



# Forms of Re.Placement



Forme  
Femine



# Forms of Re.Placement

Paul Ayihawu

Eyitayo Alagbe

Omoyeni Arogunmati

06 JUL - 16 AUG, 2023

# Exhibition Statement

Forme Femine is pleased to present 'Forms of Re.Placement', an exhibition featuring paintings and mixed media works by three Nigerian artists: Eytayo Alagbe, Omoyeni Arogunmati, and Paul Ayihawu.

In their unique perspectives and techniques, the artists sojourn into the depths of self, identity, spirituality and societal constructs; paving the way for a renewed understanding of one's essence. As they reevaluate their place in the world, these artists dissect concepts of placement and replacement within contemporary and historical contexts, employing artistic expression as a foundation to recreate, redefine, and reclaim narratives.

Eytayo Alagbe's artistic journey is inspired by his immediate environment and the experiences of those around him.

Through his portraiture, Alagbe captures the complexities of African life, exploring themes of resilience, struggle, and the triumph of the human spirit. His colour application and expressive brushwork adds a touch of vibrancy to his subjects, while the underlying narratives convey the not-so-palatable realities that shape their lives.

Omoyeni Arogunmati's style, influenced by impressionism and abstraction, creates a unique visual language that serves as a vehicle for communication and reflection. Arogunmati's works further explore themes of domestic violence against women and the need for self reevaluation. She aims to shed light on these pressing issues, raising awareness and inspiring conversations that drive positive change.

# Exhibition Statement

Paul Ayihawu's artistic evolution is an ongoing journey of exploration. Drawing inspiration from African figurative art and the black art movement, Ayihawu seeks to emancipate African identities from the shackles of colonialism; he envisions an Africa untouched by the effects of colonization, presenting a more genuine representation of African individuals. Ayihawu's use of diverse materials, such as fabric, tapestry, and traditional fibres, underscores the richness of African culture and its multifaceted nature.

The exhibition's title, illuminates the central theme that runs through the works of the three artists.

Functioning as a metaphorical exploration of reimagining and redefining one's sense of self, challenging conventional narratives, and providing alternate perspectives. It conveys the artists' shared mission to reposition African identities, histories, and dreams.

From the confluence of the artists' visions, some potential questions emerge; What happens when identities are reimagined and narratives are recontextualized? What does it mean to seek placement or re.placement within ourselves, our communities, and our collective history?

