

Ayanfe Olarinde

Ayanfe Olarinde (b. 1996, Nigeria) is a self-taught visual artist who lives and works in Lagos. Her unique artistic style draws heavily on photography and scribbling techniques to create intricately detailed and multi-layered images.



Olarinde's captivating work largely reflects her life experiences and serves as a tool to spark stimulating discussions about self-image and mental health. Olarinde's scribbling technique allows her to explore fluidity in form through jagged lines and to interrogate emotion, often drawing on "faults" in her personal, ongoing journey of acceptance. She delves into collective history, identity formation and social realities, interrogates the inefficiencies of government, and explores popular culture with a broad range of media: ink, acrylics, wire and found objects form evocative collages, drawings, paintings and sculptures.

Her oeuvre showcases a strong influence of Yoruba culture, one of the most prominent and widely recognised cultures in Nigeria and West Africa. Yoruba culture and African folktales have strong morals and values that have helped the artist understand the world.

Olarinde's works preserve a cultural heritage gradually impacted by modernisation and globalisation. Transforming folktales into contemporary mixed media pieces using her signature bold and expressive colours and textures, her art promotes and offers unique insight and perspective into this rich and vibrant cultural fabric.

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:

2024 *Here & Now*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2024 *Celebrating Identities*, AG18 Gallery

2024 *Curated Selection of Emerging Black Female Artists*, DADA Gallery

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

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 Programmes

- 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"

JD Malat Gallery
30 Davies St, Mayfair,
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Selected Works



Ayanfe Olarinde

Unapologetically, Stephen, 2021

Ink, Acrylic, and Fabric Cuts on canvas

60 x 48 in

152.4 x 121.9 cm



Ayanfe Olarinde

Genesis, 2023

Ink, Acrylic, oil pastel and wool on canvas

84 x 60 in

213.4 x 152.4 cm