



Art Against Poverty

An Exhibition of Drawings, Photographs,
Paintings and Sculptures by:

Jelili Olorunfunmi ATIKU
Washington Chukwuemeke UBA,
Prince Nathaniel MOMOH,
Johnson Olarinde OLADESU,
Vera NWAOKOKOH,
Peter NWANKWO,
Susan Ogeyi OMACHU,

CCA 2.1.18

At the 9th Book & Art Festival
9th-11th November, 2007
National Arts Theatre, Lagos, Nigeria

Organised by:



COMMITTEE FOR RELEVANT ART

Her paintings are picturesque of social concern, often expressed in minimalist forms. Her works have been shown severally within and outside Nigeria. Among these are *Expectations* (2005), *Echoes of Hercules* (held at Abuja, 2005), *Minimalism* (held at Goethe Institution, Lagos, 2007), etc. She is presently a Curator with National Gallery of Art in Abuja. She will be exhibiting *Expectation* (Acrylic on Canvas), *Patches* (Mixed Media), *Freedom* (Acrylic on Canvas) and *Encased* (Acrylic on Canvas).

PETER NWANKWO, the best graduating painting student of Ahmadu Bello University in 1998. He is prolific and committed painter who uses colours as means and language of psychological communication for social protest and change. His use of lines and colours in drawing and painting are akin to his responses to societal issue and call for political reforms. Peter has exhibited at several occasions in Lagos, Zaria and Enugu. Among these are *Onuma* (2001, held during the First Black African Heritage Festival in Badagry, Lagos Nigeria), *The Dawn of Democracy in Nigeria* (held in 2001 to celebrate the emergence of democratic rules in Nigeria after a long period of military rule), etc. He will mainly exhibit drawings in the show. The titles of his works are *Shame* (drawing), *Migration* (drawing), *Selling in Blues* (oil on canvass) and *No Thanks To War* (oil on canvass), etc.

VERA NWAOKOKOH, holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Benin Art School. A National Youth Service Corps Award winner, she has risen to become an Amazon within the female art community in Nigeria. Vera's use of native art forms in the contemporary world to fight all negative norms in etching prints, has earned her a salutary place in Nigeria art space. She has exhibited widely in Lagos, Abuja, Benin, Port Harcourt among other places. These include the Nigeria / China Friendly Association (NICAF) Exhibition in 1996, International Women's Day Celebration, March 2000; National Female Artists Association (NAFA) Exhibitions in 2000, 2002 and 2004 (held at Abuja, Lagos and Port Harcourt respectively), etc. She is presently the Keeper and Head of Station of the National Gallery of Art, Lagos; and also the Assistant Chief Curator, Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation. Vera's works in this present show shall include etching prints and paintings. She will be exhibiting paintings, titled as *Impoverished in a Blessed Land* (Ink on Paper), *Exploits* (Plastograph),

Expectations (Plastograph).

JOHNSON OLARINDE OLADESU, a lecturer at Olabisi Onabanjo University. He teaches painting and drawing. Olarinde was trained at Ahmadu Bello University as a painter and holds B.A and MFA degrees in Fine Arts from the same University. Arts as healing is his current focus in his art forms. He is a member of Nogh Nogh Art Movement in Nigeria and Ibogun Group of Artists. Johnson has had several exhibitions to his credit; these include *Butterflies* (held at Kashim Ibrahim Library, ABU in 2000) *CHOGM Exhibition* (held at Commonwealth People Market, Abuja, 2004), *Dualism* (staged at the National Museum, Onikan Lagos in 2004), etc. Among his works to be exhibited are *Hajia* (drawing), *The State of the Nation*, *The Flight Age* (Oil on Canvass) and *Polygamous* (Oil on Canvass).

JELILI OLORUNFUNMI ATIKU, a reputable Sculptor and art activist, has recently been advocating for human rights protection through his artistic works. In 2004 he staged an arts exhibition to campaign for Nigerian penal and prisons reform. The show was titled *Shadows in the Dark*, held at the National Museum Onikan Lagos. Similarly, in 2005 he had a show of an installation sculpture, titled *E Wawo: The Awaiting Trial Persons at Lagos State House of Assembly*. This was to campaign for the expunging of an obnoxious practice in Lagos State statutory book and Nigeria at large. The practice, which is known as *Holding Charge* is believed to be facilitating the over population of awaiting trial inmates in Nigerian Prisons. He also participated in the Committee for Relevant Arts - CORA's 8th Book and Art Festival Exhibition Segment, titled *Dawning Dreams* where he used his installation sculpture, *Free the Press* to campaign for the freedom of press in Nigeria. This event took place in 2006 at the National Museum, Onikan Lagos. Recently he staged a performance art at Lagos State House of Assembly to campaign against extra judicial killings, especially political killings in Nigeria. Jelili had B.A (Hon.) Fine Art and M.A. Visual Art Specializing in Sculpture from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos respectively. He is the founder and Chief coordinator of the Advocate for Human Rights Through Arts (AHRA) and President, the Movement for Creative Drawing. In this exhibition, he will be presenting an installation sculpture, titled *Poverty in Rows*, *No Dough-Face Here* (drawing) and *Doubtless Hunger* (drawing).