



# Badru Taofeek Abiodun

## Thorns and Crown

*A solo exhibition by Badru Taofeek,  
our 2022 Absa L'Atelier Ambassador.*

Your story matters





# Badru Taofeek Abiodun

## Exhibition Statement

Solo exhibition by Badru Taofeek, Absa L'Atelier 2022 Ambassador

Leadership is often adorned with prestige and reverence, yet beneath its splendour lies an unspoken narrative of burden, sacrifice and internal conflict. Thorns and Crown unravels this tension and explores the unseen weight of authority through a series of hand embroidery, textile installations and bronze works.

At the heart of this exhibition is the Yoruba beaded crown, a powerful emblem of leadership, cultural heritage and influence. While it radiates honour, its intricate beadwork also hints at the quiet struggles that accompany positions of power. Through meticulous craftsmanship and layered symbolism, Thorns and Crown invites viewers to reflect on the paradox of success, where admiration and responsibility are inseparably entwined.

The human figure, central to this body of work, is rendered with hand embroidery in skin-tone threads to emphasise the labour-intensive and deeply personal nature of identity and existence. Each stitch mirrors the complexities of leadership – painstakingly built, yet fragile under scrutiny. The figure's trousers, hand-printed with Adire Eleko patterns using acrylic paint, further ground the works in Yoruba artistic traditions. Adire Eleko, a textile known for its rich storytelling and historical significance, becomes a visual metaphor for resilience that reinforces the connection between past and present struggles of leadership.

By blending embroidery, textile manipulation and abstraction, Thorns and Crown challenges the audience to look beyond the visible symbols of power. It prompts a deeper contemplation of what it means to lead: to carry the crown, but also to bear its thorns.

# Artist Statement

## Badru Taofeek

Badru Taofeek is a Nigerian multimedia artist whose work includes hand-embroidered, textile installations, linear paintings and sculptures. He was born in Abeokuta, Ogun State, a city known for its rich artistic heritage. Badru started his journey in art at the Federal College of Education, Abeokuta, where he focused on sculpture and textiles. He later earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Fine and Applied Arts (Textile Design) from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, in Osun State, Nigeria.

Badru's art is deeply inspired by Yoruba culture, African myths, history, proverbs and folklore. He uses traditional Adire Eleko patterns and hand-woven fabrics, and combines them with powerful symbols to tell meaningful stories. His work reflects his deep respect for indigenous spirituality and his skill in blending tradition with modern ideas.

He has exhibited his art in Nigeria and internationally. Highlights include the Textile Biennale Image of Power at the Museum Rijswijk, Netherlands, where he won the Viewers' Choice Award in 2023 with a benefit of a fully sponsored solo exhibition titled We Are Gods at the museum in 2024. His exhibitions, such as the two-man show Me & Him in Lagos and his solo shows, showcase his ability to connect with audiences through rich, cultural storytelling.

