





# ALL THE LEAVES ARE ON THE GROUND

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY  
**UCHE EDOCHIE**

25th May - 15th June 2025

@

ART PANTHEON  
12D BOSUN ADEKOYA STREET  
ONIRU, LAGOS.

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# FOREWORD

In every age, humanity has grappled with the timeless questions: Who are we? Why are we here? What does it all mean? These questions form the heartbeat of Uche Edochie's *All the Leaves are on the Ground*—a poignant and visually arresting reflection on our collective and individual search for meaning.

Through a poetic interplay of nature and figurative art, this body of work becomes more than a visual journey; it becomes a mirror to our innermost longings. Using the metaphor of nature—its fragility, growth, decay, and renewal—these works gently trace the arc of human potential, from the barest beginnings of life to the fullness of self-discovery and accomplishment.

At its core, this project acknowledges a difficult truth: meaning is not promised. While consciousness is our inheritance, purpose is not. It must be sought, shaped, and sometimes fought for. The narrative woven here reminds us that growth is not linear, and that even the withered shrub has the potential to bloom, if only we remain aware, intentional, and curious.

Edochie's *All the Leaves are on the Ground* invites us to pause, reflect, and recognize that perhaps the journey itself—rooted in awareness and nurtured by discipline—is the most meaningful pursuit of all.

Nana Sonoiki  
Art Pantheon Gallery  
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**Bloom II: Out of Shadows**  
Acrylic on Canvas, 158cm x 112cm, 2023

# ARTIST'S STATEMENT

We are forever searching for meaning in our lives. Who are we? How did we get here? What is our purpose? And so on. All the Leaves are on the Ground is a visual anecdote of man's quest for purpose, wholeness and understanding, using mostly nature as a metaphor to explore the boundaries of figurative art.

Ground zero is our birth; the birth of potential that starts off fragile and inadequate like a withered shrub and gradually blossoms into the most beautiful flowers of knowledge and accomplishment, as we grow and search to rediscover who we once were and all that we can become.

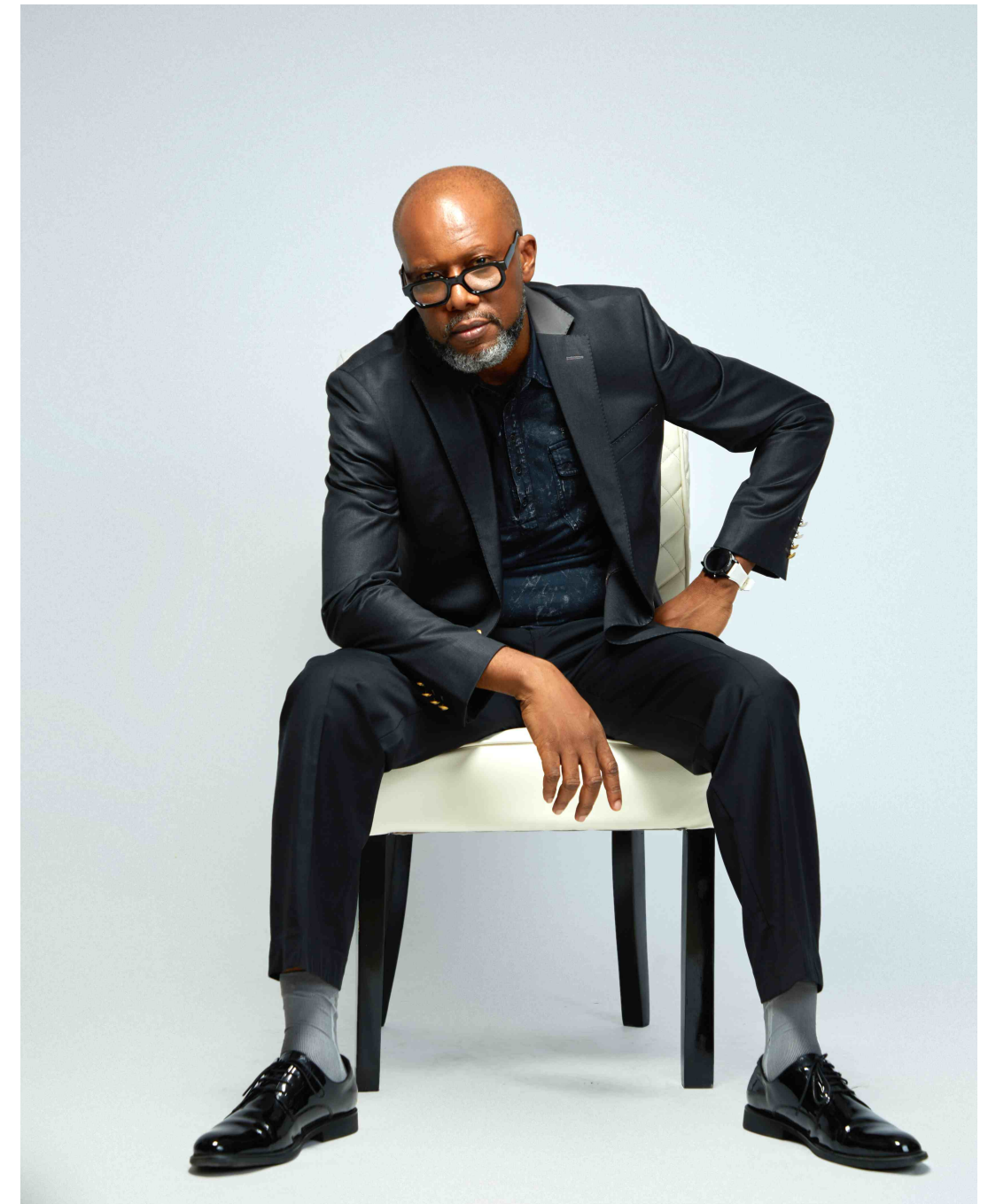
A meaningful life is not a guarantee for anyone. Only consciousness is guaranteed for the living. Our human journey may or may not devolve into a failed experiment. The knowledge we attain along the way and the manner and discipline with which we apply it will ultimately impact a purposeful existence.

More than ever before, humanity needs direction. People need direction. Not the type that comes from rulers with agendas and social media algorithms, but from regular people that have the most to lose in the event of a societal collapse. You only need to look at the unnecessary identity crisis we suddenly got plunged into that got us questioning the definitions of a man and a woman, to realize that something is off. We as adults need to dig deep and defend the values that define us as literate and sentient beings with basic ethics.

Another issue close to my heart that I have been exploring over the past twenty years is resilience. This is perhaps one of the most important qualities needed to survive on this rather harsh planet. It is of urgent importance considering the current spike of mental health challenges particularly among teenagers and young adults. This takes me back to one of my favorite quotes encapsulating the evolution of man in the past hundred years. 'Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men'. With more and more people cracking under the existential pressure of our time, it is obvious where we are in our evolutionary cycle.

These issues and more are what I explore in both my art and the diary that I have kept while making the art over the past three years.

**Uche Edochie**  
Creative Director/CEO  
The Edge Studio



'A man speaking sense to himself is no madder than a man speaking nonsense not to himself'

- Tom Stoppard

'Artists haven't always been crazy. Only since the Romantic Era have perceptions of the creative process been steeped in the belief that artists are just a little weird. Van Gogh cut off his ear and Uche Edochie talks to himself. Nevertheless, these are crazy times and Uche Edochie taps into that. In his paintings and writings, Edochie explores an inner tension between calm restraint and unbridled hysteria. While the work is clearly personal, it also speaks to a world in chaos whereby calm composure could be interpreted as courageous confidence or quiet complacency.

Nigeria has a long lineage of accomplished visual artists who are equally talented with the pen, producing critical texts as well as poetry. Uche Edochie's creative writing represents a conscious effort to have a voice in how his work is discussed. Refusing to sit on the sidelines while scholars and critics find meaning in his work, the artist interviews himself in a series of conversations between Uche and his 'alter ego'.

With raw humor and light hearted wit, the artist confounds any simplistic understanding of his work. This text acts as both a response to and an intervention within the body of paintings that form this exhibition'

- Professor Amanda Carlson

# PG

The following conversation is an invitation to the artist's thought process and concept development. It is frank and sometimes graphic as is to be expected when primal instincts wrestle with the civil mind. Reader discretion is advised.

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# Dear Diary

## Conversations with the other Self

### Chapter 1

#### Reunion

November 14, 2023

Soldier: .....

Uche: Knock knock..

Soldier: Who is that?

Uche: It's me.

Soldier: Who?

Uche: Uche.

Soldier: Do I know you?

Uche: Very funny.

Soldier: I am not around.

Uche: 🗿 I can hear your footsteps. Open up please.

Soldier: .....

Uche: .....

Soldier: You have reached the answering machine of the General. He is not around now.  
Please leave a message after the beep.

Uche: 🗿

Soldier: Beep.

Uche: I am too old for this.

Soldier: I just beeped. What's your message?

Uche: .....

Soldier: It's been sixteen years Uche!

Uche: I know. Just open up.

Soldier: .....

Uche: Thank you. You look good. Why the long face?

Soldier: You think you can sever communications for that long and walk right back into my life just like that?

Uche: Exactly. Victimhood is not a good look for you. Don't go there.

Soldier: You left me. You became a dad.....doing school runs and shit. You don't party. You don't chase girls. Nothing. Just growing a potbelly like a retiree. What a bore.

Uche: 🗿

Soldier: Last time we spoke Obama was running for president. To what do I owe the pleasure?

Uche: I just want to talk.

Soldier: After sixteen bloody years Uche! I feel used, abused and discarded.

Uche: Wahala. I am sorry.

Soldier: You must be working on a show, aren't you? Why else will you come to see me after all these years?

Uche: Yes, I am working on a show.

Soldier: Of course you are. That's the only time I ever hear from you.

Uche: 🗿 I am sorry. What do you want? A peace offering?

Soldier: A burnt offering fit for the gods. Chicken laps with suya spice and palm wine. A letter of apology and Starlink internet service with ten-year subscription. I will think of ten more things to add to this list.

Uche: 🗿

Soldier: So what can I do for you?

Uche: I will like to talk about my show. Bounce a few ideas around like the old days.

Soldier: You don't need me. You are doing just fine.

Uche: I am at my most expressive best when we chat about art and life. So yes, I need you.

Soldier: Of course. I bring out the best in you. And that's why it's going to cost you. Go and get me Rihanna first.....and a blank cheque and then we will talk.

Uche: 🗿



Hard to Kill II: Funke Finds Her Gun  
2023, Acrylic on canvas, 178cm x 128cm

## Chapter 2

### Retrace

November 16, 2023

**Soldier:** Why are you still talking to yourself after all these years?

**Uche:** 😊 Weren't you just grumbling that we don't chat anymore? Make up your mind.

**Soldier:** I don't mind. But it is still weird especially when you say it out loud.

**Uche:** But fun though, right?

**Soldier:** Of course. We are awesome.

**Uche:** 😊 We all have internal dialogues.

**Soldier:** It is nuts.

**Uche:** I agree. But in an age where people are now identifying as squirrels and wall paper, I think I am permitted to think out loud sometimes.

**Soldier:** The world has changed. How do you explain this to people of today?

**Uche:** Oh I think they will get it. But if it backfires, we will go with the nuclear option.

**Soldier:** We will change our pronouns to Jekyll and Hyde and move to San Francisco?

**Uche:** Exactly. In fact if I come out tomorrow as a frog over there, liberals will throw a party for me and threaten anyone who infringes on my right to croak.

**Soldier:** 😊 😊 😊

**Uche:** Seriously though, most thinking people know by now that we are not really just one person. Every human being is a hybrid of characters precipitated by circumstances.

**Soldier:** Easy for you to say. You are an artist. Most people are not.

**Uche:** Good point. So let me explain it this way. When we are in official environments, we behave differently. We are more disciplined, professional and cautious. We speak differently, don't we?

**Soldier:** Of course.

**Uche:** And when we are at informal settings like parties or hanging out with friends and `lovers we are again different. We are loose, chatty, flirty and more playful, right?

**Soldier:** True

**Uche:** And when we are in Church, suddenly we are good boys and girls which is all nonsense because we are total frauds, right?

