

## Ayanfe Olarinde

Ayanfe Olarinde is a visual artist from Lagos, Nigeria, born in 1996. Her unique artistic style draws heavily from scribbling techniques and photography, resulting in multi-layered and intricately detailed images.



Olarinde's captivating work explores themes such as self-image, identity formation, mental health, and social realities. Through her art, she delves into the inefficiencies of government, interrogates popular culture, and explores collective history.

As Olarinde draws from a range of mediums, including ink, acrylics, wire, and found objects, she creates deeply evocative drawings, paintings, collages, and sculptures. Her art reflects her life experiences and serves as a tool to spark stimulating discussions about self-image and mental health. Olarinde's engagement with the scribbling technique serves to investigate emotion while exploring fluidity in form, drawing from faults in her personal, ongoing journey for acceptance. Her oeuvre showcases a strong influence of Yoruba culture, one of the most prominent and widely recognised cultures in Nigeria and West Africa.

Olarinde's aim is to promote the rich and vibrant Yoruba culture and African folktales, which have strong morals and values that have helped her understand the world. Through her paintings, she wants to preserve the gradually affected cultural heritage that has been impacted by modernisation and globalisation.

In her recent works, Olarinde transforms traditional Yoruba folktales into contemporary mixed media art, using her signature bold and expressive colours and textures. Her art offers a unique perspective of the world and an insight into the rich fabric of Yoruba culture.

**Ayanfe Olarinde CV**  
b. 1996 - Lagos, Nigeria.

**Education:**

2006 - 2012 SSCE, Lagos Anglican Girls Grammar School, Ojuelegba, Lagos

2014 - 2018 B.Sc Microbiology, University of Lagos

**Solo Exhibitions:**

2023 *In the Beginning And So It Goes...*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2022 *Now I Know Why Birds Fly*, solo exhibition, African Artists Foundation (AAF), Lagos, Nigeria

**Group Exhibitions:**

2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2023 *African Supernova*, Kunsthal Kade, The Netherlands

2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2023 *Bodies! Bodies! Bodies!*, Rele Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

2022 *In-Situ, encounters of place*, Kó ArtSpace, Lagos, Nigeria

2022 *Amplify*, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2022 *Women, Empowered*, JD Malat Gallery, MayFair, London

2021 *Real Life is Fragile*, ThinkSpace Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2021 *Fresh*, Padre Gallery, New York, USA

- 2021 *Unusual Suspects*, African Artists Foundation (AAF), Lagos, Nigeria
- 2021 *Black Voices- Friends of my mind*, Ross-Sutton Gallery, New York, USA
- 2020 *Say my name*, Signature African Art Gallery, Mayfair, London
- 2020 *Sculpting the city*, Rele Art Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2020 *Collectors Club*, African Artist Foundation (AAF), Lagos, Nigeria
- 2020 *un-Told*, RetroAfrica Contemporary Gallery, Abuja, Nigeria
- 2020 *Dis Lagos Life Photography exhibition*, SMO Contemporary Gallery, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2019 *Whither I stand and the trajectory of vision*, Recontres de Bamako, Bamako Biennale off-site exhibition, Mali, The Nlele Institute
- 2019 *Graduate Art Program*, Rand Merchant Bank, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2019 *Through her eyes*, Moeshen Art Gallery, Abuja, Nigeria
- 2019 *Live in Desire Photography Exhibition*, Art Exhibition, Dalberg and Lagos Business School, Nigeria
- 2018 *RMBN 5th Anniversary Art Exhibition*, Lagos, Nigeria

### **Selected International Art Fairs**

- 2022 FnB Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020 Abuja art week, Doyle Wham Gallery, Peckham, London
- 2020 iDesign Art Fair, Thoughts Pyramid Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

### **Residency programs:**

- 2022 *Art Residency*, Dida Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 2022 *Art Residency*, African Artists Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2021 *Guest Projects Digital*, GAS Foundation & British Council

- 2021 *Voice NFT Residency*, Voice HQ
- 2020 *The Harmattan Workshop*, Bruce Onabrakpeya Art Foundation, Agbarha- Otor, Delta, Nigeria
- 2020 *Flâneuse Photography Workshop*, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Nigeria
- 2019 *Whither I stand and the trajectory of vision photography workshop*, The Nlele institute Rencontres de Bamako Biennale, Mali
- 2019 *Live-in Desires Photography Workshop*, Goethe Institut and The Nlele Institute
- 2019 *Basic VR workshop*, Imisi3D, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018 *GTBank Days of Dorcas*, Art635, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018 *Canon Basic DSLR Workshop*, African Artists Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2017 *Artbridge Workshop*, Rele Art Gallery. Lagos, Nigeria

## **Collections**

COLLECTION CARLA & PIETER SCHULTING, The Netherlands

MUSEU INIMA DE PAULA, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM, U.S.A

ELEANOR CROOK FOUNDATION, U.S.A

NAZEM ART COLLECTION, Beirut, Lebanon

THE CRAFT COLLECTION, U.S.A

EUROPEAN EMBASSY, Abuja, Nigeria

COLLECTION MONTPARNASSE, Canada

THE WOLF YOU FEED COLLECTION, U.S.A

BRUCE ONONBRAKPEYA FOUNDATION, Lagos. Nigeria

THE DITAU COLLECTION, USA

MOESHEN ART GALLERY COLLECTION, Life Camp Abuja

OM GALLERY, V.i, Lagos, Nigeria

RAND MERCHANT BANK COLLECTION, Nigeria

VFD GROUP COLLECTION, Lagos, Nigeria

**Achievements:**

- 2021 Winner, *Artist in Focus Grant*, Guest Projects Digital, Gas Foundation
- 2021 Grant, *Raise Our Voice*, Voice HQ
- 2020 Winner, *Creative industry award*, AWIEF AWARD, South Africa
- 2020 Top 100 list, *Leading Ladies Africa*, Africa
- 2019 Nominee, *Prize for Arts*, The Future Awards Africa
- 2019 Nominee, *Prize for creativity and photography*, Creative Faith Academy Award
- 2019 Winner, Firstbank Nigerian Magic 125 Art Competition
- 2018 Finalist, GTBank Days of Dorcas Photography Competition
- 2018 Winner, Taxify Women with Drive
- 2017 2nd Runner Up, Ambaville Art Competition
- 2017 Winner, Samsung Draw and Win Competition
- 2017 Winner, Moremi Hall Hip Tv Talent Hunt

**Selected Press:**

- 2020 *BBC News Pidgin*: "Ayanfe Olarinde na scribble artiste wey Dey use jaga jaga make sense"
- 2019 *Reuters*: "Through scribbling, young Nigerian artist highlights social challenges"

- 2019 *EuroNews*: "Nigerian artist transforms scribbles into creative artwork"
- 2016 *CNN Africa*: "11 of the Best African Inktober Drawings"
- 2019 *VOAAfrique*: "Moi, Olarinde, virtuose du crayon"
- 2019 *NowThisNews*: "Nigerian Artist Transforms Scribbles into Artwork"
- 2019 *Business Day News*: "Winner Firstbank Magic 125 competition, Olarinde Olayemi"

Selected Artworks



**Ayanfe Olarinde**  
*Aeroplani o'dabo III (the contentment song)*, 2023  
Ink, Acrylic, Oil pastel and Coffee on Canvas  
48 x 36 in  
121.9 x 91.4 cm



**Ayanfe Olarinde**  
*Genesis*, 2023  
Ink, Acrylic, oil pastel and wool on canvas  
84 x 60 in  
213.4 x 152.4 cm