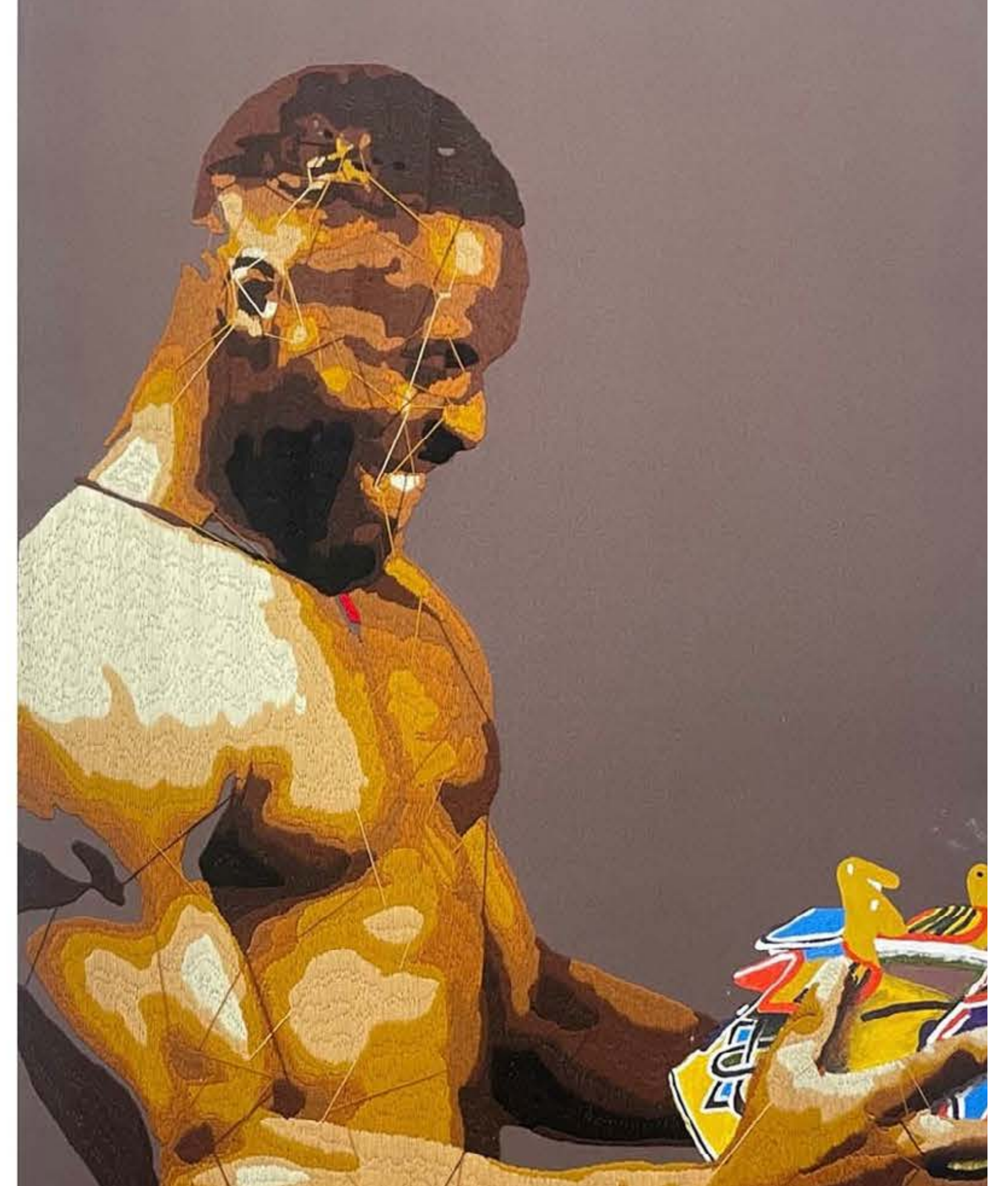
### **Badru has won many Awards for his works, including:**

- First Runner-up, Etisalat Photography Competition (2014)
- Winner, Food Meets Art by Minimie Noodles (2016)

- Dr Pius Okigbo Prize, Life in My City Art Festival (2017)
- Best Textile Artist, LIMCAF (2015, 2016 and 2018)
- Young Talent Award, Alliance Française Nigeria (2018)
- Co-winner, Professor El Anatsui sponsorship to the 13th Dak'Art Biennale, Senegal (2018)
- Absa L'Atelier Ambassador (2022)
- Second Runner-up, KPRIZE (2023)
- Viewer's Choice Award, 2023 Textile Biennale, Image of Power, Netherlands.

In his recent works, Badru explores installation art and encourages interaction between the audience and the art. Whether creating textiles inspired by the Yoruba culture or sculptures that celebrate hard work and resilience, Badru's art reflects his passion for preserving culture and inspiring people through creativity.