Soldier: 😊 😊 😊

Uche: And during sex, we are depraved animals that belong in an asylum. Aren't we?

Soldier: 😊 😊 😊 You are killing me bro.

Uche: Depending on the circumstances, human behavior and personality changes. This is a fact.

Soldier: Good point.

Uche: So 19 years ago, I had this idea to delve into the depths of the human mind and explore new forms of expression and communication.

Soldier: I remember. I was there.

Uche: I thought.... what if we are able to isolate the two dominant behavioral traits within a person and get them to have a dialogue with each other?

Soldier: Fireworks.

Uche: What happens if we pit the raw and primal nature of a person against his more cautious and civilized self? Could this perhaps open up the mind in rarely explored ways and enable the audience access very vital and privileged information about a person?

Soldier: Most likely.

Uche: Could it also facilitate a better understanding of art that is otherwise cryptic to the average Joe?

Soldier: Certainly.

Uche: Or maybe it will reshape our understanding of individuality and the fact that we are really just a sum total of the impulses, impressions, influences and filters in our heads?

Soldier: You are a genius sir.

Uche: Could this also present us with a new and more honest form of expression that is comparatively more genuine than anything we have ever seen before?

Soldier: Take a bow son. Standing ovation incoming.

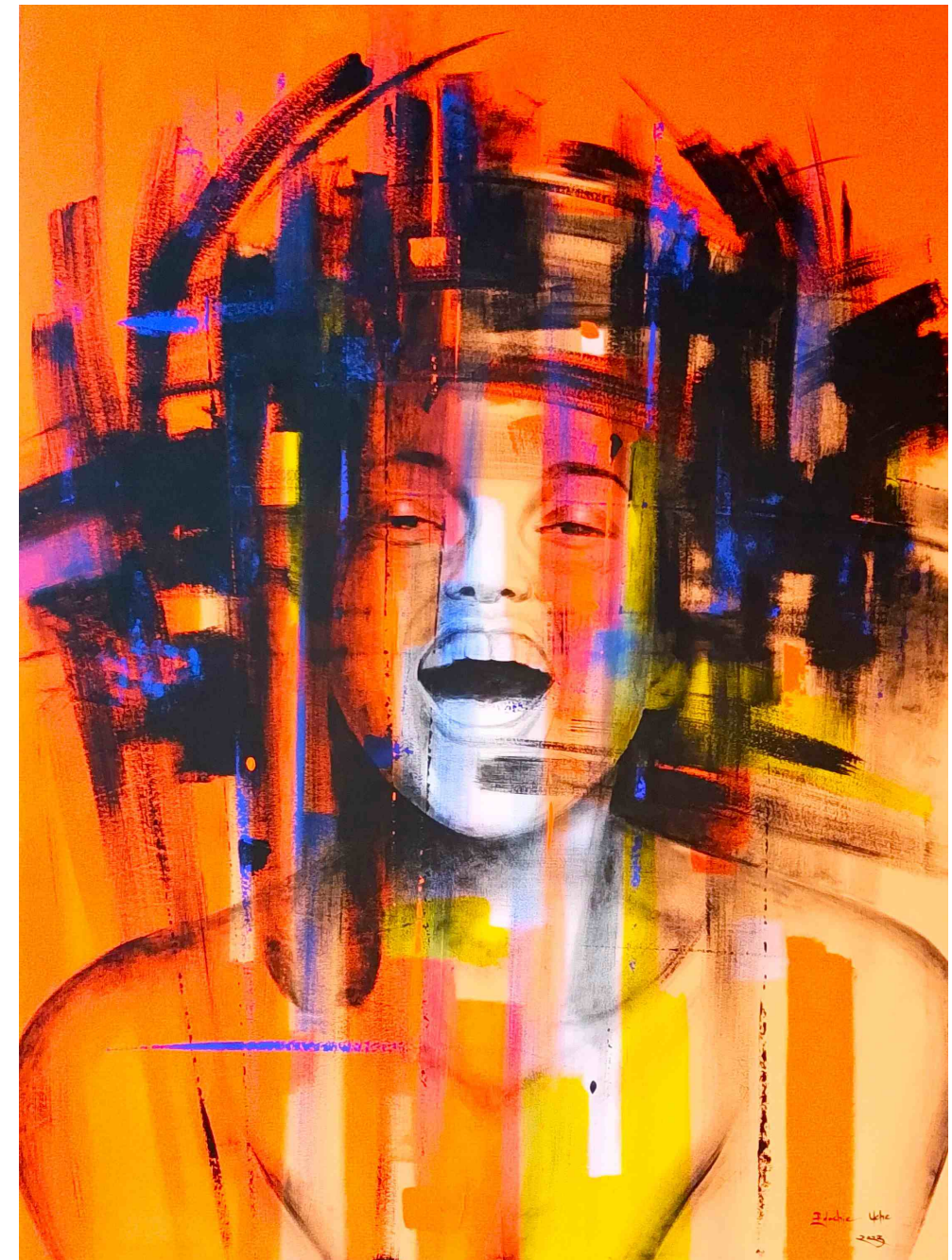
Uche: Or maybe we will get burned at the stake like a medieval witch for daring to bare the uncomfortable contents of the human mind.

Soldier: Ouch. I hate fire.

Uche: I took a risk anyway and went for it. And just like that, conversations with self was born 19 years ago.

Soldier: You are an absolute genius sir. My apologies.

Uche: I don't want your apology. Where is my Oscar? Add a Grammy to that too.....and a Tony!



Every Time I See You  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 153cm x 112cm

Soldier: 😊 😊 😊 How about a Nobel prize for literature?  
Uche: What the hell? Sounds boring but, whatever. Put it in the boot of my car with all the others.

Soldier: 😊  
Uche: .....

Soldier: So I take it that you are the thoughtful and cautious one.  
Uche: Obviously.

Soldier: And I am?  
Uche: Aggressive, blunt, vulgar, carefree, unapologetic and a fighter....who belongs in an asylum

Soldier: That's the nicest thing you have ever said to me.  
Uche: You are welcome.

Soldier: Good. Before we start, I have to ask. Do you plan on censoring me? You know I don't talk like you and talking to me is risky.  
Uche: A lion is a lion. You can't expect it to eat pancakes.

Chapter 3

Formation

December 5, 2023

'Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future'  
- John F. Kennedy

Soldier: What kinds of works are you showing in this exhibition?  
Uche: Paintings.

Soldier: And?  
Uche: More paintings

Soldier: Do you ever feel stuck doing only paintings?  
Uche: Does Andrea Bocelli ever feel stuck doing only Opera?

Soldier: I don't know. Why don't you ask him?  
Uche: .....

Soldier: .....  
Uche: Color is my first love. That will never change.

Soldier: A lot of time has passed since we last spoke. What's it been like getting older?  
Uche: You are calmer, more knowledgeable and composed even under difficult situations. You also have more patience and empathy.

Soldier: Hmmm.  
Uche: And you see faster, think faster, identify deception faster and deal with it faster as well.

Soldier: Do you have regrets?  
Uche: Don't we all?

Soldier: Some people don't.  
Uche: I do.

Soldier: If you could, will you be willing to go back in time and fix them?  
Uche: Probably. But then again, wisdom and experience come from screwing up, taking a beating and learning from it. If we can jump back in time to avoid making mistakes, where will the wisdom and experience come from?

Soldier: Good point.  
Uche: .....

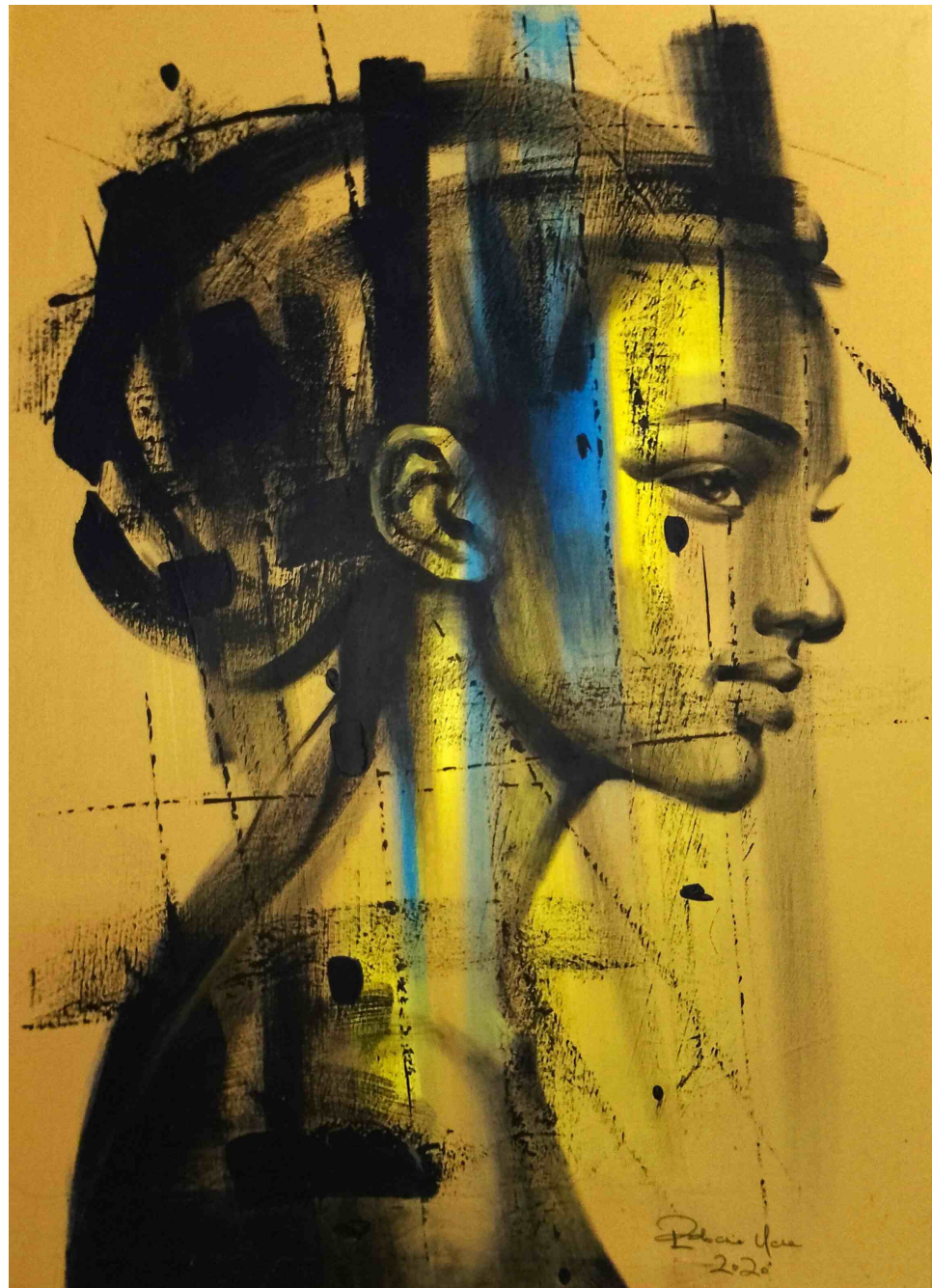
Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: You are an optimist.  
Uche: Yes I am.

Soldier: Why?  
Uche: Logic. We influence reality with our thoughts, actions and speech.

Soldier: Optimism doesn't guarantee results.  
Uche: But it increases the odds in your favor.

Soldier: Once in a while you hear talk about the need for an artist to do something different. What are your thoughts on that?  
Uche: It is good advice to avoid recycling the same ideas. Taking some time off between shows has helped me in that regard. You gather more life experience and see the world through fresh eyes.



**Great Expectations**  
2020. Acrylic on Canvas, 92cm x 67cm

**Soldier: .....**

**Uche:** Original ideas are hard to come by though. Artists are exposed to similar information and imagery. That's partly why they hang on to their styles as distinguishing brands.

**Soldier: Why did you choose this title for your show?**

**Uche:** It indicates a starting point for life. A new beginning. That's what I see in a tree that has shed its leaves. The start of a new cycle. That's what we are when we are born into the world. Frail, dependent and ignorant. Our journey then becomes the gathering and application of information as we navigate life. Nobody knows everything. Getting an education doesn't equal enlightenment. The art of knowing is the journey of a lifetime.

