



OUR MANY
COLOURS

EMMANUEL OJEBOLA
OLUWAFERANMI OKEOWO
TOJU CLARKE
PAUL OGUNLESI

OPENING: JUNE 19TH, 2-6PM

EXHIBITION REMAINS OPEN TILL JUNE 30TH, 2022, 10AM - 6PM

Art Pantheon Gallery, 12D Bosun Adekoya Street, Oniru, Lagos.

GALLERY STATEMENT

Art Pantheon Gallery hosts the salon Our Many Colours to help create imaginatively rewarding and contemplative spaces that enjoin us to consider what we mean to each other as people. According to the African American poet Lucille Clifton: We are each other's harvest:/ we are each other's business:/ we are each other's magnitude and bond.

The salon Our Many Colours features four artists: Oluwaferanmi Okeowo, Emanuel Ojebola, Paul Ogunlesi, and Toju Clarke. The show invites audiences to pay closer attention to the spaces, recognition, and powers we afford each other as human beings. The exhibiting artists, in works focused on the human figure, contribute fresh perspectives to themes of struggle, self-expression, shared humanity, individual reclamation, and human fortitude. The show opening on June 19 offers us a wonderful opportunity to gain renewed perspectives on what it means to make space for each other as people, especially now.

Executed mostly in brilliant colours, the works are a welcome counterpoint to the somberness and uncertainty of the times. In early 2020, a pandemic swept across the globe from which nations have yet to completely recover. Later in the year, there were the #EndSARS protests which decried police brutality and inhumane governance in Nigeria. Besides these, there've been varying degrees of disruptions across the country and the world. At no other time has our need to stand for each other been greater. Our Many Colours draws its inspiration from this awareness.

Emmanuel Ojebola

Emmanuel Ojebola was born and raised in Eruwa, Oyo State, where he also schooled. He has said that he paints to feel alive. Raised by a single mum, his art speaks to his struggles growing up. Much of the work he makes is influenced by that background. He draws inspiration from portrait artists working in the classical mode like Cesar Santos and Eddie Filer.

In a painting like *Self-Reflection* (2022), there is an admirable facility displayed. A woman with red hair holds against the side of her face a mirror in which she is reflected. Her eyes are closed in tranquility and bliss. We see her in person and we see her in reflection. It is this emphasis that is particularly striking, as if tranquility is a note to be struck twice.



SELF REFLECTION I

Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 36 x 36in. (91.5 x 91.5cm)



BOI LONDON
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 36 x 36in. (91.5 x 91.5cm)



SELF REFLECTION II
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 36 x 36in. (91.5 x 91.5cm)



BELOVED
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 27 x 28 cm (68.5 x 71.5 in.)



CONFIDENCE
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 36 x 36in. (91.5 x 91.5cm)



PORTRAIT OF WILLIAMS
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 24 x 24in. (61 x 61cm)



PORTRAIT OF SAMSON
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 24 x 24in. (61 x 61cm)

Oluwaferanmi Okeowo

Oluwaferanmi Okeowo was born and raised in Badagry, Lagos, Nigeria, and he studied at the Yabatech College of Technology, Lagos. His work tries to approach trauma with the sensitivity of a patient observer. His paintings of human forms are deeply expressive, with dominant brushstrokes reminiscent of Van Gogh.

Family and individuals are strong motivations behind his work. He said of his paintings, "I want my works to illuminate the different roles parents play. I also want to show what people have to deal with, from depression to trauma and mental health, all of which is my way of examining the more subtle aspects of humanity."