## On The Road To Damascus

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
72 x 152 cm each (triptych)  
2024-2025



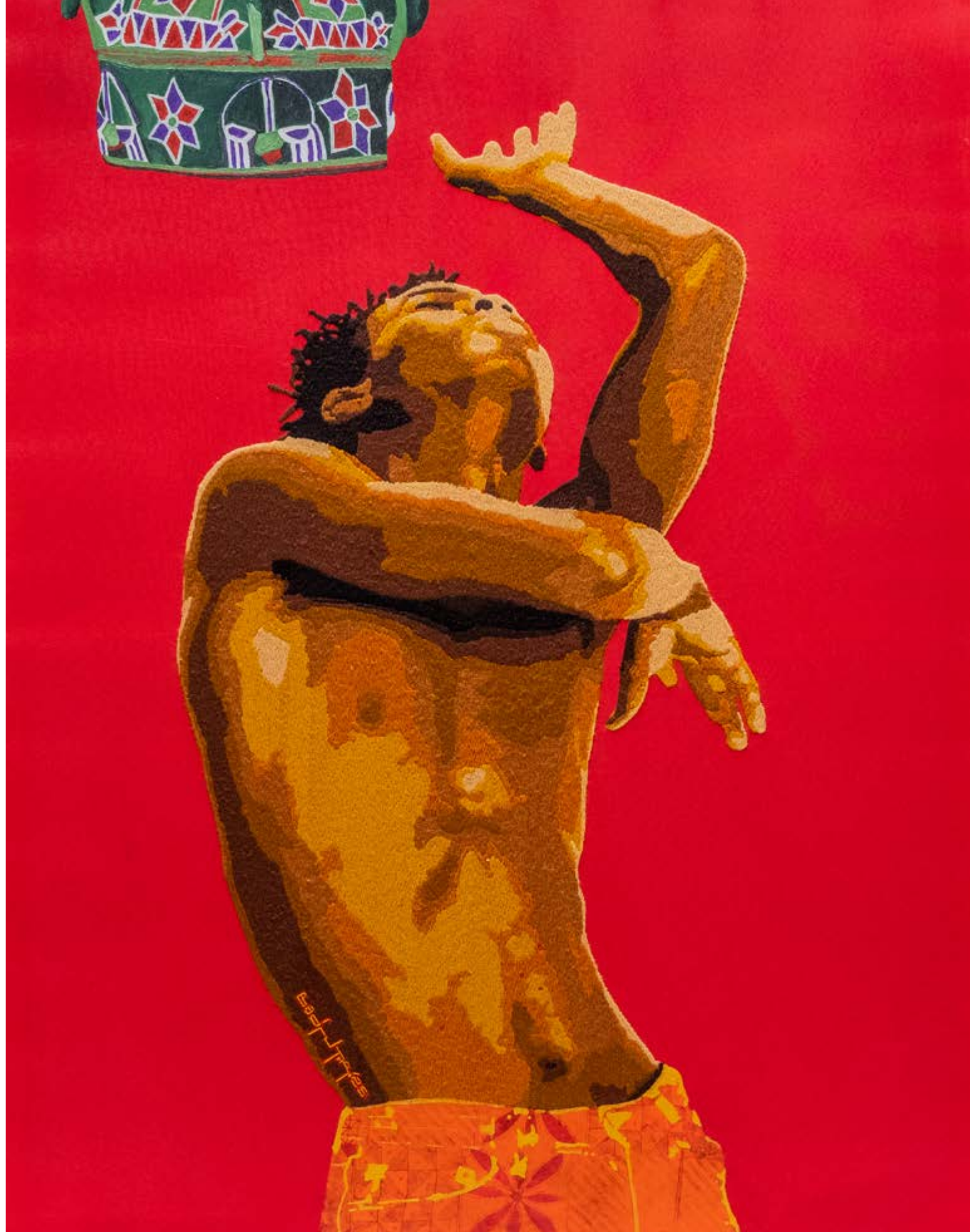
### Adégborò I (Series)