# Exhibit Statement

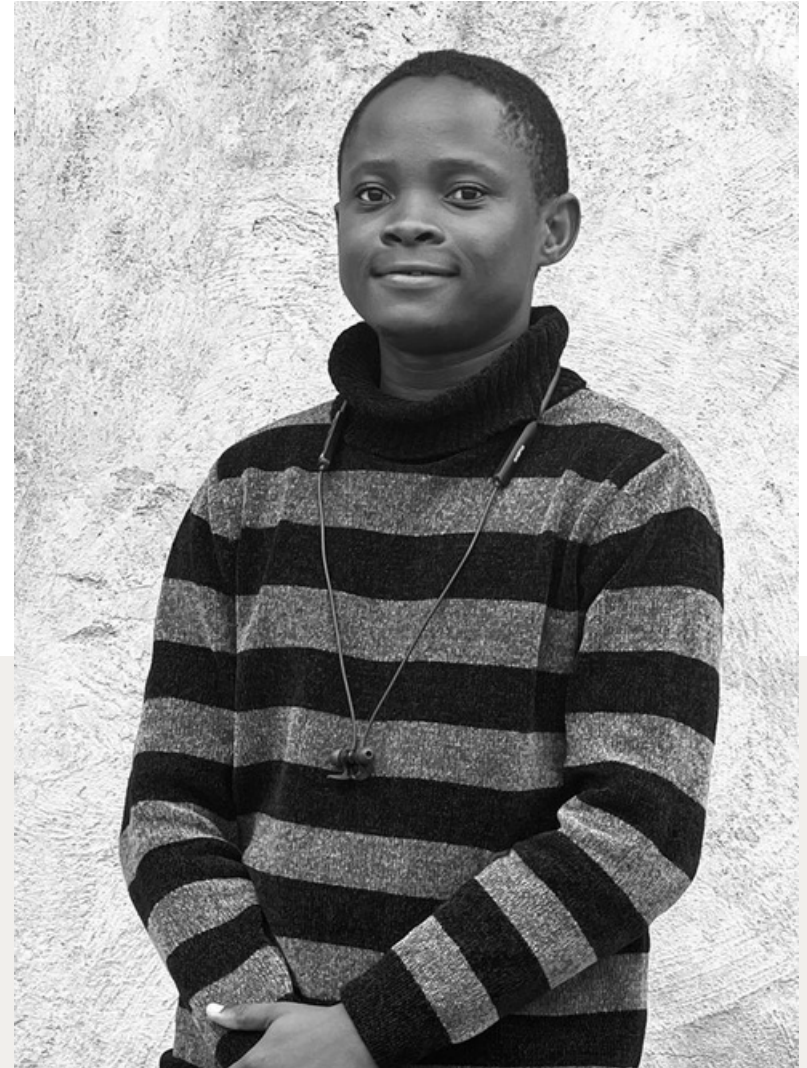
'Forms of Re.Placement' emerges as an ode to the shared histories and personal visions of the three artists: Eyitayo Alagbe, Omoyeni Arogunmati, and Paul Ayihawu; inviting us to navigate these multifaceted realms of identity, spirituality and history. To question, reinvent, and reconsider our place in the world while confronting the legacies that continue to shape our perceptions.



# Paul Ayiwahu

Paul Ayiwahu (b.1995, Lagos, Nigeria) is a contemporary African Artist whose work centres on Afrofuturism re-imagined. He holds a Higher National Diploma in Biochemistry from the University of Science and Technology, Lagos State, Nigeria, and is a self-taught artist.

In this body of work, Paul's choice of medium is charcoal and acrylic, which he masters in the carefully orchestrated compositions of ethereal worlds in Ankara. He expresses his view on art as a display of innermost feelings while experimenting with human forms, capturing the emotional state of my subject at a particular moment and by asking: 'How do we feel a sense of belonging in an environment that constantly tells us we are not enough?'



# Paul Ayihawu

While enjoying the simplicities of life, he finds meaning in mundane activities such as lying down in an imaginary, dreamy space made of clouds, as these bring to life nostalgic feelings and memories. These moments are like Komorebi, guiding him as he narrates the tale of Africa in a new light, illustrating his interest in social-cultural issues and the impact of colonialism on African cultures and values, which he expresses through a lens of Afro-futurism.

His use of African print patterns and the effervescent incorporation of colour detailed in his portraits of black people in hybrid Western and African raiment is visual poetry to the eye that gets entranced by the intricate execution of fabric patterns.



# Paul Ayiwahu

Paul Ayiwahu's work has been part and parcel of group exhibitions such as Arnheim Gallery, Arnheim Collection and Tribe of Africa Art Gallery. He has also been featured in virtual exhibitions such as Joburg Fringe, "Joburg Fringe 2020", MEADOWS/UNESCO, "Mask Art – Creativity Under Lockdown" and Wreading, "Art in Quarantine".

Paul Ayiwahu's work may be found in private collections in the USA, and Nigeria and has become a unique addition to the Sir David Adjaye Collection and The Africa First Collection in Israel.







