

GHETTO IMPRESSIONS

BY YAKUBU KAREEM

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION



Signature Art Gallery
23rd September, 2023



PRESENTED

BY

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

GHETTO IMPRESSIONS

BY YAKUBU KAREEM

23rd September 2023

Signature Beyond Art Gallery
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MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

INTRODUCTION

Yakubu Kareem's artistic journey is an exploration of the profound intersection between simplicity and greatness. His pursuit of these twin ideals has not only shaped his creative path but has also led him to adopt a distinctive approach that captivates the essence of urban life.

'Ghetto Impressions' is a testament to Kareem's unwavering commitment to this unique artistic pursuit. Through his lens, we are offered a glimpse into the captivating world of marginalized neighborhoods, where the relentless struggle for survival converges with the beauty of simplicity and resilience. Kareem's work embodies the belief that art has the power to transcend the ordinary, to reveal the extraordinary within the mundane.

As we embark on this visual journey through 'Ghetto Impressions,' we are invited to witness the interplay of survival, identity, and the unwavering human spirit. It is a collection that challenges preconceived notions, evokes profound emotions, and ignites a sense of wonder at the transformative potential of art. Kareem's unique approach beckons us to appreciate the raw beauty and authenticity of the urban landscapes he portrays, reminding us that greatness often resides in the simplest of moments.

So, join us as we delve into the world of 'Ghetto Impressions' by Yakubu Kareem, where simplicity and greatness intertwine to create an artistic narrative that is both powerful and profoundly moving.

FOREWORD

Art has the remarkable ability to transcend boundaries, to evoke emotion, and to shed light on the hidden corners of our world. In 'Ghetto Impressions,' Yakubu Kareem invites us to embark on a visual journey that does just that – it transcends the ordinary, stirs our hearts, and illuminates the often overlooked facets of urban life.

Kareem's work is a testament to the power of art as a medium of reflection and revelation. Through his lens, we are offered an intimate glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of marginalized neighborhoods, where the pursuit of survival, the celebration of identity, and the indomitable human spirit are on full display.

This collection is a testament to Kareem's unwavering dedication to capturing the essence of simplicity and greatness within the complexity of urban existence. His lens, like a skilled storyteller's pen, weaves narratives of resilience, beauty, and authenticity into every frame. As we journey through 'Ghetto Impressions,' we are reminded that art has the power to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary and the mundane into the profound.

As you turn the pages of this collection, allow yourself to be transported into the world that Yakubu Kareem has so masterfully captured. Let the images speak to you, challenge you, and inspire you. 'Ghetto Impressions' is a visual testament to the beauty that exists in the everyday, and it is our privilege to share in this journey with the artist.

May this collection resonate with you, touch your soul, and encourage you to see the world through a different lens. Yakubu Kareem's 'Ghetto Impressions' is an invitation to experience the profound in the ordinary and to find greatness in simplicity. Enjoy the journey."

“ABSTRACT

My artistic creations serve as repositories for a diverse amalgamation of memories, experiences, and thoughts. It is the profound impact of interacting with the world, encompassing people, places, and things, and how they resonate with my innermost thoughts and emotions that has given birth to ‘GHETTO IMPRESSIONS.’

This body of work encapsulates the essence of my unique perspective, forged through the lens of my encounters with the world, offering a distinct artistic expression influenced by the interplay between external stimuli and my inner world.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been instrumental in bringing ‘Ghetto Impressions’ to fruition.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Rahman Akar, the Managing Director of Signature Art Gallery. His unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental in bringing ‘Ghetto Impressions’ to life. Mr. Akar’s guidance and belief in the project have been a driving force throughout the planning and implementation phases.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the entire management team at Signature Art Gallery for their invaluable support. Their dedication to this endeavor was evident at every step, and their enthusiasm played a pivotal role in the realization of this massive effort.

I am deeply thankful to all the team members involved in this project, whose hard work and commitment breathed life into ‘Ghetto Impressions.’ Your collective efforts have been instrumental in making this vision a reality.

To all those who have contributed their time, expertise, and unwavering belief in this artistic journey, thank you. Your support has been a source of inspiration, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to share ‘Ghetto Impressions’ with the world.