**Soldier: You have always expressed mild frustration over the years about visual art being a limited form of expression.**

**Uche:** True.

**Soldier: Has your opinion changed on this issue?**

**Uche:** Nope.

**Soldier: How are you coping?**

**Uche:** By writing. Unlike music and film that employ words, melodies and images to boost their eloquence, visual art often feeds you crumbs that take you on a journey with no guaranteed destination. Art can be vague. That is why it needs curators and critics as interpreters. Anything can mean anything. And when anything means anything, communication is a challenge.

**Soldier: You hate ambiguity.**

**Uche:** With a passion. I want to be understood. That is our primary job as visual communicators. That is why music and film are more effective tools of communication than visual art and even literature. Their language is simpler and they have more clarity.

Chapter 4

Motifs

December 8, 2023

'A beautiful woman can be painted as a totem only; not as a woman, but as a Madonna, a queen, a sphinx'  
- Saul Steinberg

Soldier: Does art still excite you like it did back in art school three decades ago?  
Uche: It is a different kind of excitement. More measured perhaps. Been making art since age 4.

Soldier: I know exactly what you mean. First time I had sex, I lasted a whole thirty seconds. It was over before it started. Three decades later, she is begging me to stop and wondering If I am trying to get into the Guinness book of records.  
Uche: Really?

Soldier: How often do you feel inspired when you attend art exhibitions?  
Uche: Not as often as say twenty five years ago and I don't mean that in an arrogant way. I have just seen so much art in over thirty years that the element of surprise has diminished. But I enjoy art shows.

Soldier: I totally understand you. It is like sex. I love it. But does it inspire me? Does it keep me up at night contemplating new sex positions and props? Absolutely not. I have a life.  
Uche: Wow. Thank you for that useless piece of information. It means a lot.

Soldier: Anytime son. Anytime.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Would you say your works have evolved over the years?  
Uche: We all evolve.

Soldier: Not everyone evolves.  
Uche: Well, true.



Hard to Kill: Ancestral Shields  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 128cm x 128cm

Soldier: Why do you think some artists evolve and some don't?  
Uche: I can't speak for everyone but there are many reasons for that.

Soldier: Such as?  
Uche: The need to hang on to a recognizable style, pressure from dealers and buyers, creative stagnation etc.

Soldier: And how do you prevent creative stagnation?  
Uche: I consume more content than I create. A lot more. You also have to live life to learn loads. And then take a break every now and then and let the mind grow fallow and replenish.

Soldier: In what ways have you evolved?  
Uche: My subject matter and style keep mutating even within the confines of figurative art. For instance, the figures and flora are merging in my works now, leading to new surprises and possibilities. My pallet and composition are also richer and calmer amongst other things. I also have more life experience.

Soldier: What's with the flowers?  
Uche: You don't like flowers?

Soldier: I never said I didn't.  
Uche: I love nature. I dabbled in it briefly twenty years ago. And after the covid break, my return led me back to nature substantially. Flowers represent completion, promise, results, transcendence, glory, celebration, fantasy, beauty and success.

Soldier: And the trees?  
Uche: There is a quiet majesty about trees that is endearing. The motif of trees that have shed their leaves for instance can signify austerity, difficulty, struggle, degeneration, pain and new beginnings.

Soldier: Hmmm....  
Uche: And when trees are in full bloom, they represent flourish, generosity, promise, endurance, growth and timelessness. I just love them. They are very calming to look at and to be around.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: You have more nudes in this show than all your other shows combined. Do you care to explain yourself sir?  
Uche: There is an honesty, purity and vulnerability to nudity that I love. It is actually curious how man is the only biological creature that wears clothes.

Soldier: 😊 Isn't that something?  
Uche: Just saying. For some reason other animals are happy with the way they were created except us.

Soldier: 😊 😊 😊 Could this be a self-esteem issue? Or the consequence of higher intelligence?  
Uche: Both 😊 😊 😊 . Fashion is pretentious. Necessary but pretentious.

Soldier: She Who Must Be Adored. Interesting painting.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Who did that painting? You or me?  
Uche: I started it and you hijacked it. The original concept was on the agony of being human. And then you made it about female vanity.

Soldier: 😊 😊 😊 It cuts both ways but my concept is more fun. Women are intriguing creatures. You practically have to blow smoke up their butts regularly with compliments they don't always deserve, otherwise a happy life is suddenly an unhappy one.  
Uche: Happy wife, happy life. Whoever came up with that expression is a genius.

Soldier: I will like to buy him a drink. Hopefully he can reveal the identity of the woman that tortured him into becoming a philosopher.  
Uche: 😊 😊 😊

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

## Chapter 5

### Simulation

*March 17, 2024*

'Maybe the only significant difference between a really smart simulation and a human being was the noise they made when you punched them'  
- Carrol Bryant



**Head in the Clouds**  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 92cm x 69cm

**Soldier:** I will like to do a detour and delve a little deeper into the philosophy that drives the art.

**Uche:** Sure

**Soldier:** What are you more curious about? The past or the future?

**Uche:** The past of course.. A lot of the experiences we have today are basically looping and repeating because we have either not learned from the past or we have forgotten what we learned.

**Soldier:** Most people are interested in the future just to know if they eventually became rich.

**Uche:** Sure. But the future is yet to happen so I have some measure of control over it. The past however has already happened. We cannot change it. But we can learn from it particularly our past lives.

**Soldier:** Do you sometimes feel like life is picking on you?

**Uche:** I imagine everyone feels that way from time to time.

**Soldier:** Is it true though?

**Uche:** I think so. Life is an endless series of tests.

**Soldier:** How do you deal with it?

**Uche:** By looking for solutions when I am stuck. Most times I find them. But when I can't find any, sometimes the best thing to do is nothing. It often resolves itself.

**Soldier:** And if it doesn't?

**Uche:** Then I bend over and take it up the ass like a champ. Life is cruel to everyone. I am not special.

**Soldier:** 😊

**Uche:** .....

**Soldier:** You rarely touch on racial issues in your art. Why?

**Uche:** It is not relevant to my day to day reality. I am a black person living in a black country. Besides I feel no need to promote or defend my race. All humans are flawed. Whoever claims superiority or inferiority is delusional.

**Soldier:** You are a black person living in a diverse world. People notice color. So much is based on color.

**Uche:** Of course. But what if I told you that your color at any given time is determined by whatever clothes you are wearing at the time?

**Soldier:** I will say you are an idiot.

**Uche:** And that's how I feel about race. You are a soul wearing a body.

Soldier: .....

Uche: What color is the soul?

Soldier: I don't know. Soul is energy.

Uche: That's also why I would rather make art about the collective and not blackness.

Soldier: Your art is still black art. And the black experience is the human experience.

Uche: Is that so? That's news to me.

Soldier: 😊 Sorry about that. You were dropping so many gems. I had to temper it with foolishness for shits and giggles.

Uche: The macro view of life appeals more to me. It is enlightening and empowering. You are able to rise above all restrictions and embrace the fuller picture of reality and your divinity. But I applaud the work of those who fight for marginalized people everywhere.

Soldier: What do you value most in humans?

Uche: Kindness.

Soldier: Genuine kindness is hard to find. People often want something in return.

Uche: Kindness is still valuable no matter the motivation.

Soldier: So if a man's search for pussy inspires him to put electricity and running water in some chick's village, he is still doing God's work.

Uche: Gbam.

Soldier: I see....What will put the biggest smile on your face when your life here comes to an end?

Uche: Confirmation that my life meant something.

Soldier: .....

Uche: .....

Soldier: Personally I will be pissed if I get to heaven and find there aren't 40 virgins waiting for me.

Uche: 😊

Soldier: My first words to Saint Peter will be, 'Senor Pedro, why has thou forsaken me?'.  
Uche: 😊 😊 😊 You are not even Muslim.

Soldier: And knowing Peter, he will probably give me the Jesus treatment and say something like, 'My apologies negro but who art thou?'.

Uche: 😊 😊 😊

Soldier: And then I will kick him in the nuts for calling me a nigger.

Uche: 😊 Violence is not allowed over there.



Lovers and Spies  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 128cm x 128cm

Soldier: Jesus wouldn't mind. Peter is a snitch. That nigga can't be trusted.  
Uche: 🤔

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: What do you think is the meaning of life? Like...why do we exist?  
Uche: Adventure.

Soldier: Adventure? To what end?  
Uche: Primarily for the expansion of consciousness.

Soldier: What do you value the most in this adventure that is your human experience?  
Uche: Peace of mind.

Soldier: Many choose wealth.  
Uche: To each their own.

Soldier: Do you think there is going to be a third world war?  
Uche: I don't know. Why are we talking about war?

Soldier: Is it off limits?  
Uche: I don't want to talk about war.

Soldier: I feel there can be divine intervention to prevent a world war.  
Uche: Five years ago they shut down the planet and sunk the global economy over some stupid virus that had a cure. Livelihoods were decimated. Did we get divine intervention to stop such cruelty?

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: .....  
Uche: Life is theater. A simulation. A game that consciousness plays with itself. To what extent does the divine intervene in a game it created for its own amusement? I do not know.

Soldier: People die in this game.  
Uche: Is that so? I did not know that. Look up the word simulation.

Soldier: So death doesn't scare you? It is all a simulation?  
Uche: Years ago I recruited an American medium to investigate my past incarnations. She confirmed at least two past lives. One in 18th century France where I was also a painter and an earlier incarnation in ancient Egypt where I was a builder.

Soldier: That was wild.  
Uche: I died of lead poisoning in France. I was in my seventies.

Soldier: I remember.  
Uche: This is why I don't worry about death. We are already dead. We have died many times. The universe is littered with our trail of corpses across planets and lifetimes. And yet here we are again.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: The afterlife is no longer a mystery. We are already in the afterlife. What comes after life is just more life. What happens in between lives is a recuperating and processing period.

Soldier: I like how you say this with so much certainty.  
Uche: That's because we have corroborating evidence. There is this case of a child who gave accounts of who he was in a previous life, where he lived and how he died. He was a soldier. His story was researched and his former house was found with documented records of his military service and the wars he fought in. This is just one of many cases.