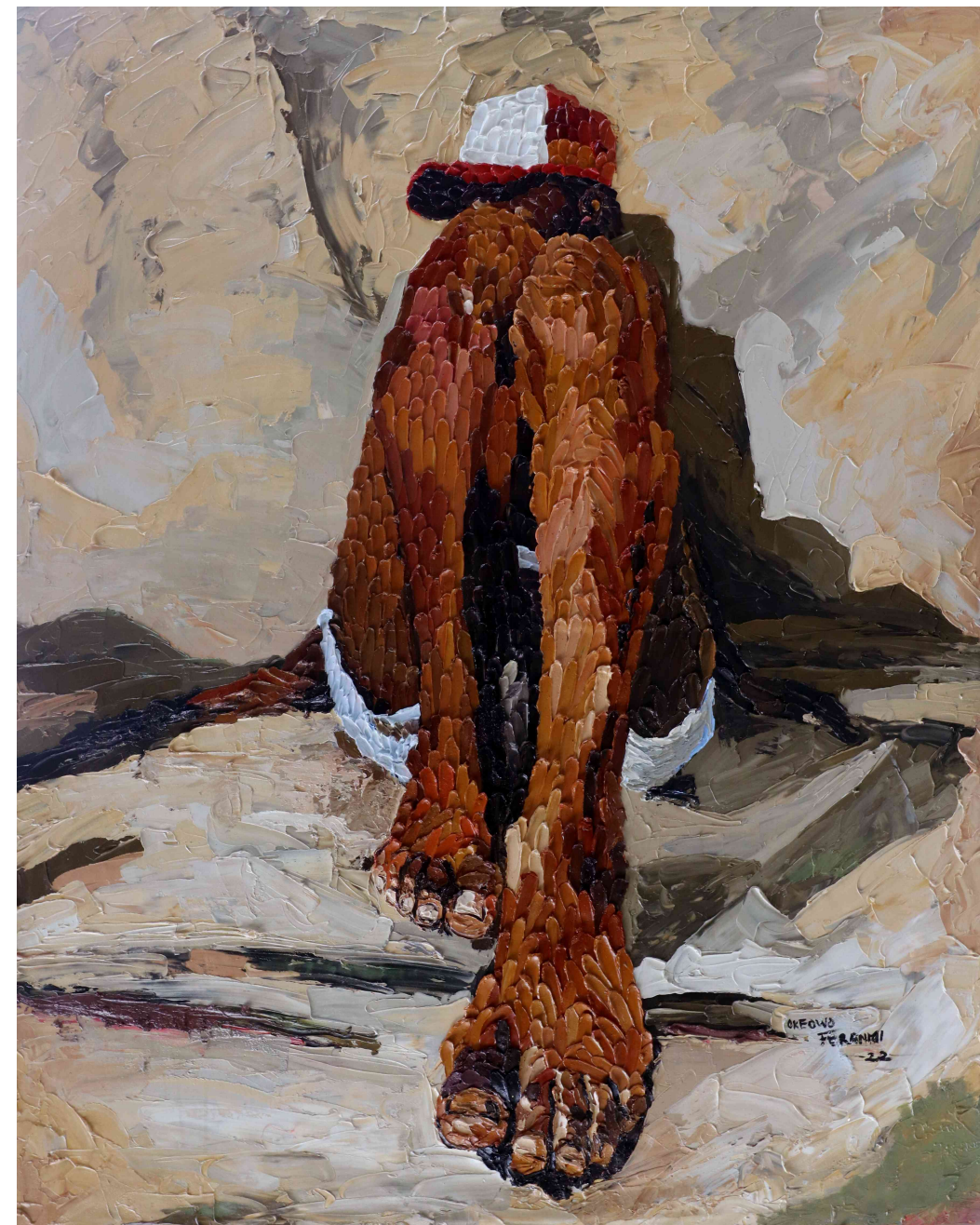


SOLITUDE

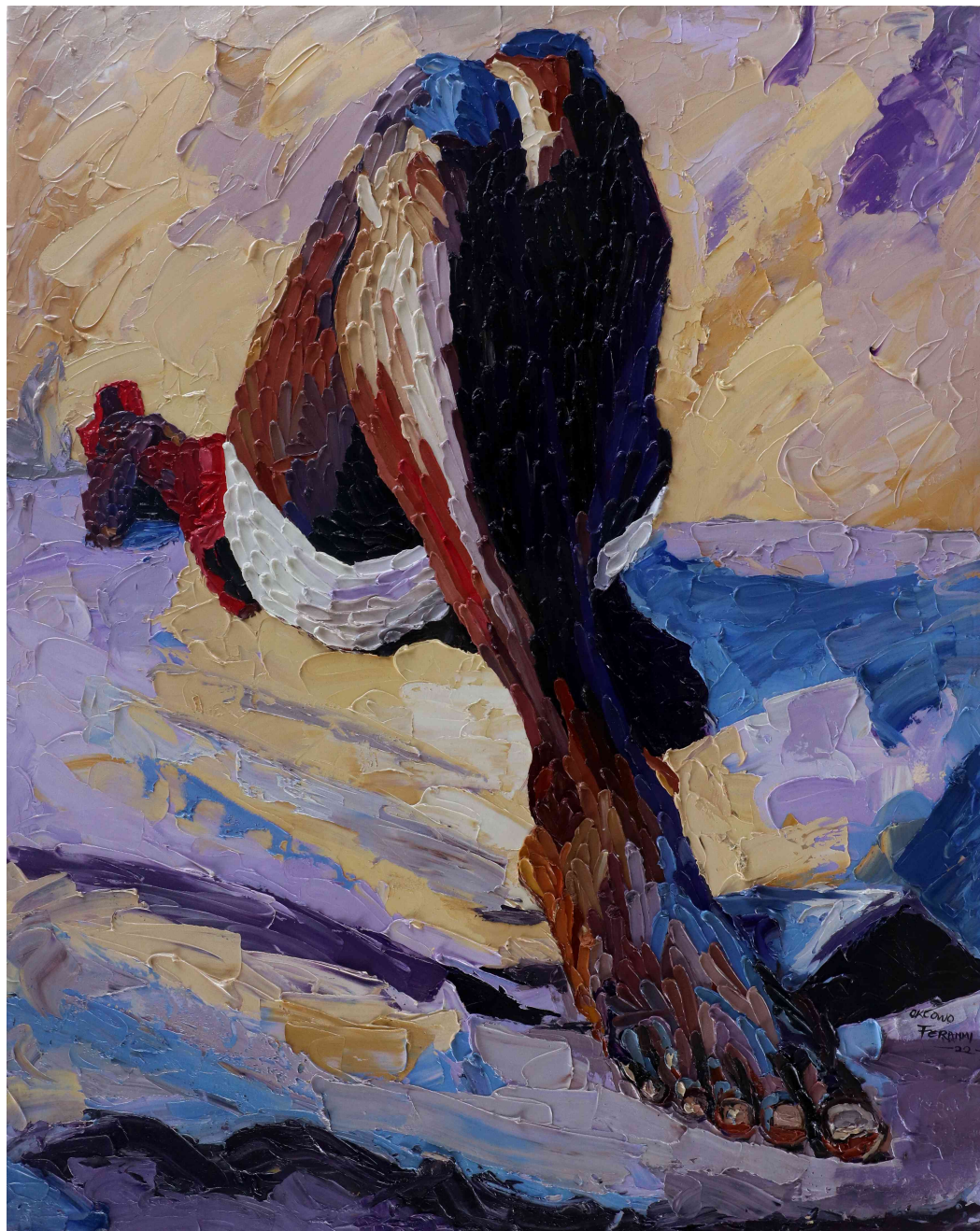
Oil on canvas, 2022, 60 x 48in. (152.3 x 122cm)



HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Oil on canvas, 2022, 60 x 48in. (152.3 x 122cm)



A PINCH OF SALT
Oil on canvas, 2022, 60 x 48in. (152.3 x 122cm)



SOMETIMES EVERYTIME
Oil on canvas, 2022, 60 x 48in. (152.3 x 122cm)



I AM FINE
Oil on canvas, 2022, 60 x 48in. (152.3 x 122cm)

Toju Clarke

Toju Clarke is a visual artist living and working in Lagos. He studied graphic design at the Yaba College of Technology. He makes graphic art and sgraffito paintings, a technique of painting that involves scratching on canvas.

His works, often large paintings of human busts, examine moods and mental states. Their power lies in how they keep us ruminating on states of mind that we otherwise may not want to ponder on. Joy, anguish, masculinity, and intensity are deftly portrayed. The focus on the human face and bust in his paintings create a hallowed space for human presence and expression.



SOUL SATISFACTION

Scratching on linen, 2022, 60 x 47in. (5153 x 121cm)



ALL ROUND JOY
Scratching on linen, 2022, 55 x 47in. (140 x 121cm)



LOOK AT US BUT DON'T JUDGE
Scratching on linen, 2022, 60 x 47in. (5153 x 121cm)



CONFIDENCE
Scratching on linen, 2022, 55 x 47in. (140 x 121cm)



TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE
Scratching on linen, 2022, 48 x 60in. (122 x 153cm)

Paul Ogunlesi

Paul Ogunlesi was born in Lagos. He studied fine art at Yaba College of Technology and currently lives in Lagos.

Ogunlesi makes his artworks by blending acrylic, charcoal, and newspapers to make collages that provide a multiplicity of narratives. For the artist, the concept of shared identity is very important. He said, "I would like my work to show our common humanity, irrespective of place, situation, tribe or race."

A typical canvas by Ogunlesi shows feet and legs painted against colourful backgrounds. The feet and legs, and sometimes torsos, are also painted in vivid colours.

Strings and balloons also appear. Where these are absent, in their place are stalks and flowers, or eggs. It is the fragility of all of these things that holds the interest. Impermanence and fragility are our shared condition, but their very existence makes each moment we have all the more beautiful and precious.



LOVE AND THE GAME OF LIFE

Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 48 x 36in. (122 x 91.5cm)



GOOD LIFE IS HERE
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 59.5 x 48in. (151 x 122cm)



AT THE CENTRE STAGE
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 23 x 19in. (59 x 49cm)



HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS
Mixed Media On Canvas, 2022, 26 x 21in. (66 x 56cm)



HAPPINESS, LOVE & LIFE
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 59.5 x 48in. (151 x 122cm)



YOUR LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
Charcoal & acrylic on paper, 2022, 24.5 x 18in. (62 x 46cm)



GROWING WHERE EASR IS SITUATED
Charcoal & acrylic on paper, 2022, 24.5 x 18in. (62 x 46cm)



KEEP MOVING
Charcoal & acrylic on paper, 2022, 24.5 x 18in. (62 x 46cm)



UNTITLED
Charcoal & acrylic on paper, 2022, 24.5 x 18in. (62 x 46cm)