Yakubu Kareem

ARTIST STATEMENT

Ghetto Impressions: Reflections on Ghetto Life”

My artistic journey has led me to explore the gritty and resilient world of Ghetto life, particularly in the marginalized neighborhoods of Lagos. This exploration delves into the intricate interplay between survival, adaptation, and the physical environment that shapes these communities.

Through my work, I aim to capture the essence of these areas, portraying the stark contrast between the haphazardly constructed buildings, the maze-like alleyways, and the chaotic arrangement of electric poles that characterize these Ghetto spaces. I also seek to document the vibrant market scenes that pulse with life, depicting the resourcefulness and tenacity of the people who call these neighborhoods home.

At the heart of my artistic inquiry lies a profound examination of the relentless struggle for survival that perpetuates a sense of disarray in these “ghetto-like areas.” This continuous fight for existence has molded these communities into a state of perpetual ambiguity, where a delicate balance between aspirations of a more westernized life and the embrace of their cultural identity teeter on the edge of reality.

In my artistic expressions, I hope to shed light on the enduring spirit of these Ghetto spaces, while also inviting viewers to ponder the universal themes of resilience, identity, and the indomitable human will to thrive against all odds.

“Exploring the Human Form: A Personal Artistic Journey”

Since the beginning of my artistic journey, the primary focus of my work has consistently revolved around the depiction of figures. Subconsciously, I have found myself drawn to the portrayal of female figures, and this inclination has deepened over time. As I spend a significant portion of my life in the company of women, I am naturally inclined to admire and closely study the intricacies of their bodies – their diverse shapes, forms, and complexions.

The human body, in all its diversity, remains a perpetual enigma that continually fascinates me. With each individual I encounter, I am presented with a fresh canvas of inspiration, a world of new ideas, and an infinite realm of artistic possibilities. This ongoing exploration of the human form not only enriches my artistic practice but also serves as a constant reminder of the endless beauty and diversity that exists within each person, waiting to be immortalized through art.

YAKUBU KAREEM'S PROFILE

Yakubu Kareem, born in 1996, is a Nigerian artist originally from Edo State but raised in Lagos, Nigeria. He received his primary and secondary education in Lagos, which provided the foundation for his artistic journey. Yakubu later pursued his National Diploma in General Arts at Auchi Polytechnic, located in Edo State.

Yakubu Kareem's artistic creations are characterized by a unique utilization of materialism, approached in an expressive manner that results in the formation of abstract works of art. Throughout his relatively brief yet dynamic career, he has cultivated a spontaneous and eclectic approach to each artistic endeavor, imbuing each of his creations with a distinct and individualistic character.

Presently, Yakubu Kareem continues to practice and contribute to the world of art from his base in Lagos, Nigeria, where he draws inspiration from the vibrant surroundings and diverse culture of this dynamic city.

TABLE OF CONTENT

G H E T T O I M P R E S S I O N S I - X

VIEW EXHIBITIONS



Title: Ghetto Phase I

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Spray Paint, Charcoal, Pastel, Acrylic, Poster Paint, Gloss Paint, Papers, and Fabric.

Size: Width 182 x Height 122 centimeters

Year: 2021



Title: Ghetto Phase II
Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Papers, Acrylic, Gloss Paint, Pastel, Fabrics
Size: Width 227 cm x Height 187 cm
Year: 2021