## Chapter 6

### Evolution

May 3, 2024

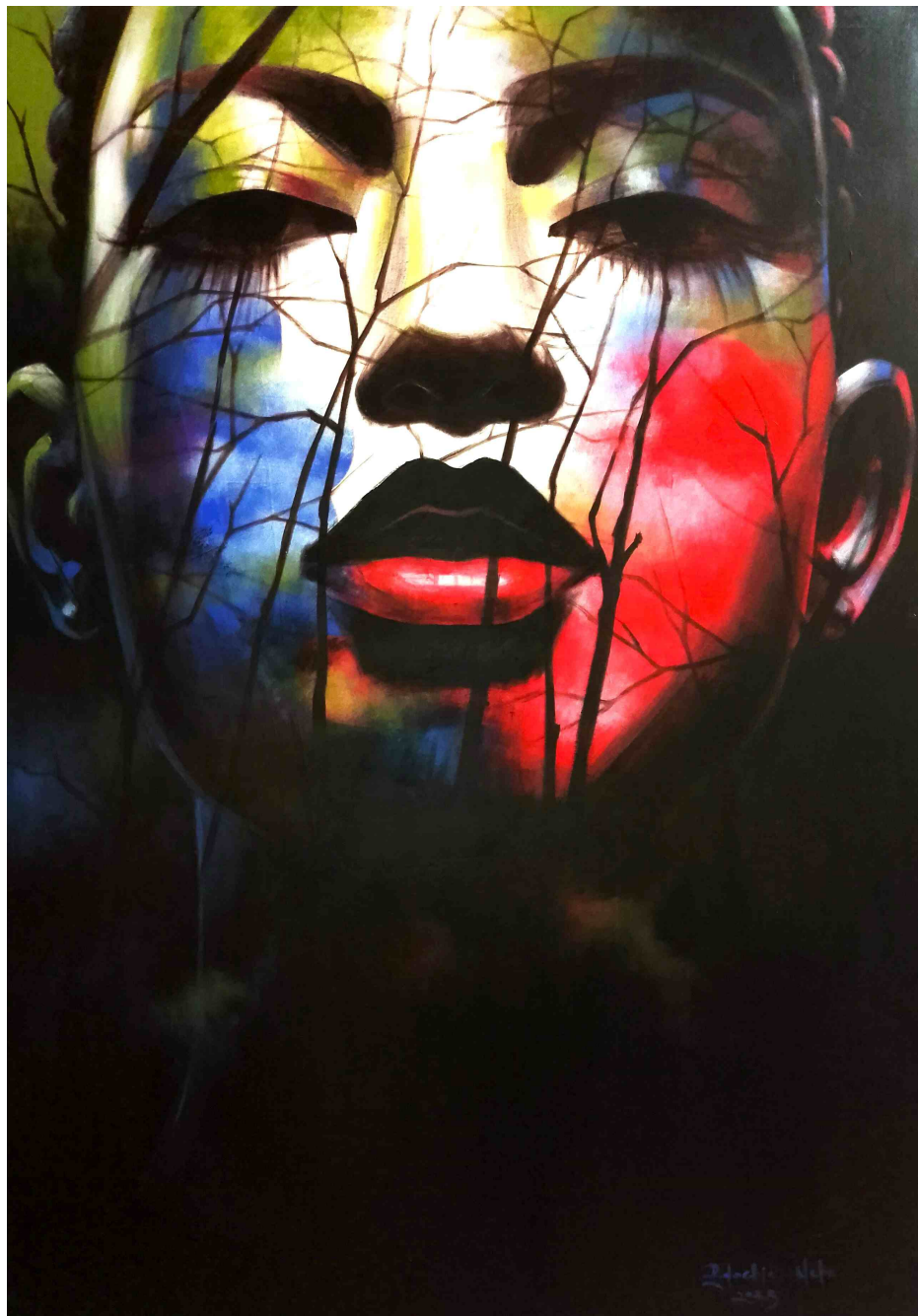
Soldier: Do you think there is a connection between a person's age and the kind of art they make?  
Uche: I thought I answered this question already.

Soldier: I keep looking at this new collection of works and the ways in which they differ from previous ones. They are quite serene.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Do you attribute this to getting older?  
Uche: No. I attribute it to watching cartoons. Who wrote these questions for you?

Soldier: 🤔 🤔 🤔 Ouch.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: You are an asshole.  
Uche: Back at you.



All the Leaves are on the ground  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 160cm x 112cm

Soldier: .....

Uche: Art tends to follow the life path of its maker for the most part. I hope you heard me this time. I hate repeating myself.

Soldier: You sound like a grumpy old man.

Uche: I am an old man.

Soldier: 49 is not old.

Uche: Not according to my kids.

Soldier: Those ones? What do they know?

Uche: 😊

Soldier: Do you think you can paint the way you did fifteen years ago?

Uche: I can but why would I want to? It is like wishing you never evolved as a person.

Soldier: I am just tired. Can we do this in the morning?

Uche: Absolutely. This session has been a disaster.

13 hours later

Soldier: You first painted flowers twenty years ago. But not like this. Your earlier works were very energetic. What changed?

Uche: The times.

Soldier: You got older. Of course. Can I get you a walking stick?

Uche: : 😊

Soldier: Take me back to the Uche of twenty years ago. What was your creative process like?

Uche: Construction through deconstruction. I acknowledge reality, wreck it, and recreate it.

Soldier: Why?

Uche: Why impersonate reality when you can reinvent it?

Soldier: Hmmmm....So rather than carefully constructing a work of art .....

Uche: I first do the equivalent of tossing an explosive into a box of confetti, make a mess and create art with the debris.

Soldier: Attack that canvas like Jimi Hendrix shredding his guitar!

Uche: 😊

Soldier: Like a mad scientist cooking up some shit that could blow up his lab!

Uche: Controlled chaos. Splashing colors like a kid dancing in the rain.

Soldier: Interesting.... And now you execute your ideas with the careful caress of a dad that has just been handed his new born. Gently and thoughtfully like Hans Zimmer's piano concerto of Interstellar. Could this be age?

Uche: 😊😊😊 I think so.

Soldier: The rage of youth is gone?

Uche: No. I still go hard on some ideas. But for this show, I decided to let the flora lead the way. Let's respect the integrity of nature for a change and see where we go.

Soldier: And the outcome is serenity. Like being led to church after mass.

Uche: I never knew I could accommodate natural colors again after such a long time.

Soldier: How does that feel?

Uche: Like soaking in a tub on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Soldier: Very soothing.... You chose baptism over dancing in the rain.

Uche: 😊😊😊 Good job General. You came prepared today.

## Chapter 7

Contention

July 16, 2024

'Talking to myself is okay. Answering back is risky'  
– Brian Spellman

Soldier: In this collection of works, I see an attempt to present a 'how to guide' to life and living.

Uche: A collection of life hacks. What to expect when expecting.

Soldier: Isn't that the title of a movie?

Uche: An old chick flick. My wife loves it.

Soldier: It is a decent movie ....if you are a girl 😊😊

Uche: 😊



Vestiges and a Promise  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 173cm x 123cm

Soldier: Hacks such as?  
Uche: Earth is rough. Get a helmet.

Soldier: 🤔 🤔 🤔  
Uche: 🤔

Soldier: Isn't that the idea behind your Hard to Kill series? Life is not all sunshine and flowers.  
Uche: Yep.

Soldier: Any other tips?  
Uche: Relationships are costly but necessary.

Soldier: Very costly. It can literarily take everything from you.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Do you recommend marriage?  
Uche: If you've got enough helmets, go for it. But it is not for everyone.

Soldier: No it is not. An alarming majority of men are giving up on dating globally.  
Uche: So I heard. This will impact the human population for sure.

Soldier: The war on masculinity is working. In many of these matchmaking events organized for singles these days, over 95% of the people showing up are women. The men have walked away.  
Uche: On one occasion only one guy showed up. Very bizarre.

Soldier: A man staying home and minding his business can't be called toxic and a creep anymore. When people take you for granted, cut them off. They will learn fast that access to you is a privilege not a right.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: The girls we grew up with were so different. There was no social media back then and no feminism. There was mutual respect, sanity and humility. These younger ones are entitled and nuts.  
Uche: We sound just like our parents chastising the youth 🤔.

Soldier: But it is true. Go to the gym today and you will think you are in a strip club. Tits and ass everywhere looking for attention. Relentless bombardment of the masculine mind. And when they finally get a man's attention, they freak out and scream sexual harassment. Crazy people.  
Uche: 🤔 🤔 🤔

Soldier: Dudes are fed up with stupid games. So they are staying home and avoiding the clown show.  
Uche: Every generation has their own unique challenges. They will figure it out hopefully.

Soldier: I don't know about that. Female drama and entitlement is off the chain. Did you see those viral clips of women saying they 'deserve everything'? And when asked what they bring to the table themselves, their answer was, 'I am the table'.  
Uche: 🤔

Soldier: And we wonder why aliens abduct people. Who talks like that? 'I am the table'. As if there is a shortage of pussy on planet earth. In fact if pussy were a stock, it is now trading at recession prices. There are no takers. Men are on the run.  
Uche: 🤔 🤔 🤔

Soldier: .....  
Uche: Many cool women are still out there though. Lots of them.

Soldier: Good luck finding the needle in a haystack. If I were a superior intelligence sent to this planet on a diplomatic mission and I encounter such craziness, I will do bad things to these silly humans, honestly.  
Uche: 🤔

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: If I am in a good mood, I will probably just pluck my eyes out so I don't have to witness this shit.  
Uche: 🤔 You will need your eyes to fly your ship.

Soldier: Fine. Then I will crash the internet and shut down social media.  
Uche: That is extreme. Good people and businesses need it.

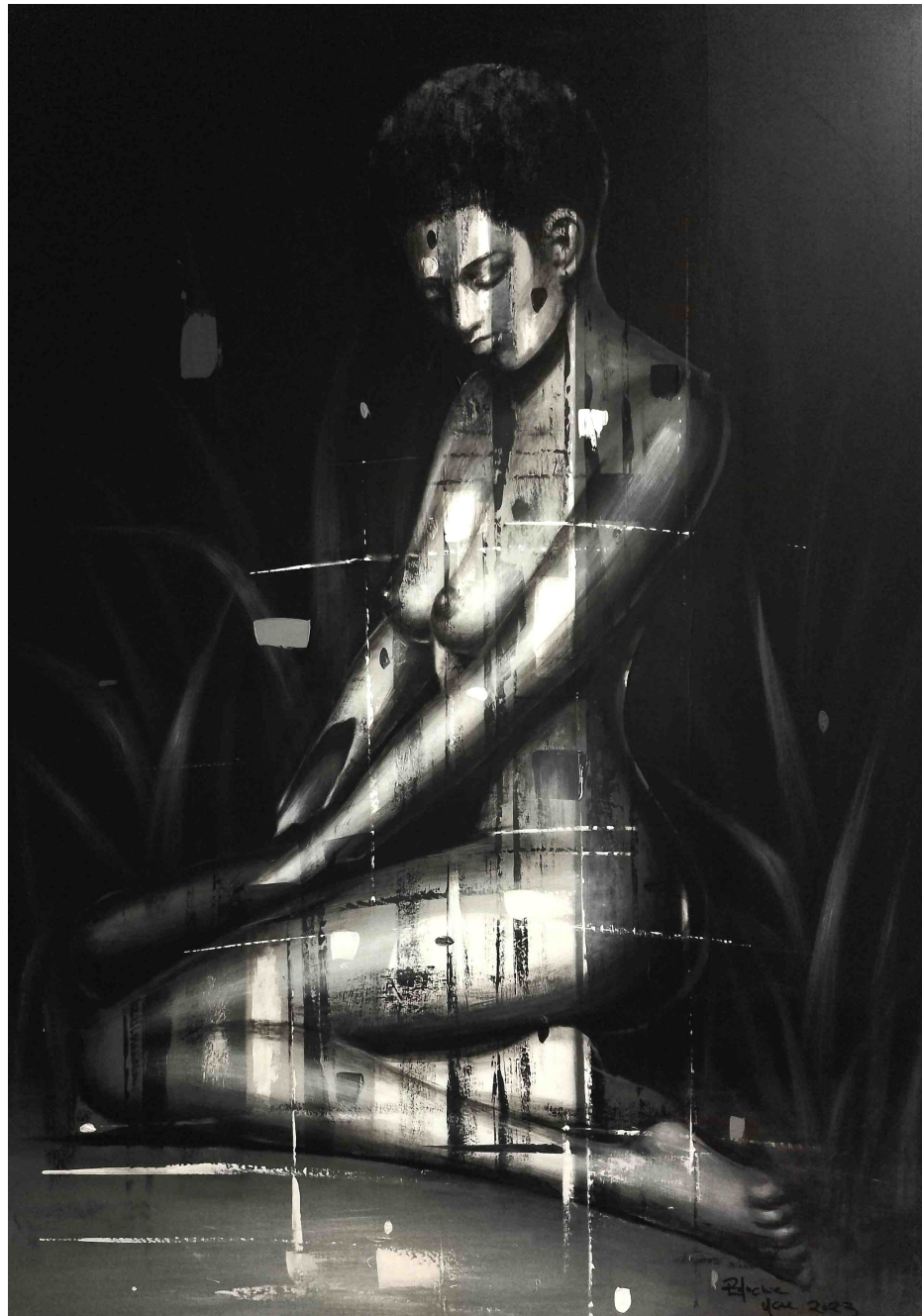
Soldier: In that case I will turn the girls into tables. They asked for it. What do you think?  
Uche: 🤔 I don't know. Just leave them alone.

Soldier: Why do you keep protecting them? I just can't trust you, can I? I think I will turn you into a chair so you can slide right under their tables. Enjoy the view. You deserve each other. Silly humans.  
Uche: 🤔 🤔 🤔 You are not well.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Anyway, where were we?  
Uche: You were asking me about life hacks before doing a 360 and going after the girls.

Soldier: My apologies. Please continue.  
Uche: I was saying that humans need a support system. We weren't designed to live alone. That's the story behind Every Time I see You.



