



26/365

an exhibition of illustrated letters
by Karo Akpokiere.

10 - 24 September 2011

Goethe-Institut Nigeria
City Hall, Lagos Island.



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Karo Akpokiere is one of the few artists active in the graphic art scene not only in Nigeria but as well as in abroad. Trained as a graphic designer at Yaba College of Technology in Lagos he developed a unique style in this very urban genre that is comic art. The esthetical research behind his work has led him to present his art on various media, with the internet playing a very prominent part. But if you are lucky you can find some of his work on T-Shirts, on tote bags or on posters hanging here and there. Urbanity is therefore a term that maybe describes his approach best, for his work lives from the interaction with its environment.

Comic art as an artistic genre has a rather young history and is often misleadingly put together with Graffiti (which is an artistic genre on its own) or cheap comic strips. But there is a very vibrant scene throughout the world, some of it being active more in an underground way, influenced by subcultures, some more commercially, but all of them seeking a very direct approach to the public. It is made for direct exposure and this is what Karo has in common with some of his models, like Keith Haring. The "breadth of his work and his willingness to make his work accessible and visible" has notably been a great influence to Karo. As a result he started a internet project, the SeekProject, where he displays his work and exposes it to the worldwide public.

But what makes his work so interesting are the many more and different influences that he was exposed to and the very personal style that he strives to obtain. The signs, symbols and patterns of geometric shapes that are often found in traditional African Art are one of his main stimuli as well as other African designers like Peet Pienaar or Victor Ekpuk. The alphabet that he is presenting in this exhibition is the result of his ongoing daily drawing project Draw365 and a very good way of getting into his style and way of working.

During the last years, his work has been presented in many different occasions, both on- and offline and internationally, but this exhibition is now his first solo show in Nigeria. The Goethe-Institut Nigeria is therefore very pleased to present his works to a steadily growing public. Come and discover the world of Karo!

Marc-André Schmachtel
Director, Goethe Nigeria

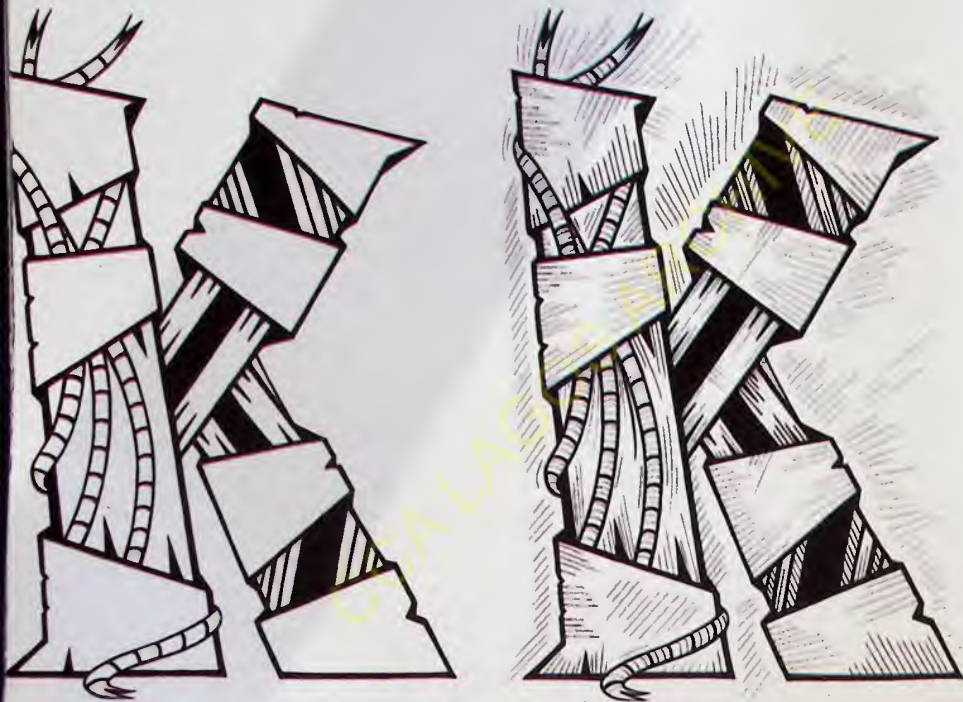


26/365

26/365 is an exhibition of Illustrated letters inspired by the bold, edgy graffiti aesthetic, character design, the fine black line and expressive text present in Comic Books.

Illustrated Letters offers a unique blend of pop-cultural elements made possible through Graphic Designer Karo Akpokiere's exploration of the themes of freshness and reinvention via the breaking down and expressive reconstruction of homogeneous established forms, in this case the ubiquitous letters. Created using a combination of traditional and digital media, the Illustrated letters present letters in their secondary state, a state where they exist as images not just as elements that make words and sentences possible.