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
101 x 152 cm  
2025



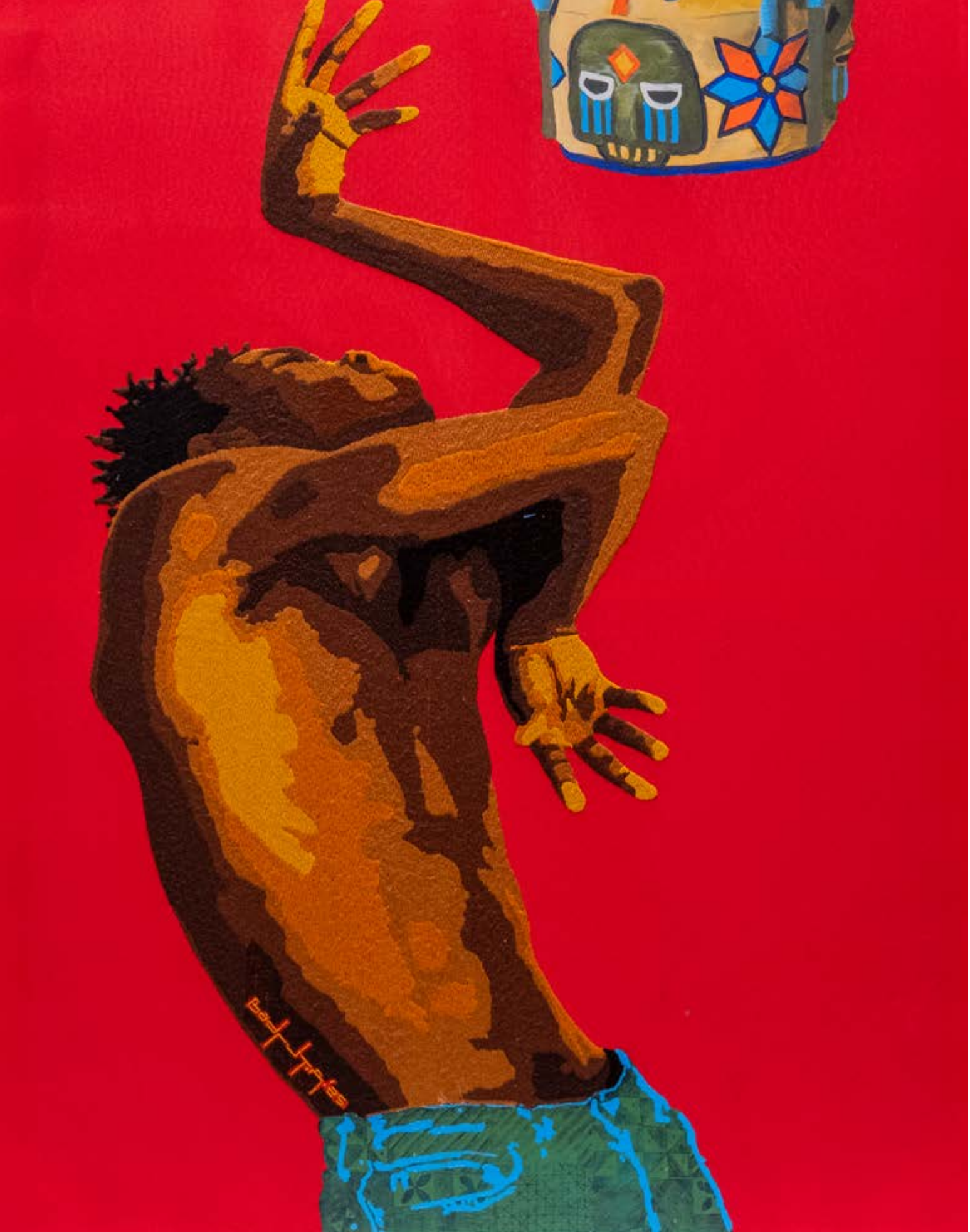
### Adégborò II (Series)