Pieces of Me  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 158cm x 112cm

Soldier: Everybody needs somebody. I agree. Look at the joy on her face. A man definitely wants to come home to that if he won't have his head bitten off.

Uche: ☹ Sometimes solitude is better if you cannot find the right person. It aids clarity, focus and a more peaceful life as shown in *Stillness and Sound*.

Soldier: Sure. I can feel her peace from here. Tell me about *The Alchemist*.

Uche: The concept is that we often think of life and tough situations as something bad that happened to us. But in truth we manifest our own reality.

Soldier: Blame the religions for that. Things get a little rough and they freak out and start screaming devil this and devil that. Life is rough sometimes for everyone. It is totally normal.

Uche: Yep.

Soldier: *The Alchemist*. She is manifesting some stunning flora. That is a potent mind.

Uche: .....

## Chapter 8

### Consciousness Dreaming

*October 2, 2024*

Soldier: I want to shift gears and explore the more esoteric aspects of existence that influence the art.

Uche: The woo woo.

Soldier: The land of Gods and monsters. Are you ready to step into higher dimensions?

Uche: Let's go.

Soldier: Do you sometimes feel like life is pointless?

Uche: There was a period in my life I felt that way.

Soldier: You have since had a change of heart?

Uche: Totally. Consciousness is too complex, strategic and intelligent to be random and pointless.

Soldier: When I see people slaughtered like animals in these phony wars, I feel like maybe life is meaningless, which is why it happens.

Uche: The cruelty is never easy to digest.

Soldier: Do you remember that viral video of some white girl getting a tattoo on her pussy?  
Uche: Yeah....

Soldier: And at some point she got so excited that she squirted on the face of the tattooist?  
Uche: 😊 😊 😊 That was intense. Maybe she thought he needed a bath.

Soldier: That is the story of God.  
Uche: 😊 😊 😊 Holy crap! What?

Soldier: Think about it. God made man, loved him and even indulged some of his bullshit.  
And then asked him to do one thing. Just one thing. Don't be an asshole. And what do we do?  
Uche: We squirt on its face.... 😊 😊 😊

Soldier: .....  
Uche: I understand your anger but that is a simplistic take on reality. There is more to all of this.

Soldier: More? How?  
Uche: Let's just say that the universe is both kind and violent and man is a reflection of this polarity.

Soldier: Kind and violent.  
Uche: Yep. We are surrounded by dangerous creatures, criminals, bad influences, extreme weather conditions, hunger, diseases, government brutality etc. The universe is violent. But it is also kind.

Soldier: And by universe you mean God.  
Uche: Of course. The universe, God, consciousness. Same thing. It permits all this craziness.

Soldier: There are parts of Lagos I avoid passing through just to shield myself from people's pain.  
Uche: I think I did a painting on that.

Soldier: Head in the Clouds.  
Uche: That's the one.

Soldier: That is me sometimes. I need that insulation from reality to breathe every now and then.  
Uche: What if I told you that pain, suffering and chaos are all part of a grand design?

Soldier: I will say that is some shitty grand design.  
Uche: Well, I have reason to believe that this planet can't be fixed and wasn't even meant to work. Its potential is undermined to maintain the dysfunction. It is a prison of some kind and a school.



Consciousness Dreaming  
2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 178cm x 128cm

Soldier: That's wild.  
Uche: We are supposed to just do our best, survive and be hard to kill. Our reaction to different circumstances is what's being evaluated and recorded. But we cannot change the world. It is like trying to change the culture of a notorious prison. Impossible.

Soldier: That is defeatist. And if true, it is absolutely outrageous.  
Uche: Civilizations have risen and fallen over millennia and none could change the world for good. Why? Atlantis, Lemuria, Hyperborea, Egypt and Tartaria. All of these civilizations peaked and fell.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: You hear about 26,000 year cycles after which there is a reset. Some say the cycle is 12,500 years long. Regardless of the numbers, each time human civilizations peaked, they got nuked. Instant reset. What do you think the floods, the fires and ice age were about? The reset of civilizations.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Fantastic. So a flawed adventure is the point of life?  
Uche: Let me put it this way. Man is God's Halloween costume.

Soldier: What the hell does that mean?  
Uche: Man is an outlet through which the creator of this reality experiences imperfection.

Soldier: Of all the beautiful things a supreme creator could be doing, it chose to come monkey around in a shithole planet?  
Uche: 🙄 🙄 🙄 It is a dreamer and loves the thrill of an edgy adventure, which is relatable. Some of us get tattoos, as painful as it is. And some of us love horror movies and bongy jumping, all of which are terrifying. We scream and cry but we do it anyway.

Soldier: Why though?  
Uche: Because being everything and having everything leaves this creator with nothing else to desire, achieve or conquer. Boredom can be a problem. You get bored sometimes, don't you?

Soldier: I get bored a lot. This planet is a garbage dump.  
Uche: So does the creator. So it sets out to create all kinds of scenarios where it can experience different realities as different people and beings for its own amusement.

Soldier: Like an undercover cop?  
Uche: Yes like an undercover cop who doesn't know he is not a cop. That is the illusion of separation you keep hearing about. That's why man searches for God without knowing he is God.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Is there any other factor that explains the madness of this universe besides the creator desiring chaos for shits and giggles?  
Uche: The need for balance in all things. Everything comes in twos, right? Everything is dualistic.

Soldier: Sure.  
Uche: Man and woman. Tall and short. Light and dark etc. Everything has an opposite.

Soldier: The fourth hermetic principle.  
Uche: So it makes sense that perfection has to be balanced by imperfection.

Soldier: I see where you are going.  
Uche: This explains the negativity, a dysfunctional human existence and the incarnation system. We contribute the imperfection. That's the role we play in this simulation. You can think of humanity as divine excrement. The filthy part of God.

Soldier: Holy shit!  
Uche: 🤔

Soldier: This is deep. You are basically saying that darkness is important.  
Uche: Bingo! It ain't going anywhere. So we can whine about life not being perfect and the religious can jump up and down trying to cast away evil but evil ain't going anywhere. The universe keeps it around for a reason. Duality. Balance.

Soldier: Wonderful. So earth will kick your ass, eat your lunch and squeeze your nuts. We can't do shit.  
Uche: That's just the nature of the game. Just hunker down, take the beating and survive.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: For years the different religions tried selling God as the perfect being.  
Uche: Where is the fun in that? It wants to be everything. It is everything. The bird on a tree. The blade of grass on the floor. The venomous snake crawling up the tree trying to eat the bird. Everything.

Soldier: Don't you have a painting titled Everything is Everything?  
Uche: Yep. Life as we know it is Consciousness Dreaming and the physical universe is a holographic projection of this dream.



Consciousness Observing Itself  
2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 92cm x 69cm

## Chapter 9

### Condensation

*December 14, 2024*

**Soldier:** You have a number of art pieces on the subject of growth and self-discovery.

**Uche:** Bloom II: Out of Shadows is one of them. Vestiges and Promises too.

**Soldier:** Flowers feature prominently in many of your new works. Why?

**Uche:** I am an optimist. That lingering promise of growth, completion and triumph is a sub theme in many of the paintings.

**Soldier:** Talk to me about Lovers and Spies. I love the red.

**Uche:** We tend to think of people as falling into two categories. Friends and enemies. But there is a third category of people we rarely remember and it's the trickiest one to manage.

**Soldier:** The frenemy.

**Uche:** Exactly. I struggled with this for years because I wanted to see the best in people.

**Soldier:** Success turns friends into frenemies.

**Uche:** Oftentimes it does unfortunately.

**Soldier:** I have a very personal question for you.

**Uche:** Sure.

**Soldier:** Are you happy? You know.... with life. Your human experience. Are you happy?

**Uche:** I think so. I have peace, family, love and means. I am content and grateful for the 'good and in spite of the bad. So yes, I believe I am happy.

**Soldier:** A wise man once said, 'If you look for reasons to be happy in life, you will find it. If you look for reasons to be unhappy, you will also find it'.

**Uche:** Yep.

**Soldier:** What is it like to be you?

**Uche:** .....

**Soldier:** .....

**Uche:** Picture a drummer in a matching band. All his life he has played in this band and all he ever sees is the person in front of him and two others by his sides.

Soldier: Okay.  
Uche: And then suddenly there is a split. I am still a drummer in this band but there is now another version of me standing by the side walk. This version of me is very mobile and is able to float around like a drone and see different perspectives that the other cannot.

Soldier: You are suddenly both a participant and an observer of life.  
Uche: Yes.

Soldier: What is that like?  
Uche: Disturbing.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: You see things and access information you wish you never had. This changes the way you feel about everything. And perhaps more than anything else, you no longer feel like you belong anywhere.

Soldier: Information alienates. How long have you felt this way?  
Uche: Over two decades. Maybe a little longer. It has been a gradual realization.

Soldier: And what are you doing about it?  
Uche: Same thing I have been doing for years. Trying not to get crushed by the weight of this information. You have to acknowledge it, process it and function inspite of it.

Chapter 10

Lights Out

March 5, 2025

'No matter how many plans you make or how much you are in control,  
life is always winging it'  
– Gerard way

Soldier: I will like to wrap up our conversation with a few more questions on personal development, human evolution and lessons learned.  
Uche: Sure.



Stillness and Sound  
Acrylic on canvas, 127cm x 97cm, 2023

Soldier: To the best of your knowledge, at what age would a person have learned all that he or she is supposed to learn in life?  
Soldier: At their time of death.

Soldier: A kid who dies young can't possibly have learned all there is to learn.  
Uche: We learn across life times, of which there are many.

Soldier: Suffering. Discomfort. Pain. None of these conditions are enjoyable. Yet there is an argument to be made that in some ways they have benefits. You believe there is value in suffering.  
Uche: Yes I do.

Soldier: What are they?  
Uche: Appreciation for everything. Pain and suffering also aid mental strength, maturity, discipline, focus, empathy and sensitivity. And above all else they accelerate the evolution of consciousness.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Will people ever understand this? The culture of victimhood is pervasive.  
Uche: A few will. Most won't.

Soldier: How do you deal with pain when you cannot get rid of it?  
Uche: I learn to live with it. I am a soldier. There is no crying on the battlefield.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: I have a question about Zara. Is this something you can talk about now?  
Uche: I can try.

Soldier: How are you doing?  
Uche: I have never felt a pain like this before. Work helps take my mind off things. Family and friends too.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: What will you say you have taken away from this experience?  
Uche: It has taught me more about depression and mental health. I never understood it until now. I am not even sure I fully understand it. Suicidal people look just as normal as everyone else. Maybe a little moody. That's all. If they don't tell you, you will never know what is going through their minds.

Soldier: I have been reading up on people who's loved ones took their lives. They all say the same thing. The person was just a bit moody but acted totally normal. And then out of the blue, they ended it.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: .....  
Uche: I have also been thinking about the afterlife. Did she end up in a good place? I don't know. I pray she is not judged too harshly over there. Our lives aren't ours to take. But she was just a kid who wasn't well and couldn't handle the pain. I want to hug my child again, hold her hand and lead her to a peaceful place. But I can't. I can only pray for her.

Soldier: Prayer is powerful. Don't stop.  
Uche: Every single day for as long as I live.

Soldier: A year ago the world health organization warned of a coming epidemic of mental health challenges particularly among young people. And here we are. It is everywhere.  
Uche: .....

Soldier: .....  
Uche: I had a dream about her two days ago.