The 26 letters are part of Karo Akpokiere's ongoing daily drawing project Draw365 and they also also represent his deep interest in challenging the widely held view that Graphic Design is a discipline that exists solely for the passing of commercial messages.



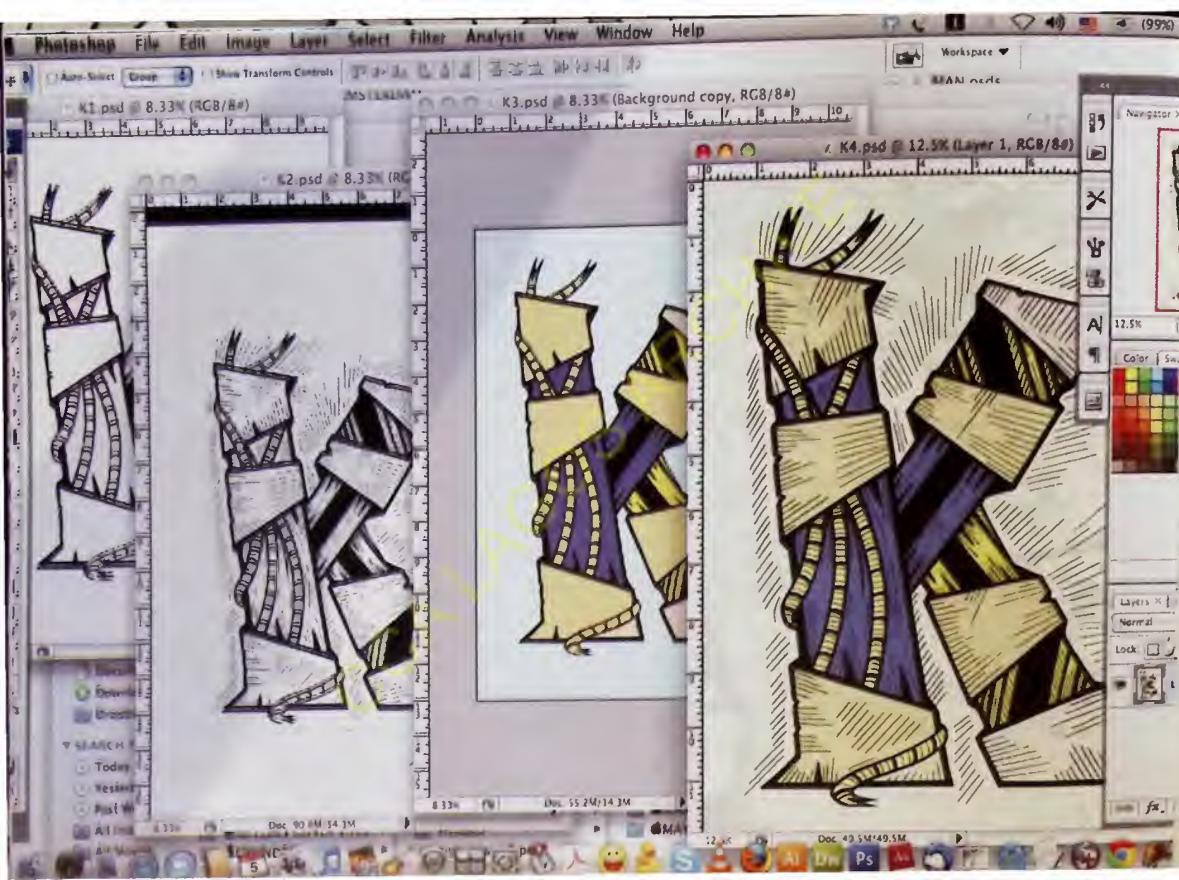
ABOUT KARO AKPOKIERE

Karo Akpokiere is a Graphic Designer born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. He has an insatiable appetite for drawing and is deeply interested in how these drawings can be applied to different media as a way to make them accessible and visible facilitating connections with and inspiring people in the process.

His work is indicative of his desire to combine different 'cultural' elements in order to create art that is universally appealing and reflective of his present interests in textile motifs, typography, the graffiti aesthetic, t-shirt graphics, sneakers, advertising, character design and geometry.

He presently lives in Lagos, Nigeria where he draws daily and manages www.seekproject.com and www.theseekproject.wordpress.com his daily drawing blog.

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Illustrated Letters Exhibition

Copenhagen, Denmark 3 June - 10 June 2011

Smart Car Urban Stage drive-through Art Gallery

London, England 3 May - 16 May 2011

The Green Summary Exhibition

Center for Contemporary Art, Lagos , Nigeria
20 December 2010 - 21 January 2011

7sins International Graphic Design Contest Travelling Exhibition

Santa Cruz de Tenerife 18 - 29 June 2010
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria 13 - 26 August 2010
Madrid 12 - 20 of November 2010

The Toe Fluff Show

Swindon, England 30 July - 11 August 2010



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from the 10th - 24th September, 2011

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