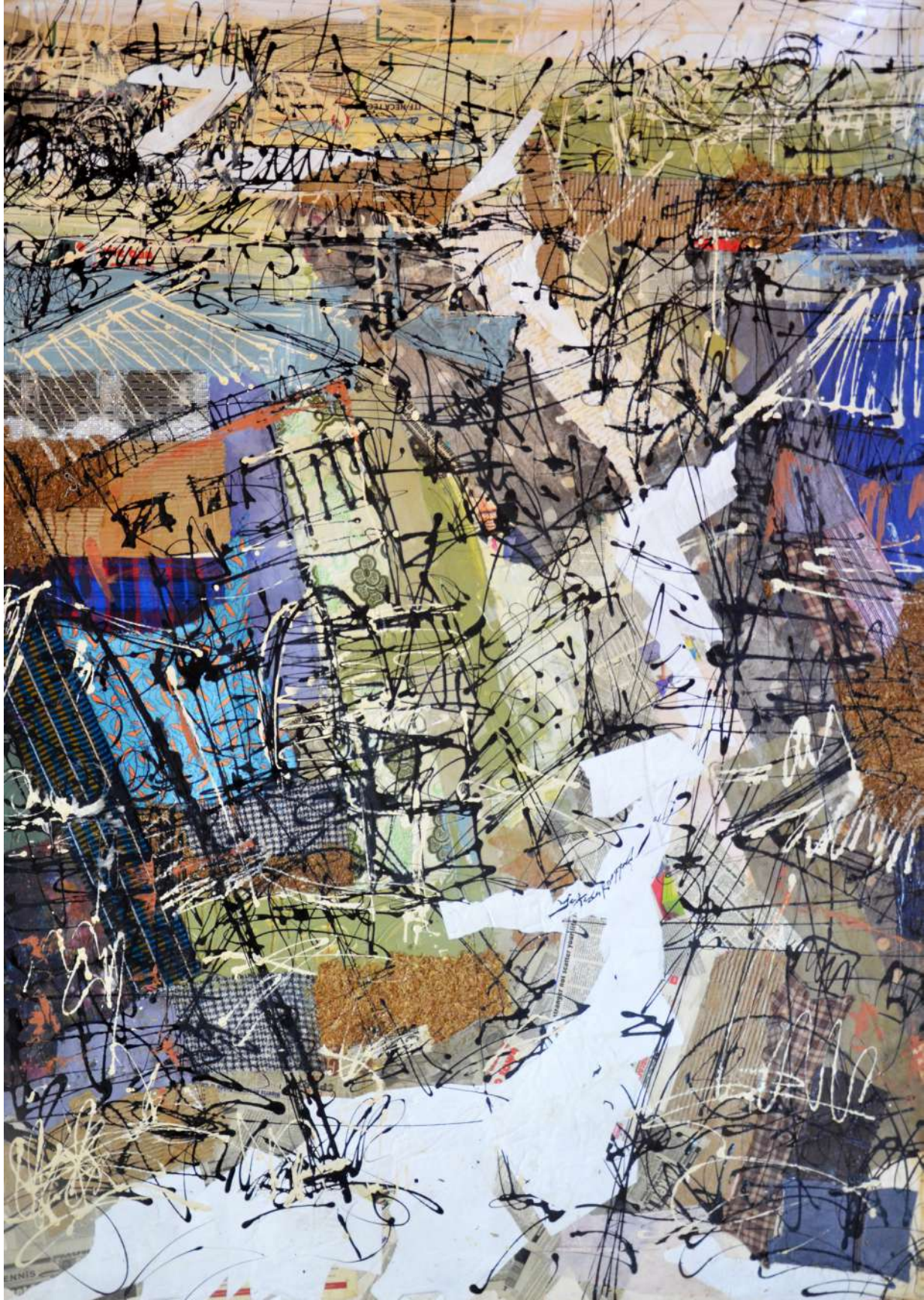


Title: Ghetto Corner I

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Fabrics, Gloss Paint, Acrylic, Marker, Charcoal, Papers

Size: Width 187 cm x Height 287 cm

Year: 2022



Title: Ghetto Corner II
Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Fabrics, Acrylic, Papers, Charcoal, Gloss Paint
Size: Width 153 cm x Height 211 cm
Year: 2021



Title: Ghetto Figure I

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Nylons, Charcoal, Satin Paint, Fabric, Pastel, Marker, Acrylic

Size: Width 122 cm x Height 182 cm

Year: 2022

Ghetto Impressions V



Title: Ghetto Figures II
medium: Satin Paint, Fabrics, Papers, Acrylic (Mixed Media On Canvas)
Size: Width 138 X Height 129cm
Year: 2021



Title: Grace with Finesse 1

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Papers, Acrylic, Fabrics, Charcoal, Gloss Paint, Markers

Size: Width 183 cm x Height 227 cm

Year: 2022



Title: Grace with Finesse 2

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Charcoal, Nylons, Gloss Paint