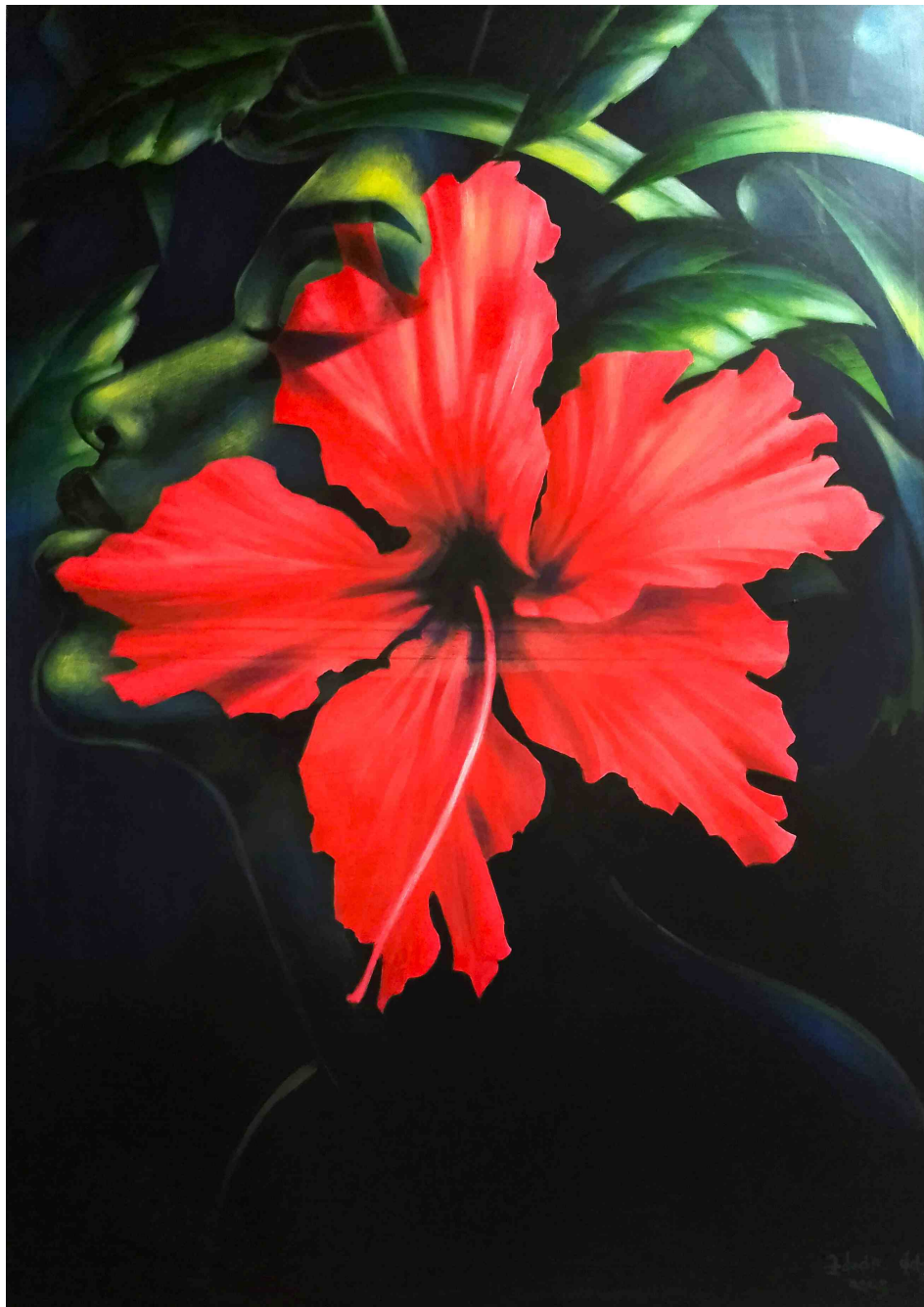
Soldier: .....  
Uche: She came to see us in our former house in Ogudu and we were so happy to see her again. We were all over her giving her hugs and she looked really happy and at peace; like someone who returned from a long trip after many years. Best dream I ever had. The atmosphere was like Christmas morning.

Soldier: It felt so real. Nothing like a dream.  
Uche: We had a little chat about how crazy life has been since she died. She listened to everything we had to say. When it was time for her to go, she started fading away. I ran to hug her one last time and I woke up.

Soldier: .....  
Uche: .....

Soldier: Zara was such an awesome kid. Very kind. Everybody loved her.  
Uche: If dreams are anything to go by, maybe it is confirmation that she is at peace. She looked happy and calm. For the first time, I am starting to feel better.

Soldier: It felt like she came to console everyone. She knows how devastated you are.  
Uche: I felt that too. I give my kids everything. Absolutely everything. Everything I do is for them.



**The Alchemist**  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 173cm x 123cm

**Soldier:** .....

**Uche:** Can we take a break?

**Soldier:** Of course.

**Uche:** .....

**A Few Hours Later**

**Soldier:** What is more valuable in life? Success or struggle?

**Uche:** Both are valuable in different ways. But struggle has taught me more. It prepares you for anything.

**Soldier:** It is always the case that the things we enjoy the least, benefit us the most. I hated eating salads as a child. It tasted bitter. But that's healthy food for you.

**Uche:** .....Yeah.

**Soldier:** Remember when we were moving house in 2019? How many watches did you count?

**Uche:** 23. It's ridiculous.

**Soldier:** 23 watches and you can't even predict the future.

**Uche:** Nope. I gave most of them away that year along with a lot of other belongings. Sometimes having everything you want teaches you that you don't need everything you want. I don't accumulate anymore.

**Soldier:** It is a good habit. You feel lighter.

**Uche:** Much lighter.

**Soldier:** .....

**Uche:** .....

**Soldier:** What will you say is the hardest lesson you have learned in life?

**Uche:** That no good deed goes unpunished.

**Soldier:** That is a hard lesson.

**Uche:** A haunting lesson.

**Soldier:** Has that changed your outlook on life?

**Uche:** Not significantly. I still choose to be kind in any way that I can, but cautiously.

**Soldier:** Would you consider this lesson your biggest ever challenge?

**Uche:** No. That would be the enigma of control.

**Soldier:** We don't control anything.

**Uche:** Well, we do on some level. And in many ways, we don't. It is unpredictable.

Soldier: So like I said, we don't really control anything.  
Uche: And like I said, we do and we don't. It is complicated.

Soldier: This is confusing.  
Uche: Let me explain it with a story.

Soldier: Okay.  
Uche: .....A very wealthy man gets fed up with life and commissions his own assassination.

Soldier: This should be interesting.  
Uche: He also instructs the assassin to ensure the job is carried out at all costs, even if the client changes his mind, or there will be consequences.

Soldier: Okay.  
Uche: And then a few days before his assassination, the client begins to have second thoughts. He regrets making such a grievous decision under duress. So he contacts the assassin to decommission the job.

Soldier: .....Hmmm.  
Uche: The assassin senses a trap and reminds the client that his instructions were to carry out the job no matter what, or there will be consequences. He fears for his own life, should he fail.

Soldier: Trouble.....  
Uche: So here is the question. Who is in control of this situation?

Soldier: The assassin gets to pull the trigger. So my money is on him.  
Uche: But he is only carrying out instructions. If he fails, he can lose his life. His hands are tied.

Soldier: Good point. I will like to change my answer. The client controls the situation.  
Uche: Does he?

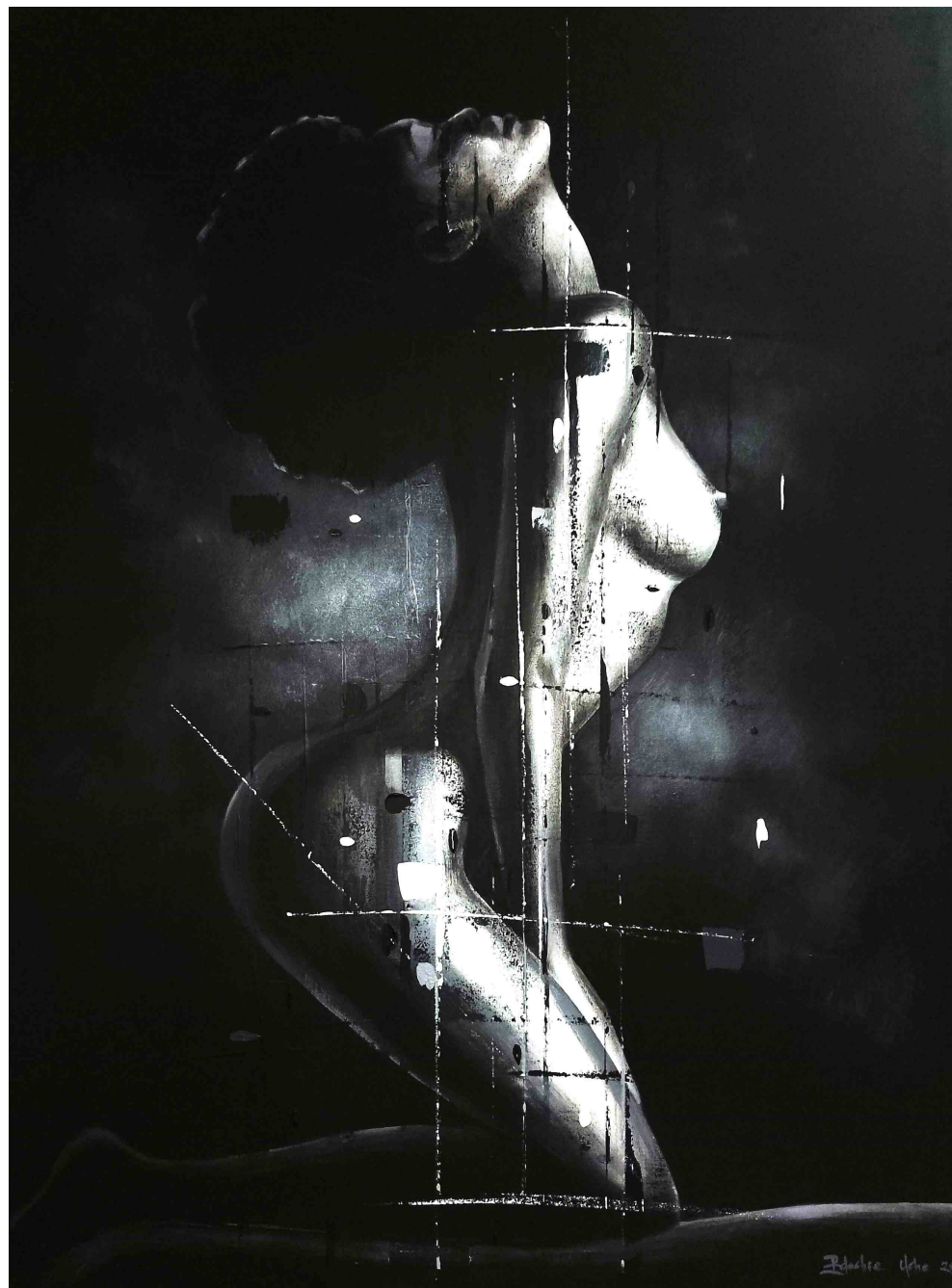
Soldier: Well, he gave the order.  
Uche: And then changed his mind but is now powerless to stop his own execution.

Soldier: Shit.  
Uche: Who controls this situation?