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
101 x 152 cm  
2025



**Heavy Is The Head I (Series)**

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
 91 x 121 cm  
 2025



**Heavy Is The Head II (Series)**

hread and Acrylic on Linen  
 91 x 121 cm  
 2025



**Tí Ajá Bá Lẹ̀ni Lẹ̀yìn..**

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
91 x 121 cm  
2025



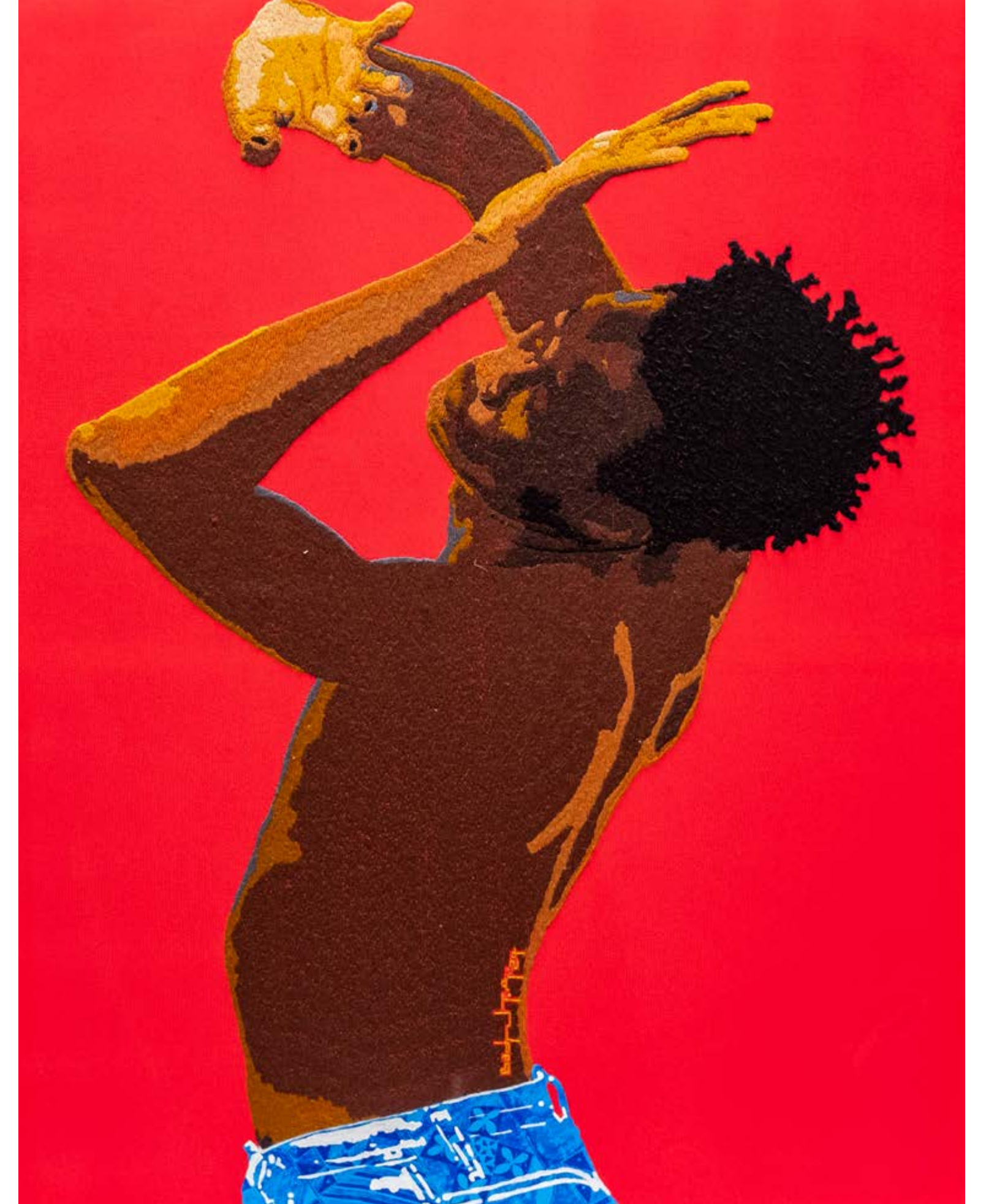
**Àtàrí Àjànàkú**

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
91 x 121 cm  
2025



### Weightless Yet Heavy I (Series)

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
91 x 121 cm  
2025



### Weightless Yet Heavy II (Series)

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
91 x 121 cm  
2025



**Weight Of My Thought**

Thread and Acrylic on Linen  
121 x 121 cm  
2025



**Alààrú Òyìngbò**

Bronze  
50 x 1 x 76 cm  
2025



**Ọba Mẹ́wa**

Bronze  
50 x 1 x 76 cm  
2025



**Ọmo Pandoro**

Bronze  
50 x 1 x 76 cm  
2025



**a.k.a Mr Ànjòfẹ́**

Mixed Media  
variable dimensions  
2025



**a.k.a Mr Ànjòfẹ́**

Mixed Media  
variable dimensions  
2025

# Prices

Artwork title	Medium	Dimensions	Year	Price
On The Road To Damascus	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	72 x 152 cm each (triptych)	2024-2025	\$3 300
Adégborò I (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	101 x 152 cm	2025	\$2 600
Adégborò II (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	101 x 152 cm	2025	\$2 600
Heavy Is The Head I (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 200
Heavy Is The Head II (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 200
Tí Ajá Bá Lẹ̀ni Lẹ̀yìn...	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 200
Àtàrí Àjànàkú	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 200
Weightless Yet Heavy I (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 250
Weightless Yet Heavy II (Series)	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	91 x 121 cm	2025	\$2 250
Weight Of My Thoughts	Thread and Acrylic on Linen	121 x 121 cm	2024	\$2 600
Alààrú Òyìngbò	Bronze	50 x 1 x 76 cm	2025	\$2 200
Ọba Mẹ́wa	Bronze	50 x 1 x 76 cm	2025	\$2 200
Ọmo Pandoro	Bronze	50 x 1 x 76 cm	2025	NFS
a.k.a Mr Àńjọfẹ́	Mixed Media	variable dimensions	2025	\$2 000

Those interested in acquiring an artwork to contact the artist directly

Email: badrutemitayo@gmail.com  
Mobile/ WhatsApp: +2348032148209

