



IN THE SPACES, WE EXIST

JANET ADEBAYO
TITIOLA FAGBEMI

JUN 15 - JUL 31 2024

Presented by Forme Feminine
in collaboration with AMG
Projects

www.formefemine.com

Exhibition Statement

"In the Spaces, We Exist" presents a dialogue between Janet Adebayo and Titilola Fagbemi, who explore the concept of carving out space for individual and collective existence through a series of new paintings. Both artists dissect the intricacies of communal relations and the empowered self against the backdrop of artistic experimentation—exploring concepts across physical, social, and narrative parameters as women navigating a complex world.

They invite viewers to question and reflect on the spaces they inhabit and the roles they assume within these environments. How do we navigate and negotiate the spaces we inhabit? What roles do autonomy and community play in shaping our existence?

Adebayo, through her humanoid figures, addresses the gender stereotypes and assumptions that pervade contemporary society. Her works allude to the reclamation of female autonomy and the deliberate rejection of societal expectations, expressed through acrylic and mixed media on canvas and traditional handcrafted scrolls. Driven by notions of agency and 'elegance unbound,' the artist transforms her living space into a symbol of elegance and empowerment. This transformation, depicted in her signature "mosaic skin" tones, extends beyond physical environments, symbolising psychological and emotional liberation—a space where women can embrace their full potential and agency. Her scrolls unfurl with scenes that celebrate achievements and a life curated for personal fulfilment.

Exhibition Statement

Adebayo's work raises critical questions on how a space can become an act of defiance against reductive labels. She constructs her pieces, incorporating self-made hand-carved wooden scrolls as vessels for her lived experiences and stories, potentially referencing ancient scrolls as repositories of knowledge and storytelling.

Fagbemi's series, inspired by her ongoing project "Lost in the Little Things," explores the multifaceted nature of communal life through the lens of a Lagos garden party, particularly inspired by memories from her childhood observations. Documenting events through portraiture and bas-relief paintings, Fagbemi focuses on the communal and social stratifications within seemingly mundane events.

She renders these expressions across three phases—"Ignite the Fire," "Keep the Fire Burning," and "Dim the Lights"—capturing the labour and camaraderie of the workers juxtaposed with the vibrancy of communal gatherings, its ephemeral nature, and the return to everyday life.

This act of illuminating the "little things"—the unseen effort poured into creating the atmosphere—mirrors Adebayo's focus on reclaiming narratives often silenced. In her series, Fagbemi incorporates landscapes, greenery, sunsets and skylines, reminiscent of the lush garden she cites from memory while experimenting with abstraction and space to centre her figures. These elements highlight the flow and progressive essence of the event, capturing its fluid ambiance and the blend of individual moments and collective experiences.

Exhibit Concept

Presenting these interconnected narratives, the exhibition seeks to encourage deeper contemplation on the spaces we inhabit and the societal frameworks that shape our existence.



JANET ADEBAYO

About the Artist

Janet Adenike Adebayo (b. 1997) is a self-taught Nigerian artist, born and based in Lagos. She identifies as a "confessional" artist, viewing her art as an extension of herself, an expression of intimate moments, and an openness to truths and feelings others may be hesitant to confront.

Adebayo began her journey as a painter in 2017, using acrylic and mixed media on canvas. She employs techniques such as her signature "mosaic skin" tones, fusing a collage of colors to create humanoid figures characterized by exaggerated features. Recently, she has also started expressing herself with acrylic on traditional scrolls.



About the Artist

Her work is deeply personal and cathartic, often drawing inspiration from her own experiences and observations. Recurring themes of self-discovery and consciousness are evident in her art, as she constantly probes the patterns that define her life.

She obtained her Higher National Diploma in Food Science and Technology from the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Nigeria, in 2018. Additionally, she received artistic training under the mentorship of Rahman Rasak at Double R Studio in 2017. Adebayo has participated in several exhibitions, including Transtemporal Travel by Nomadic Gallery (2023), Identity by 1952 Africa (2022), Spectrum by Dica Art Gallery (2022), and Contemplation by Yenwa Gallery (2022).





BTS of Elegance

Acrylic on Traditional Scroll

37x 44 inches

2024

\$1800



Rehearsing Elegance

Acrylic on Traditional Scroll

26 x 23 inches

2024

\$950



Depth of Elegance

Acrylic on Scroll

37 x 44 inches

2024

\$1800





What You Do To Me

Acrylic on Scroll

26 x 23 inches

2024

\$950



The Earlier, The Better

Acrylic on Scroll

26 x 23 inches

2024

\$950



Under the Same Sky

Acrylic and Mixed Media on

Scroll

37 x 44 inches

2024

\$1900

TITILOLA FAGBEMI

About the Artist

Titilola Fagbemi (b. 1999) is a Nigerian artist who presently works and lives in Lagos. Fagbemi uses portraiture to investigate various themes that cut across psychological, historical, and cultural contexts. Her earlier experimentations were with graphite on paper, but over the last 3 years, she has evolved into working with both digital and traditional media, primarily acrylic and oil on canvas.

Fagbemi weaves her paintings on the canvas of everyday human feelings and experiences. Her paintings represent an entry point into contemplative realms, where the similarities between her personal stories and that of the viewer become apparent; an invitation to feel the feelings and experiences portrayed by her strokes.



About the Artist

Fagbemi's intent is to reveal to the viewers their humanness and the complexities that arise from our interpersonal relationships and with the world.

She has participated in different workshops and exhibitions in Nigeria, including the 'ElectHer Obinrin' Exhibition 2021, the iDesign Art 2019 Exhibition, Rele Arts Foundation's Young Contemporaries Boot camp 2021, Angels and Muse's 'What about love' 2022 exhibition and Dica Art Spectrum 2022 exhibition. She also volunteers to teach art to young talents in her spare time, with an ongoing partnership with Roberts Charity Foundation. Fagbemi received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (first class honours) from the Covenant University (2018).





The Wake Up

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

24 x 36 inches

2024

\$1500



We Welcome You

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

24 x 36 inches

2024

\$1500



Composure

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

24 x 36 inches

2024

\$1500



The Beauty of Belonging

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

36 x 48 inches

2024

\$2500



Trade by Banter

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

24 x 36 inches

2024

\$1500



Try Me

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

26 x 36 inches

2024

\$1500



**Only Time
Will Tell**

Oil and Acrylic on
Canvas

36 x 36 inches

2024

\$1800



Hold Onto the Moment

Mixed Media on Canvas

8 x 12 inches

2024

6 in 1

\$150 (/1)

“Our stories come from our lives and from the playwright's pen, the mind of the actor, the roles we create, the artistry of life itself...”

— Maya Angelou





CONTACT

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