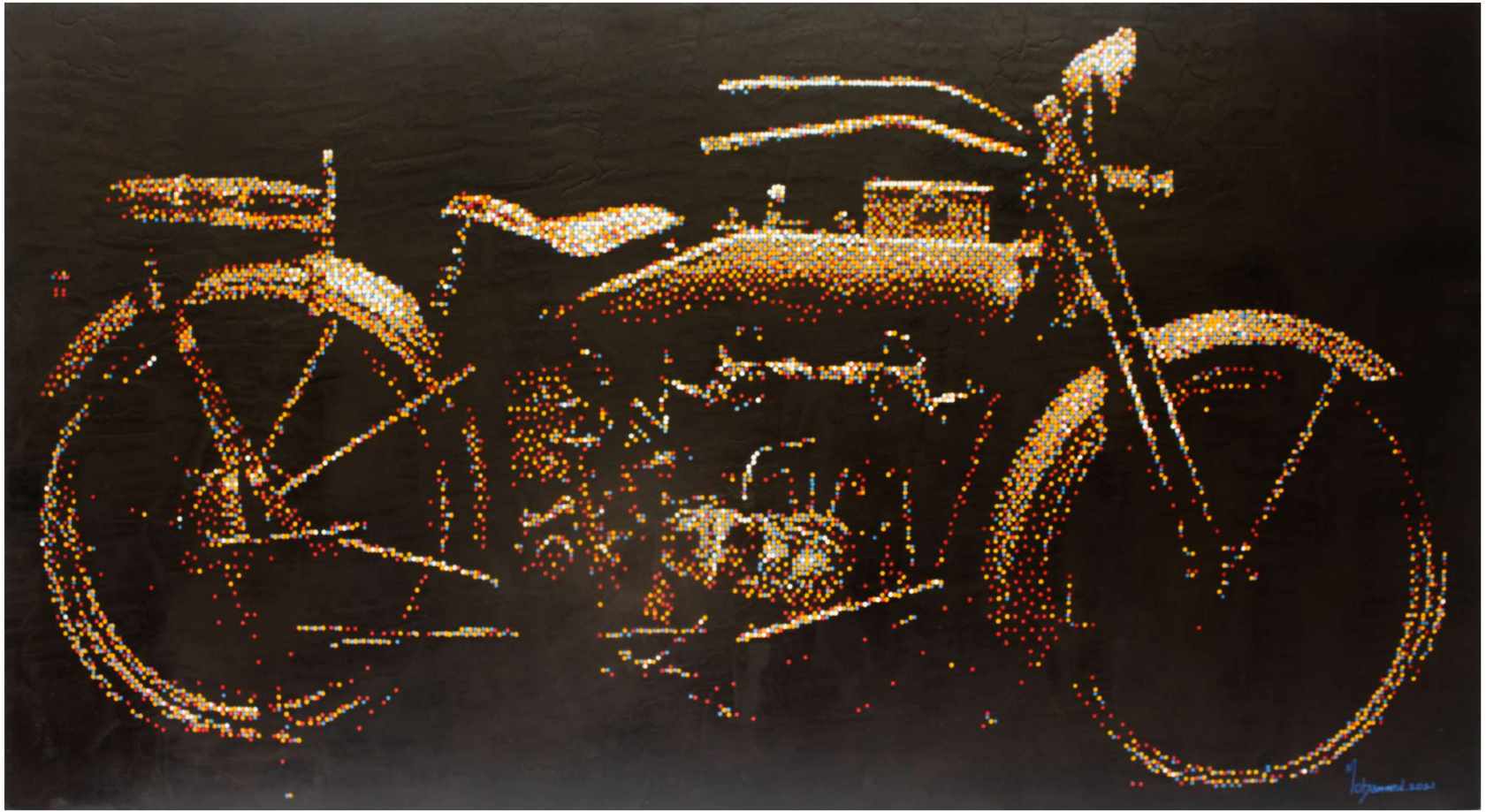
Title: Harley Davidson Chopper easy rider 1959 (Captain America)
Dimension: (82.5X46)inches.
Medium:1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.



Title: Harley Davidson 1920(Oldscool)
Dimension (92X48)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