# CV of Badru Taofeek Abiodun

## Recognitions

- Second Runner-up, KPRIIZE (2023)
- Viewer’s Choice Award, 2023 Textile Biennale, Image of Power, Netherlands
- 2022 Absa L’Atelier Ambassador, Absa Group Limited, Johannesburg, Gauteng
- Dr Pius Okigbo Prize, Life in My City Art Festival, Enugu State (2017)
- Food Meets Art Prize, Minimie Noodles, Lagos State (2016)
- Best Textile Art, Life in My City Art Festival, Enugu State (2016)
- Category C Best Multimedia/Digital Art/Graphics/Textile Prize, Life in My City Art Festival, Enugu State (2015)
- First Runner-up, Etisalat Photography Competition, Lagos State (2014)
- First Prize, Tertiary Institution, Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library Foundation, National Art Competition, Abeokuta (2013)
- Second-best Student in Graphics, Fine Arts Department, Federal College of Education, Abeokuta (2006)

## Education

### Higher institutions

- Postgraduate (Textile Design), Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (2020)
- BSc (Textile Design), Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (2012)
- NCE (Fine Arts), Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Federal College of Education, Osiele, Abeokuta (2006)

### High school

- Rev Kuti Memorial Grammar School, Abeokuta

## Exhibitions

### Solo exhibitions

- Etalelogbon: Intersect and Exploration, Alliance Française de Lagos/Mike Adenuga Centre (2019)
- We Are Gods, The Museum Rijswijk, Netherlands (2024)
- Me & Him: A Duo Art Exhibition, Art Pantheon Gallery, Lagos (2022)

### Selected group exhibitions

- Woven Sensibilities, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa (2023)
- Textile Biennale, Image of Power, Museum Rijswijk, Netherlands (2023)
- Next of Kin, Thought Pyramid, Lagos (2019)
- Out Burst, Alliance Française, Ibadan (2018)
- Ibadan Art Fair, Leventis Building, Jericho, Ibadan (2018)
- Life in My City Art Festival, 12th edition (2018)
- Life in My City Art Festival, 11th edition (2017)
- Life in My City Art Festival, 10th edition (2016)

- Life in My City Art Festival, 9th edition (2015)
- Life in My City Art Festival, 8th edition (2012)
- Life in My City Art Festival, 7th edition (2013)
- Artistry, Fine Art Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (2011)

## Contact information

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## Hobbies

- Reading, movies and travelling



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