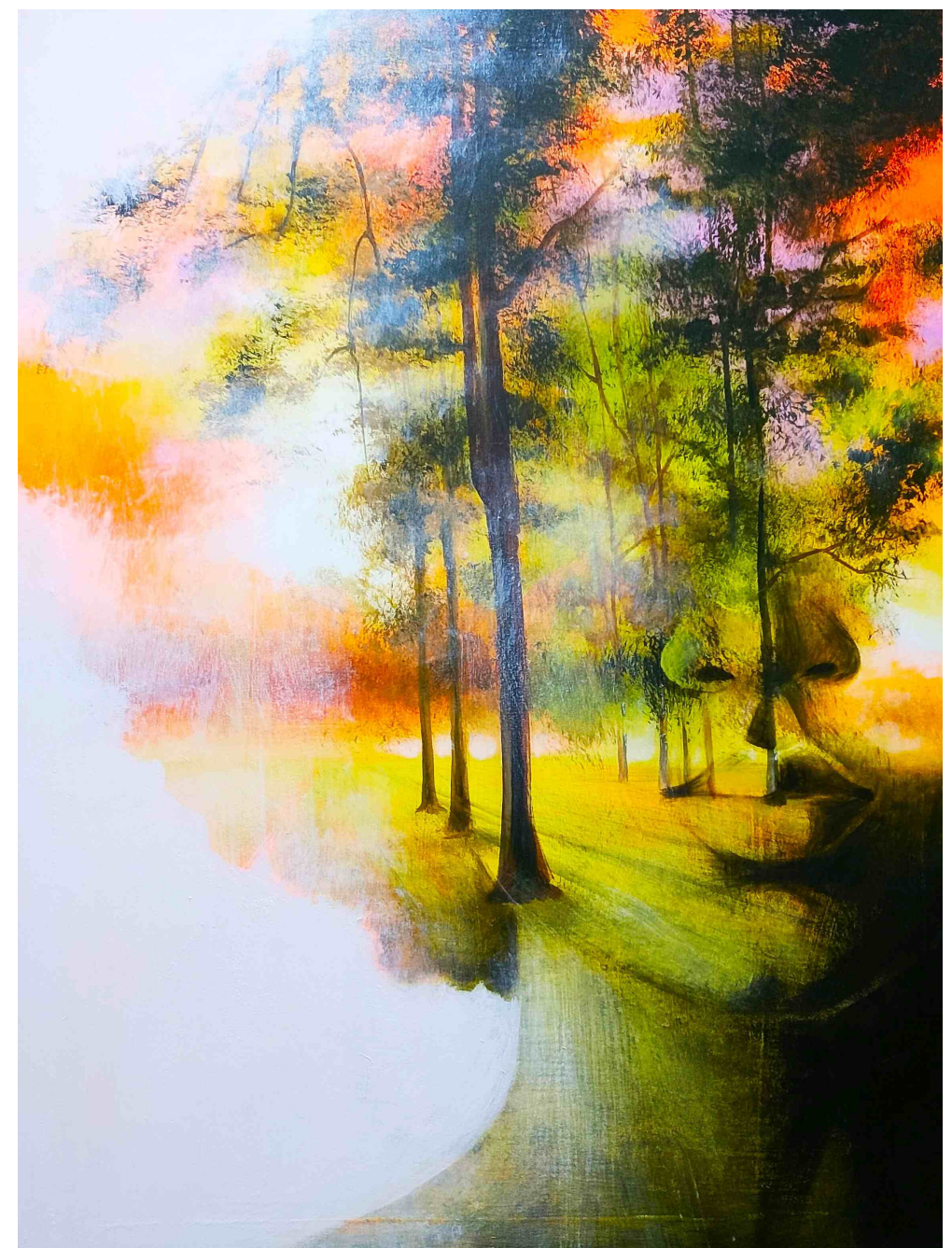
Soldier: I don't know.  
Uche: Exactly. Life is like this sometimes. We can't always control reality. Only how we respond to it.



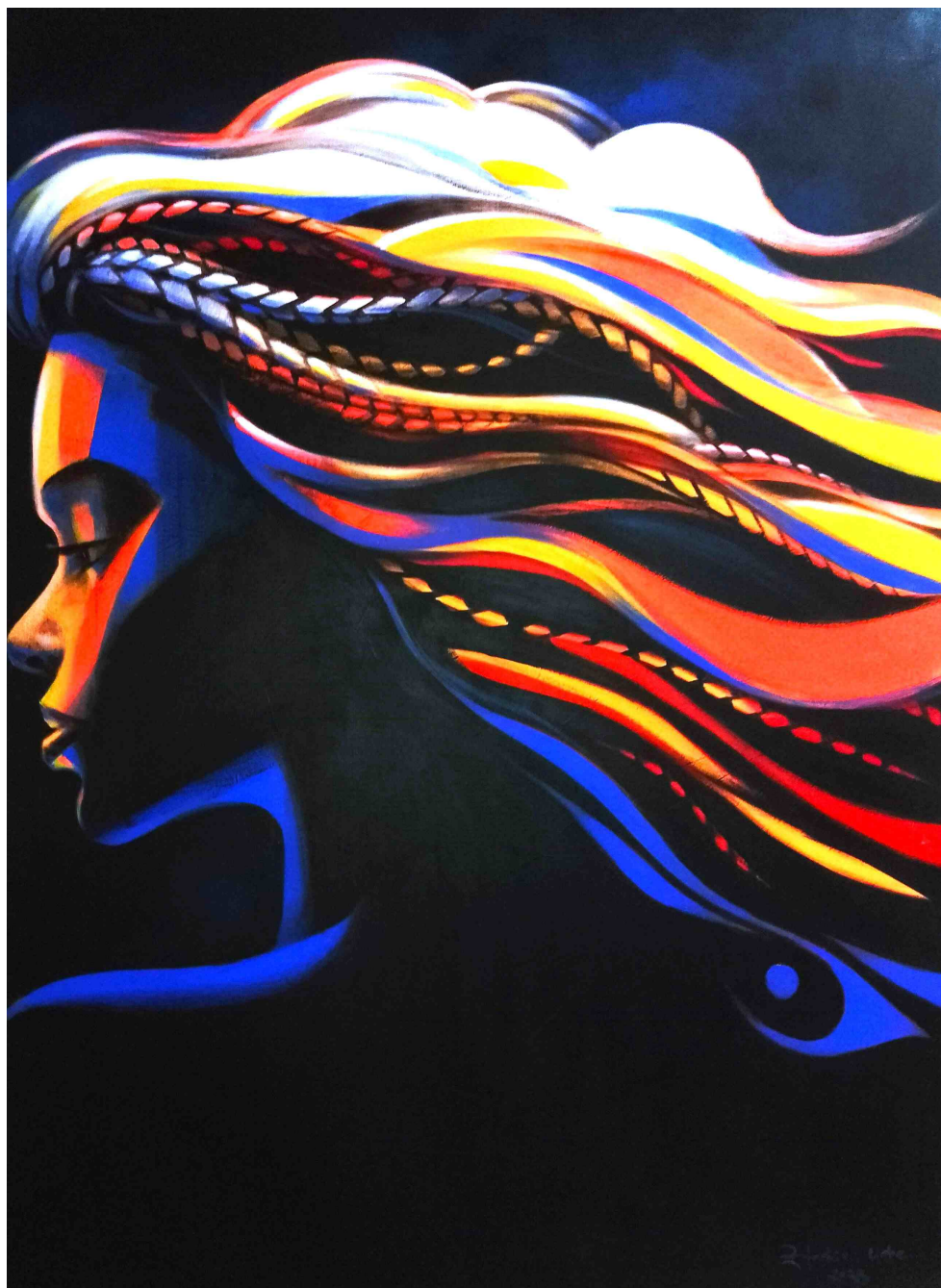
Being human II: The Forever Journey  
2024, Acrylic on Canvas, 128cm x 128cm



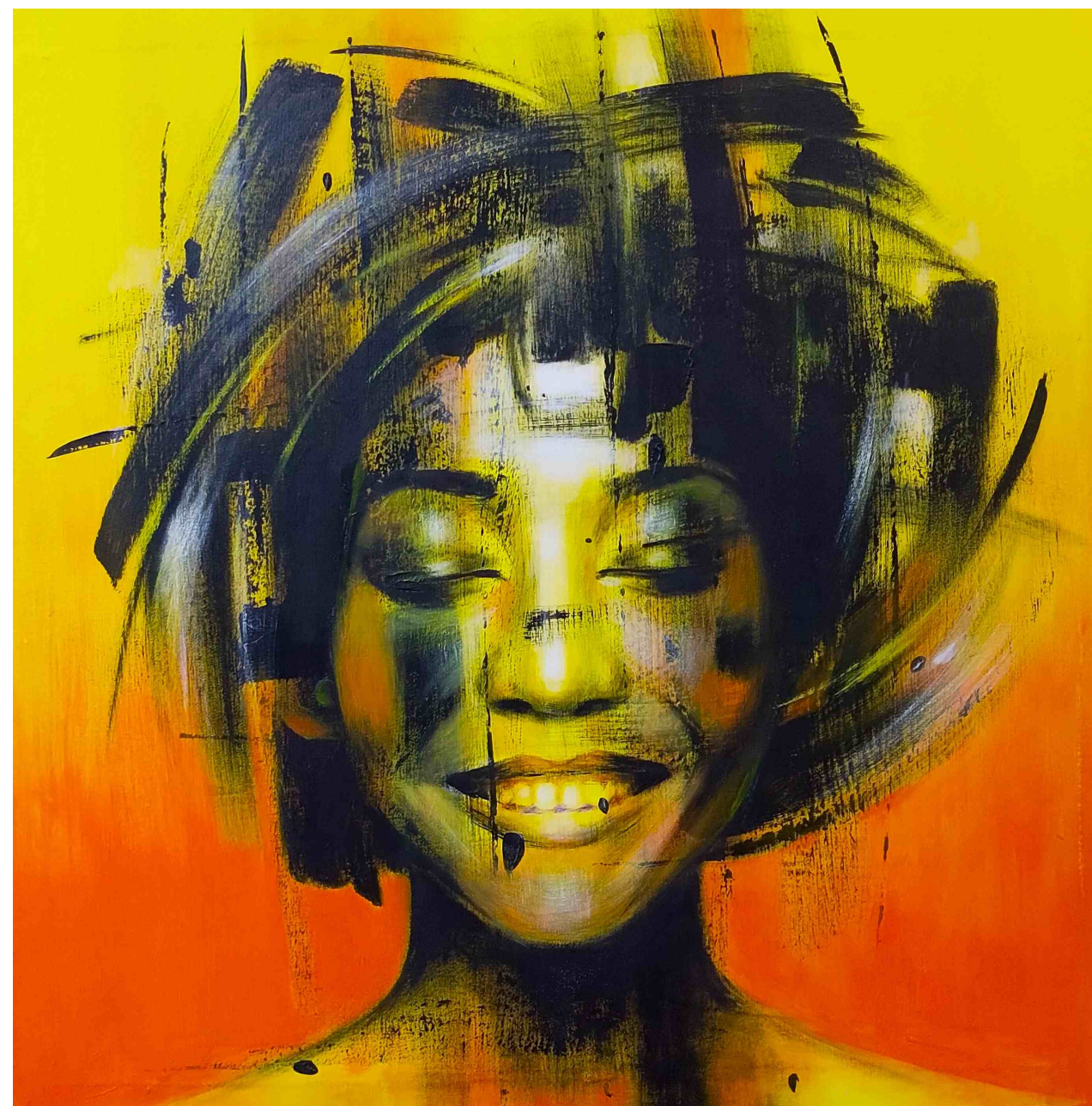
**She who must be Adored**  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 97cm x 127cm



