

## Paul Oyetunde Ogunlesi



Paul Oyetunde Ogunlesi (b. 1994, Lagos State) is a Lagos-based painter that hails from Ogun state, and a graduate of Yaba College of Technology in Fine Art. In creating his works, he blends newspaper collages, which he uses as metaphor to outlay hidden narratives behind the situation of his subject per time, with acrylics, using the wash and temperal finish technique to arrive at his subtly expressive, textured canvases. Ogunlesi takes a different approach to portraiture in engaging his audience, with the use of truncated, disconcerting compositions. Inspired by life, Yoruba adages, faith, the mundane, the trivial and past experiences, exploring themes such as humanity, romance, kindness and hope with tender tones and natural poses, his works echo the singularities of our individual experiences by offering the viewer multi-layered frames to dive into.

In his “of Life and Animosities” series, Ogunlesi deploys an invasive process to engage his audience, Providing a multiplicity of narratives for his audience to explore, his metaphorical, ambiguous canvases oscillate between a sense of peace and abandonment, Love and hope. Forced into becoming voyeur, the viewer soon becomes the off-screen protagonist of a scene that is left for them to interpret. Ogunlesi carefully frame his compositions to avoid representing faces, he focuses instead on his characters’ feet and legs, creating rich evocative “mediums of shared identities”. Ogunlesi’s works have been exhibited with Cultivate Gallery (London, 2023), Rele Gallery

### **EDUCATION**

**2019** Higher National Diploma ; Yaba College of Technology.

**2017** National Diploma; Yaba College of Technology

### **EXHIBITIONS**

**2023** *Mixtape (iii)*, a group exhibition by Cultivate Gallery (London)

**2022** *YC Residency Exhibition*, by Rele Gallery, (Ekiti State Nigeria)

**2022** *Our Many Colours Show*, by Art Pantheon Gallery, (Lagos Nigeria)

**2022** *The " Black Joy" Exhibition* on Artsy by TAAG Gallery (Parkville, USA)

**2021** *The Made in Nigeria* competition and Exhibition by the German Embassy, GIZ (Lagos Nigeria)

**2021** *The 360 Degrees of Healing* exhibition, by Artfully Spaced Gallery, (California, Los Angeles, USA)

**2021** *The Project 40* Exhibition organised by Arts in Medicine(AIM) (Lagos Nigeria)

**2020** *Configured Personas*, an all media Exhibition organised by Alfa Gallery. (New Brunswick, NJ, USA)

**2020** *The Best Nigeria Art Exhibition*, Nike Art Gallery. (Lagos, Nigeria)

**2020** *Encounter*, an oil and mixed media exhibition organised by Alfa Gallery. ( New Brunswick, NJ, USA)

**2020** *The Art an Essential Need* Exhibition, Organised by Art and About Africa. (Johannesburg, SA)

**2019** *The Music Meet Art* Exhibition Organised by The Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) (Omenka Gallery)

**2019** *The Artmiabo Exhibition*, Angel and Muse Art Gallery Ikoyi, (Lagos Nigeria, Arkane Afrika Exposition Internationale d'art Exhibition. (Casablanca, Morocco)

**2018** *Life in my City Top 50* exhibition tagged "Twilight" organised by LIMCAF (IMT, Enugu)

**2018** *Customer Segmentation Framework* Art Exhibition curated by Oyinda Fakeye, Lagos Business School (Lagos Nigeria,)

**2017** *The TMP Library* Art Exhibition (London, UK)

**2017** *Art for peace* Exhibition, organised by OYASAF and UFUK Dialogue (Lagos Nigeria)

**2016** *Open House Exhibition* Organised by the Department of Fine Art, Yaba College of Technology

## **RESIDENCY**

**2022** Rele Gallery's Young contemporary Residency (Ekiti, Nigeria)

**2021** And Orange Art Residency (Lagos, Nigeria)

**2020** The Artist Ladder Residency (The Artist Ladder 14days Art Diary) tagged "Where there is Art There's Hope.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2021** One of 15 finalists and winners of the ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE competition (Chicago and California, USA)

**2020** Second Runner-Up at the Alibaba January 1st Concert Pencil Art Competition, sponsored by Zenith Bank PLC

**2020** One of Top Ten (10) and consolidation prize winner of the Best Nigeria Art Competition.

**2020** One of the winners of the ART AND ESSENTIAL NEED GRANT, organised by Art and about Africa. (Johannesburg, S.A)

**2018** First Runner up in the Felabration Art Competition

**2017** One of Top 50 Artists in the Life in my City Art Competition (2018), One of the Top 100 Artists and consolation prize winner at the Union Bank Centenary Art Competition

**2016** Overall Winner of The Show off Live Competition

## **AUCTION**

**2021** The Miele Food Gallery Auction (Love 1, newsprints and Acrylics on canvas, 75x55cm,2021)(Lagos, Nigeria)

**2021** The Arts for Social Change competition and auction organised by Pitroda Art Gallery (Negligence 2, newsprints and Acrylics on cartridge, 120x90cm, 2020) (Los Angeles, USA)

## **ASSOCIATION**

Member, Beyond Border Artists Association of Nigeria. Member, The Art in Medicine Cohort

## **PUBLICATION**

<https://artmiabo.blogspot.com/2018/09/portrait-artist-ogunlesi-paul-oyetunde.?m=1://>

[www.artandaboutafrica.com/artiststudio/nigeria/paul-ogunlesi/](http://www.artandaboutafrica.com/artiststudio/nigeria/paul-ogunlesi/)

<https://themuseafrica.com/voices-of-art-statements-in-the-selected-works-of-ogunlesi-paul/>

<https://magpiesmagazine.com/2023/02/11/of-life-and-animosities-paul-oyetunde-ogunlesi/>

## **EXPERIENCE / WORKSHOP**

The Rele young contemporary bootcamp (2022)

The Made in Nigeria Masterclass workshop organized by the German Consulate in collaboration With the ministry of Labour (2021)

Art Instructor at THE METAPHOR Lagos, Nigeria. (2020)

The Guild of Professional Fine Artist Symposium tagged "Challenges of Modern Art Practice", (2019)

The Music meets Art Workshop and masterclass organised by the SNA National at Muson Center (Lagos Nigeria, 2019). Art in Medicine Fellowship Cohort (2018 )

Facilitator in, "My Environment" Art workshop and exhibition organised by the BBAAN (2017)

IT student in Defactori Art Studio under Akintunde Olajide John. (2016)

IT student under Ebe Art Studio under Ebenezer Oluwafemi (2009)