Size: Width 225 cm x Height 185 cm

Year: 2022



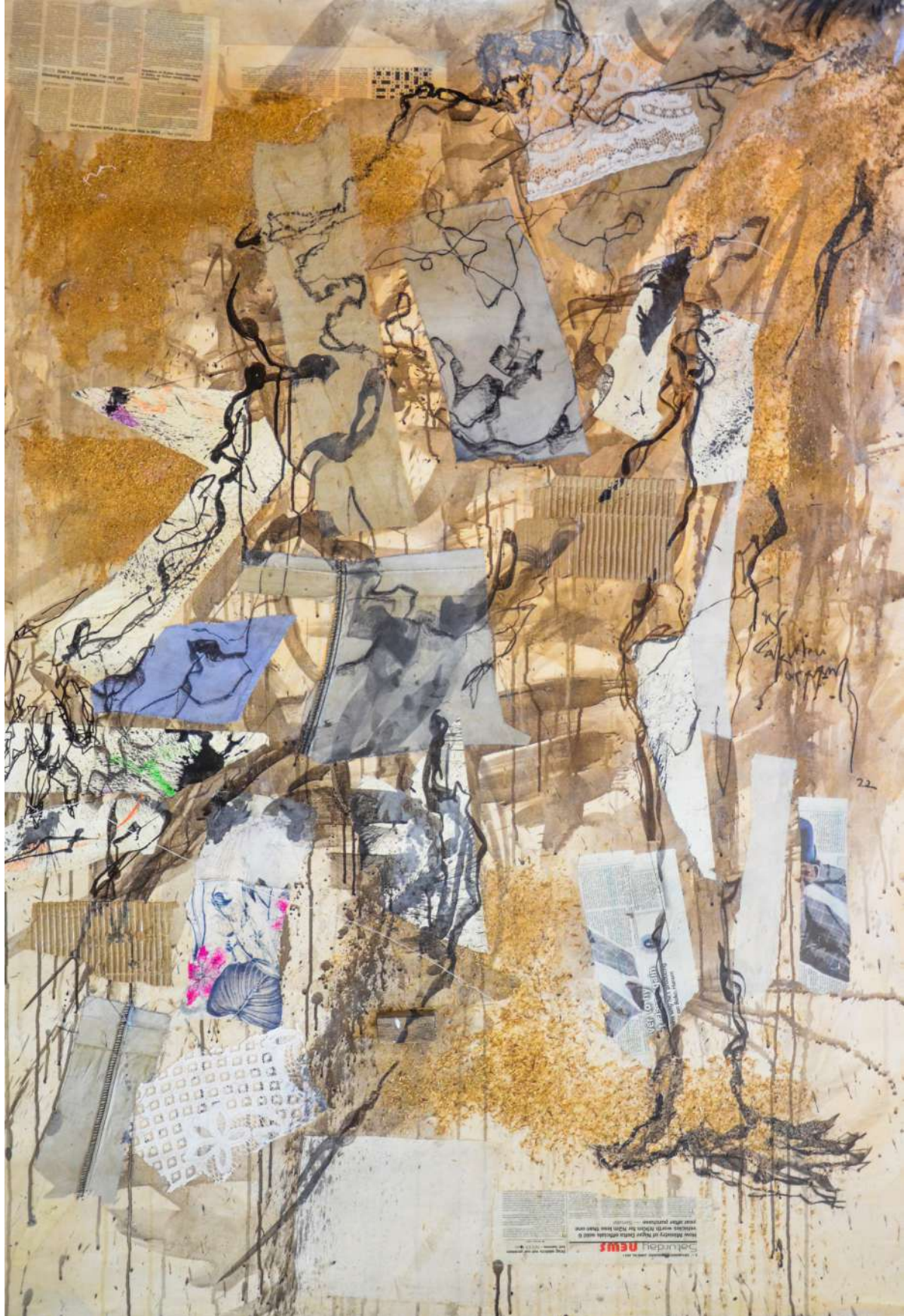
Title: Poised I

Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Acrylic, Papers, Fabric, Sawdust, Nylon, Net, Charcoal, Marker

Size: Width 122 cm x Height 182 cm

Year: 2022

Ghetto Impressions IX



Title: Poised II
Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas - Fabrics, Marker, Charcoal, Papers, Sawdust, Acrylic
Size: Width 122 cm x Height 182 cm
Year: 2022



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