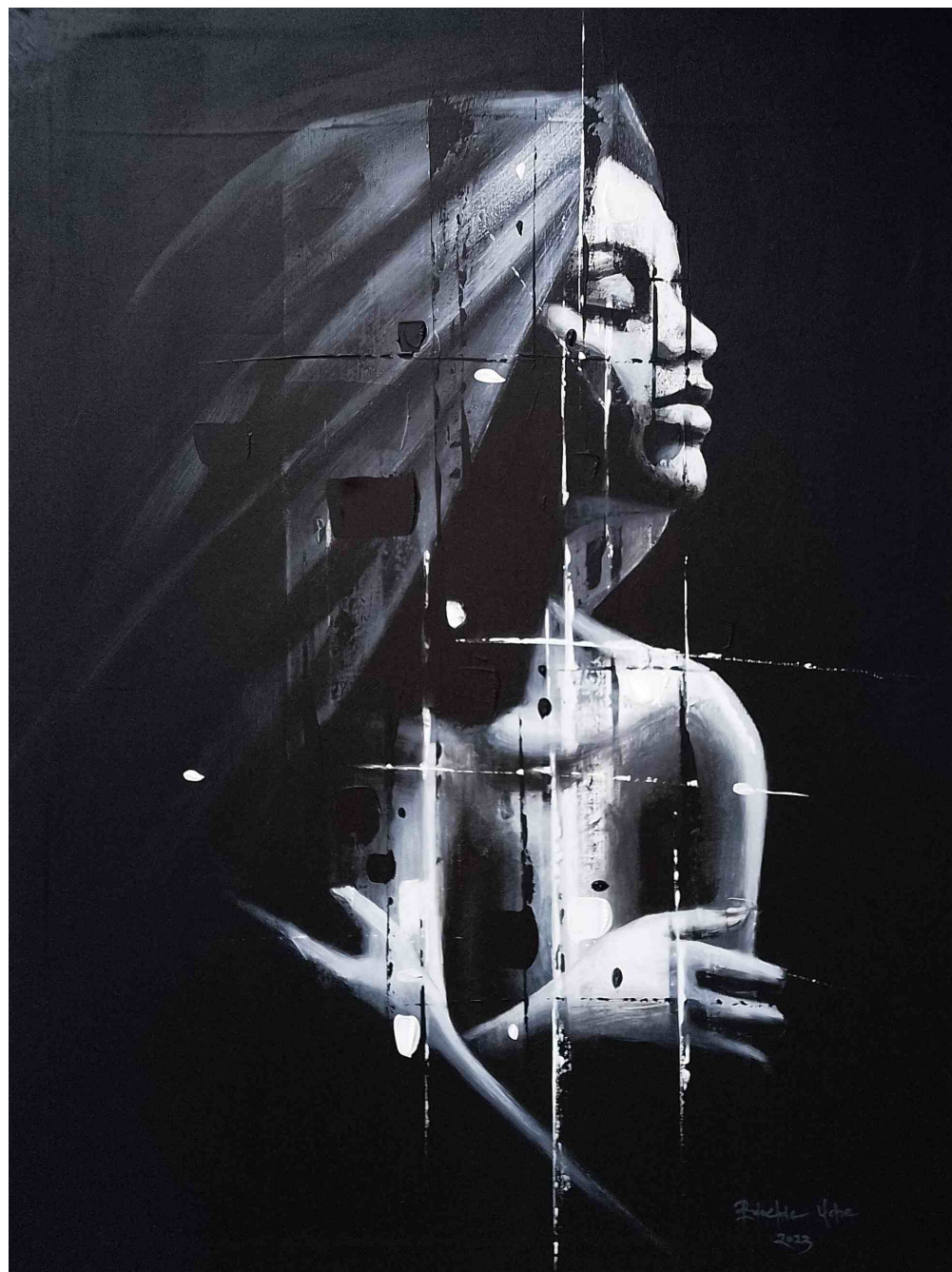
**Everything is Everything**  
2025, Acrylic on canvas, 102cm x 77cm



**Being Human: Heat**  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 153cm x 112cm



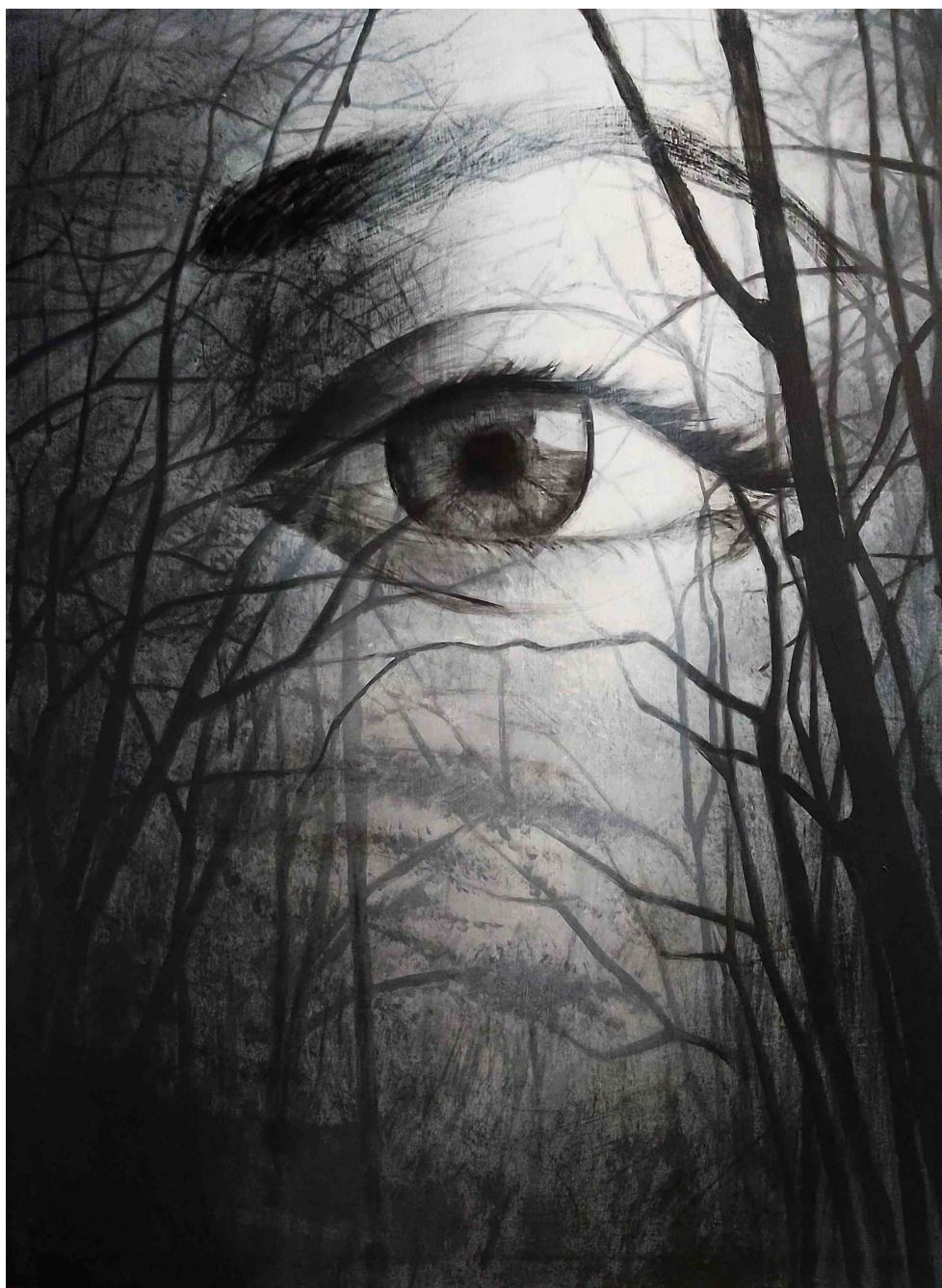
**Adaora in Wonderland**  
2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 71cm x 71cm



**Growing Pains II**  
2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 102cm x 77cm



**Hard to Kill 3 Watchers of the Herd**  
2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 71cm x 71cm



**The Waking Dream**  
2025, Acrylic on Canvas, 102cm x 77cm



**Violence and Light**  
2024, Acrylic on Canvas, 102cm x 77cm

PERSONAL DATA

Name: Uche Edochie  
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EDUCATION

University Degree: 1997 - University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, B.A. (Painting Major)

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- Creative Director/CEO, The Edge Studio ltd (1999 till date): My job here entails the creation of art works for exhibitions, theme selection and organization of art exhibitions, curating art works for exhibitions, periodic critical reviews of works produced in the studio for art events, publications and press conferences, creation/supervision of catalogue designs, posters, banners and invites for our studio art events and periodic hosting of art discourses.

ART

Group Exhibitions - select

- 2009 Working with the Masters, Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2004 Reflex, Sandton Convention and Exhibition Center, Sandton, South Africa.
- 2004 Rites Sacres, Rites Profanes, Kornhausforun, Bern, Switzerland.
- 2004 Rendez-vous de l'AFAA, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France.
- 2004 48 Hours With the Children of the Turtle, Espace Alberica, Paris, France.
- 2004 18 African Photographers, Contemporary cultural center, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2003 Rituals: Sacred or Secular, 5th Bamako Photography Biennale, Bamako, Mali.
- 2002 Jigida, The great Room, Grosvenor House, Park lane, London, Britain.
- 2000 Art In The Year 2000, Musee Paris, Paris, France.
- 2000 Take One Woman, Atrium Gallery, London, Britain.

National Exhibitions

Solo Exhibitions

- 2008 Blue Rider, Afa Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2005 Inertia versus Hysteria: An Artist's Resolve, Terra Kulture, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2005 Breathless, Cagna's Place, Ikoyi, Lagos
- 2002 Legends and Illusions, Mydrim Gallery, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1999 Soul Stirrings, Didi Museum, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1998 Prologue, Mbari Gallery, Mary land, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1998 My Evolution, American Guest Quarters, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

Joint Exhibitions:

- 2023 Artmosphere (with Gerlad Chukwuma), The Wheatbaker, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2018 Half Way through a Thousand Miles (with Tolu Alikì), Alpha One Tower, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2007 Intimate Spaces (with Rom Isichei , Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria).
- 2003 Mind Space (with Nkechi Nwosu -Igbo), Cagna's Place, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2000 Hybrid (With Nkechi Nwosu-Igbo), Galleria Romana, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

Group Exhibitions ( select):

- 2018 Born in Africa, Eko Atlantic City, Lagos
- 2009 Walking with the Masters, Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2005 The Rediscovery of Uli, Pendulum Gallery, Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2002 Art Expo 2002, TotalfinaElf Complex, Victoria Island, Lagos7, Nigeria.
- 2001 Art Expo 2001, Elf village, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
- 1998 Woman, Hour Glass Gallery, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1998 Degree Exhibition, Ana Gallery, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- 1997 The Pulse Of Reason, Faculty Of Arts, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- 1997 Promoters Of Nigeria Arts 2 (With Obiora Udechukwu, Blaise Gbaden, and Nkechi Nwosu-Igbo), Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1997 Drawings I, Ana Gallery, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka.
- 1996 The Nude Figure Never Sleeps, Russian Cultural Center, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1996 Dance Of The Lyrical Lines, National Museum, Enugu, Nigeria.
- 1995 Rivulets From Within, Institute Of African Studies Museum, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Works are in private and public collections in Africa, Asia, North America and Europe.

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1. IJEOMA OGUACHUBA, Personal explorations of Edochie, Thisday, October 20, 2002, p.17
2. MCPHILIPS NWACHUKWU, The artist and his multi- forms...a prologue, Sunday Vanguard, October , 2002, p.40.
3. OKECHUKWU UWAEZUOKE, A whiff of Legendary Delusions, The Comet, October 22, 2002, p.35
4. EDOZIE UDEZE, Uche Edochie, his legends and illusions, Sunday Times, October 27, 2002, p. 27.
5. OPEYEMI OSUNKIYESI, In the Land of Illusions, Edochie breaks new grounds, Daily times, Wednesday , October 30, 2002, .p.19.
6. ADEWAKUN AKINNOLA, The Magical World of Uche Edochie, Times Review, Daily Times on Saturday, October 5, 2002. Pp. 12-13
7. IJEOMA OGUACHUBA, In The Face of Installation Art, Thisday, January 28, 2001. p. 43
8. OKECHUKWU UWAZUOKE, Articulating the Precepts of a Hybrid, The Comet, Oct 31, 2000. P35
9. KATE AMAM, Galleria Romana Presents Hybrid Exhibition, Saturday Champion, Oct 21, 2000. P32
10. MAC NWACHUKWU, In Search of Canons: The Art of Uche Edochie ,Vanguard, Oct 19, 2000 p. 26
11. OZOLUA UHAKHEME, Searching for self in Hybrid, The Guardian, October 17, 2000 p. 65
12. KAZEEM ADELEKE, Hybrid of Future Artists, Thisday, vol. 6, No. 2006, October 2000 p.3113.
- MAURICE ARCHIBONG, On The Wings Of Fame, Thisday, October 25,1999 p.32.
14. JUSTUS NWAKANMA, Symphony of A Prologue, The Source, Lagos, December 6, 1998, p. 35

## APPRECIATION

This exhibition has been in the works for a few years. But everything happens in good time. I am grateful to God almighty who makes all things happen at the best possible time.

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I will like to thank my wife Nkechi and my children Enya and Kanye for their unwavering support. My daughter Zara is no longer with us but I thank her for the eighteen wonderful years she had with us. Zara this show is for you. We hope and pray you have found peace in the afterlife.

My parents and siblings have been incredibly supportive and I am grateful to all of them starting with my dad and best friend, Mr Pete Edochie, my mum Mrs Josephine Edochie, my siblings Leo, Eva, Toby, Gene and Yul and my extended family Chynwe and Okey Nnam, Ngozi Okoronkwo and Toyin Edochie. Family is indeed everything.

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Uche Edochie  
ALL THE LEAVES ARE ON THE GROUND  
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