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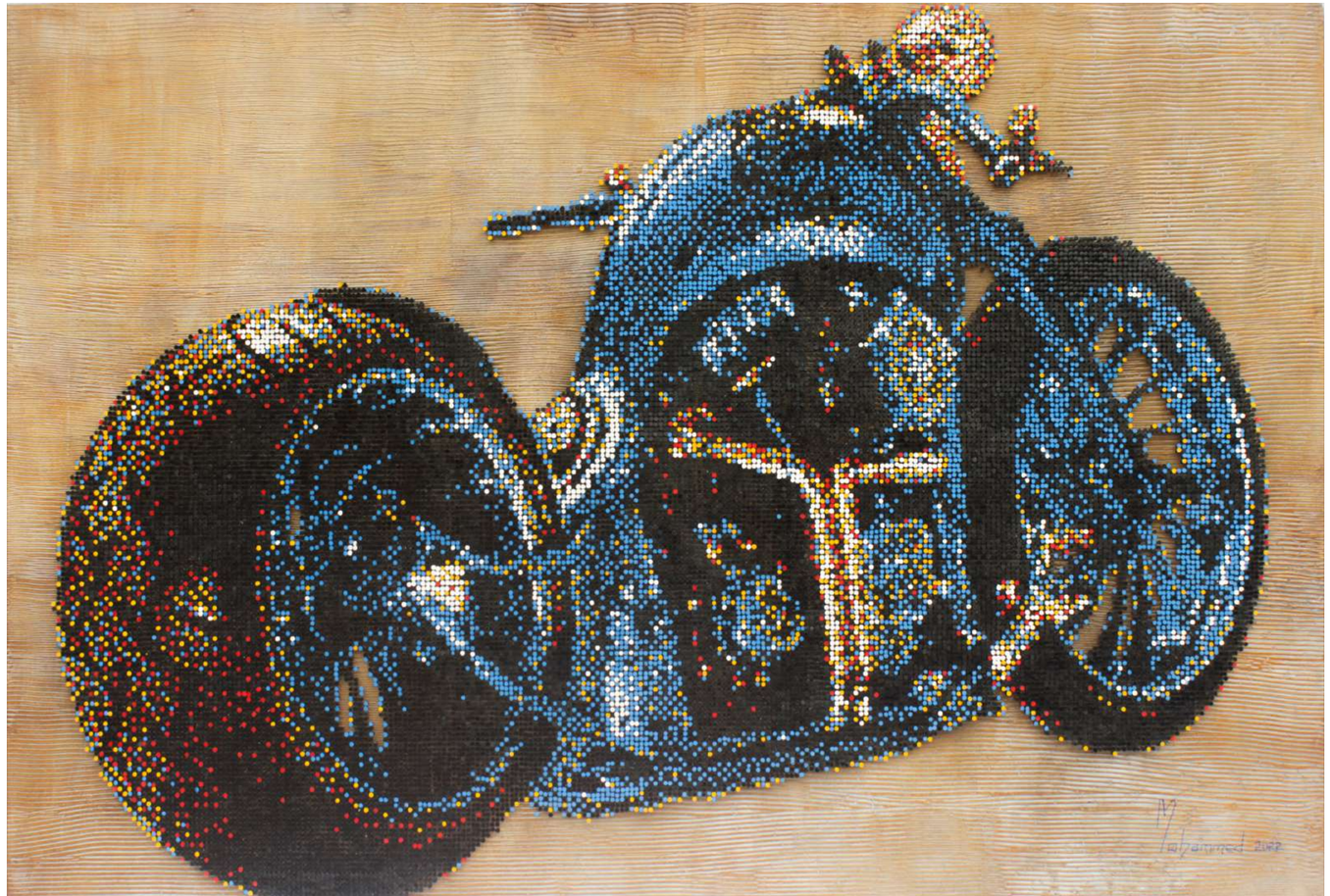
Title: Harley Davidson shovelhead chopper 1969(Elegant)
Dimension: (86.5X41)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

Title: Vespa Dior (New noble scooter) 2021
Dimension: (63X47)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

Title: Vespa piaggio p125x (cute)
Dimension: (64X46.7)inches.
Medium: 3inch screw on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.



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Title: Harley Bucherer (the big boy)
Dimension: (68X45.5)inches.
Medium:1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

Title: A day on a Harley.
Dimension: (76X46.5)inches.
Medium: 1.5inch wood nails on board,automobile paints and acrylic finish.

DAUDA MOHAMMED PROFILE

Dauda Ademola Mohammed was born in Jos, Nigeria in 1974, holds a degree in Biochemistry from university of Ilorin; he also earned a certificate in Graphics and 3d Animation from Aptech (Arena Multimedia)

Dauda is a self-taught artist who spent a period of 12 years in the banking industry before leaving in 2015 to concentrate on what he loves and have passion for. He works in a variety of media including painting and drawing with acrylic and oil paints, until recently when he focus on using 3dimensional objects like cotton buds, pushpins, screw, Nails, Bottle tops, Drilling on woods and plastics to make amazing artworks, his work combines creativity along with hours of diligent application using some computer graphic applications and Photoshop he break an image down to a very low resolution and forces the computer to make the image out of only five colors (red, blue, yellow, black and white), then uses a grid map to show where to stick the object row by row. At first glance, the artwork appears to be a low-resolution portrait, but upon closer inspection, onlookers can see each piece is made up of thousands of colored objects.

Dauda drew his inspiration from the love he has for Pointillism, Mosaics and 3dart.

He has work for several organizations and individuals using these objects in promoting their brands, one major project is the bill board of Lasena bottle Water portrait hung on their building at Ogba near county Hospital, he used 10,000 yellow, red, blue, black and white recycled bottle tops to make this amazing (Bill board) with dimension of 20ft x 8ft.

He is a modern Contemporary, Promotional and Experimental artist.
He has participated in Signature art gallery modern and contemporary art auction in 2019 till date.

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+234 803 317 7676, 902 722 7248

Signaturebeyond@gmail.com, Signaturebeyond@yahoo.com

Signatureandsogal @signaturebeyond1 signature-beyond

signature-beyond Art Gallery WWW.signaturebeyond.com

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layout, design and editing by Lasisi Oluwatosin
+234(0)9057059567
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