

A lush tropical forest scene with a river and a large tree trunk in the foreground. The river reflects the dense greenery of the forest. The text "THIS LAND" is overlaid in large, dark, 3D letters.

# THIS LAND

IS NOT FOR SALE





# ‘ ‘ THIS LAND ’ ’ IS NOT FOR SALE BY OLUWAFEMI OTOKI

Saturday, March 19th - Monday, March 28th 2022

Time : 09:00am - 05:00pm

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

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## FOREWORD

### THIS LAND IS NOT FOR SALE

Vamping through retrospection, particularly from 20th century art; through the concave of the rebellion of Babyzon artist, the impressionists movement, to the post-impressionists and even the Fauvists movements, art has never been more expressive based on manner of technical rendition.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned approaches and manner in artistic revolution, and from the manifestos of such movements, we can presume that the standard conforms with Plato's theory of Mimesis and fit into the representational category of art. Although not on the basis of the uselessness of art. Hence, besides Fauvism, these historical specimens ultimately promoted the capture of the texture and value of light as it affects time and space in picture and sculpture. These exquisite renditions were mostly in outdoor paintings of landscapes; having everything to do with the beauty and value of such lands in sight

Leveraging on this global traditional artistic principles, Oluwafemi Otoki, a Lagos based Artist born 1968; with a Higher National Diploma in Painting from the College of Technology, Yaba, has chosen not to dwindle his practice and career down the common lane of photocopying, typical of sample paintings by certain artists in Nigeria whose art, especially landscapes, could sarcastically be described as an extension of photographic renditions without brush strokes, or photocopying, in mockery of what could have been interpreted as human ingenious expression if ever approached from the vintage of originality; in the manner that amplify the uselessness of art as argued by Plato through his mimetic theory.

This technical resolution by the artist can be interpreted metaphorically in the expression, This Land is Not for Sale, a caveat emptor, intelligently structured as the title of a solo exhibition by SIGNATURE Art Gallery, to introduce the eccentricity in the artist's dialect in terms of composition, colour and texture in approach, his lavishly elaborate strokes and vibrant colours which tend to invoke in the art seers the living memory and impression of Monet's execution of the Lilly series for instance, while presenting the standard as an affirmation of peculiarity in approach and professional identity established by this artist.

Consequently, This Land is Not for Sale, though used as a metaphor in this exhibition, is a fundamental expression in Nigerian Pop culture that alert people to be mindful of fraudulent activities of impostors claiming to be investors, both in transactional and no transactional associations. This is always associated with the code, 419, commonly used by Nigerians as a metaphor to describe fraud and fraudulent associations.

The artist in his ingenuity of thoughts, therefore, has decided to play around this concept in order to capture the attention of his audience getting them to look past the mediocrity of substandard presentations of landscape paintings in ways that encourage Plato's mimetic theory which argues for the uselessness of art, and through this exhibition, hopes to establish a common hub of transaction between artists, art seers and collectors of outdoor paintings.

We therefore, welcome you to this hub.

Happy viewing!

Ike, Chiemezie Gerald  
Artist / Art Diplomat  
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Title: "Akoko Land"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W152.2Cm X H91.2Cm

Year: 2020  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "Akungba Remembered"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W244Cm X H150.5Cm  
Year: 2021  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki







Title: “Moment Of Glory At Epe Lagoon II”

Medium: Oil On Canvas

Size: W203Cm X H105.5Cm

Year: 2021

Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki





Title: "Divine Serenity"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W152.5Cm X H91.5Cm

Year: 2020  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "Morning Glow At Ikorodu Lagoon"

Medium: Oil On Canvas

Size: W243Cm X H151.5Cm

Year: 2021

Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki







Title: "Moment Of Glory At Epe Lagoon I"

Medium: Oil On Canvas

Size: W151Cm X H201.5Cm

Year: 2021

Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "Point Of No Return" (Badagry)  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W136Cm X H105.5Cm  
Year: 2019  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "Refulgent Glow"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W106Cm X H106Cm  
Year: 2020  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki





Title: "Epe Water-Side"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W152.3Cm X H90.4Cm

Year: 2021  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "In The Heart Of Akoko"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W243Cm X H151Cm  
Year: 2021  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki







Title: "Serenity II"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W152Cm X H90.5Cm

Year: 2021  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "The Lagoon At Epe"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W243Cm X H152Cm  
Year: 2021  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki







Title: "The Pond At Orin Ekiti"

Medium: Oil On Canvas

Size: W201.5Cm X H105.5Cm

Year: 2020

Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki



Title: "Passing Through Akungba"  
Medium: Oil On Canvas  
Size: W222Cm X H132Cm  
Year: 2022  
Artist: Oluwafemi Otoki





## ARTIST STATEMENT

My art is my voice. I have but one desire as a painter, that is to document as many as possible scenery of the natural world around me for posterity. Nature speaks to me and I believe there is a lot to explore, discover and learn from it. I do this in my own way, working hard to create paintings that speak to me and others about the beauty that exists in and around us. My inspiration comes from God. I see myself blessed as a co - creator with the Al-mighty God the creator of the Heavens and Earth.

## OLUWAFEMI OTOKI

Oluwafemi Otoki is an indigene of Ekiti State was born in Lagos on 20th April, 1968.

He attended the famous Igbobi College, Yaba, Lagos for his secondary school education and then proceeded to the renowned Yaba College of Technology where he obtained the Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and Higher National Diploma (HND)Painting in 1987 and 1992 respectively.

He started his career by painting figurative works but was soon drawn to landscape paintings as he became more appreciative of his environment and its beautiful colours. Nature changed him,energised him and inspired him to document all he had observed on canvas. He initially Focused on painting miniature landscape works and the gradually developed his technique to create larger works

To aid his need to express his observations on Larger canvasses, he travelled more extensively to rural communities in Nigeria - studying, sketching and Painting landscapes. he paints vivid and expansive depictions of natural scenery found in the South-west state of Nigeria -Particularly Ekiti and Ondo.

His Paintings give the viewer the impression one is looking out of the window to observe the natural landscape. He has executed several commissioned works including a mural for Deola Sagoe’s Fashion House in Victoria Island, Lagos(2007). He has participated in several exhibitions such as “CHOGM” exhibition in Abuja to commemorate the Commonwealth Heads of State meeting (2003), “”Dance of the Mask” in the United Kingdom (2004), “Affinity” INDEX’s third annual exhibition at Terra Kulture Art Centre, Lagos (2005).

In 2010, he painted portraits of the Military Administrator of Adamawa state, Air Vice Marshall Gregory Agboneni, the secretary general of the NYSC (National Youth Services Corps) and he also executed a commissioned work for the NYSC secretariat in Yola. he was presented with the Adamawa State Government award for exemplary services by the Government and people of Adamawa State,Northern Nigeria in 1994. In 2003, he recieved a certificate of achievement from the Ohio State University for completion of the International Art and Culture Summer Workshop.

He belongs to several proffessional bodies such as Society of Nigeria Artist and The Creative Chambers.

Oluwafemi believes there is a lot to explore. discover and learn from nature. His greatest aspiration is to be one of the foremost landscape painters in the world and project a positive image of the African artist globally.

## EXHIBITIONS

Flower Blossom Exhibition (1992). Happenings of Our Time at Russian Cultural Centre Lagos (1992). Family Ties at National Museum Lagos (1996). Trade Wind of Our Time Leventis Foundation (1998). Millstones at National Theatre Lagos (2002). Strokes of Peace, Life Strokes Art Gallery Ikoyi Lagos (2003). Some Names at Nimbus Art Centre, sponsored by British Council Nigeria (2004). Beyond Forms 2nd Index Exhibition held at Pendulum Art Gallery Lekki Lagos (2004). Landscape and Beyond held at Mydrim Gallery Lagos (2021). Participated in many Sogal Art Auction till date.





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