## **Made in Heaven**

Charcoal and Acrylic on  
Canvas  
150 × 150 cm  
2023





**Still Standing**

Charcoal and Acrylic on  
Canvas

101.6 x 127cm

2023





# **The Multiverse of Kindness**

Charcoal and Acrylic on Canvas

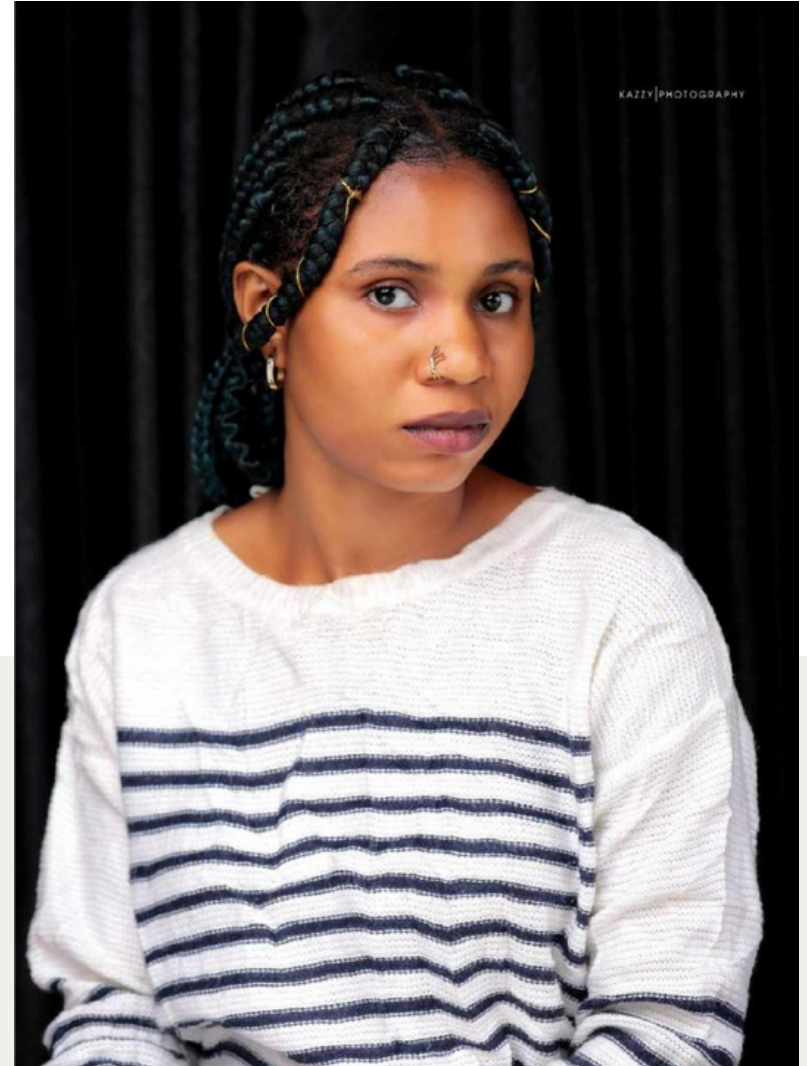
140 x 140 cm

2023

# Omoyeni Arogunmati

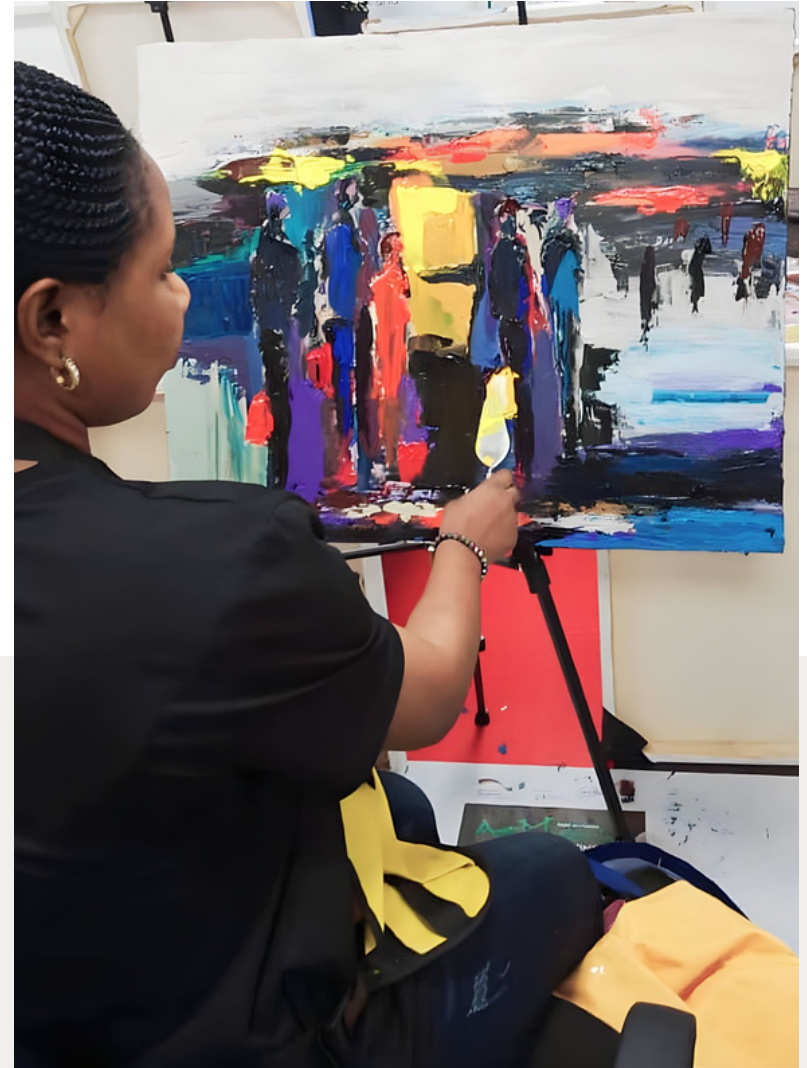
Omoyeni Arogunmati is an award-winning visual artist born in Nigeria, She is currently Blkarthouse Artist Advisory Board Member. Her love for art began at a young age, this encouraged her to study Fine Art at the Polytechnic Of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Omoyeni expresses human emotions through a series of identical portraits painted in an impressionist style with varying degrees of abstraction; captivating viewers with short & long brush strokes, textured layers, & a striking use of colour.



# Omoyeni Arogunmati

Represented in galleries worldwide, Omoyeni's artworks have found homes in private collections, including the Irish Embassy in Abuja 🇳🇮 & a commissioned piece for Betty Holbeton, Founder of Roboflow in Washington DC. 🇺🇸





## ***Her State of Mind***

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

55.9 x 45.7 inches

2023





## ***Awaiting***

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

55.9 x 45.7 cm

2023



## **Blue Mood**

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

55.9 x 45.7 cm

2023

# Eyitayo Alagbe

Eyitayo Alagbe is an indigene of Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria and had his childhood days in his native land, Now living and working in Ibadan Nigeria.

Inbuilt-talent, a lifelong practice, modern education and a one-year Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at Stevcent Art Gallery, Ogbomoso all combined to produce a refined Eyitayo Alagbe, who is a Fine and Applied Arts, Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) holder from the revered Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo, as a painting and graphics specialist in 2019.



# Eyitayo Alagbe

Eyitayo, who has been an artist since childhood, has now been practicing as a professional for a handful of years, and the multi-media painter is currently studying for a Degree in Fine and Applied Arts at the esteemed Adeyemi University of Education Ondo (Affiliated to OAU).



# ***Life Happens For Us***

Mixed Media on Canvas

91.4 x 91.4 cm

2023

# ***Sleeping Pill***

Mixed Media on Canvas

91.4 x 91.4 cm

2023



# CONTACT

E-mail	<a href="mailto:team@femineeart.com">team@femineeart.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.formefemine.com">www.formefemine.com</a>
Phone	+234-803-439-3688
Artsy	<a href="#"><u>View on Artsy</u></a>