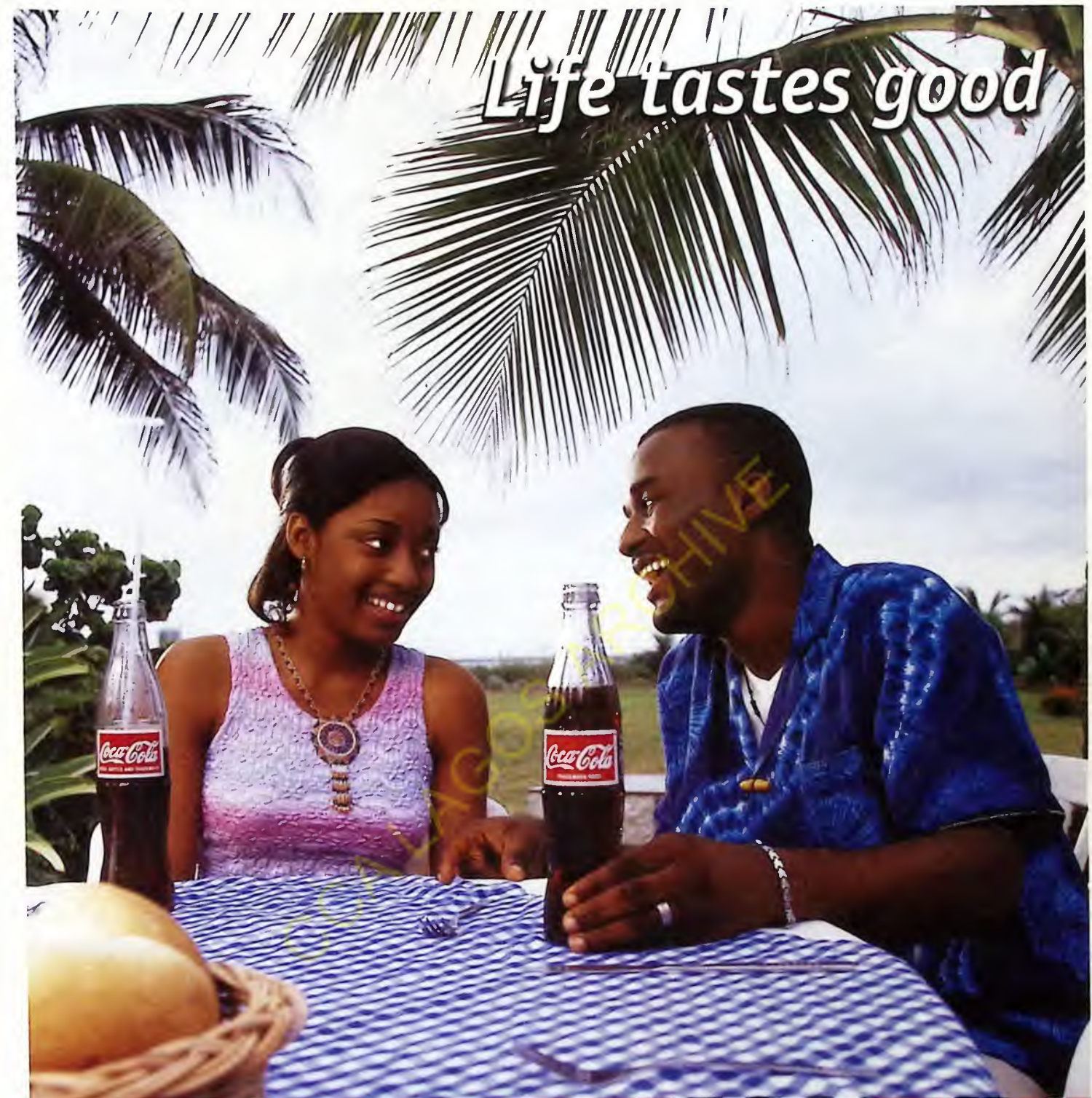


inkem gallery



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Our Vision

The Nkem vision has been shaped by experience and exposure.

An early childhood within the serene and scenic environment of the Jos Plateau awakened an appreciation of the glorious beauty of nature. The numerous, seemingly precarious, rock formations stirred my curiosity and imagination. Secondary school education gave me a better insight into the creativity of nature and man-made art. I became an inspired lover of the Arts.

My sojourn in Europe as a student was thus very rewarding. I discovered a wider variety of Art from the different periods of Art history. My adventures to the national museums in London, Paris, Amsterdam and Stockholm permitted me to admire and absorb the works of the great masters of yesteryears and contemporary Art. Since then, my Art addiction has led me to museums and galleries in Asia, Africa, Australia and the United States.

On returning to live and work in Nigeria I chose to focus upon the generations and genres of great Nigerian and African Art. Years of involvement with the Arts have ultimately resulted in a better understanding of the universality of creativity and mankind. This bond between humanity and Art motivated the formation of the Non-Governmental Organisation, *Art For Peace*.

As we continue to view the Art of the past and future, the focus of the Nkem Vision has sharpened, highlighting the core values of beauty, creativity, peace and goodwill that forever remain the hallmark of universal Art.

THE WORLD IS ART AND THUS ART IS OUR WORLD

Frank Chukwuma Okonta



Textile Motif, ink on paper, 71cm x 44cm, A. Odey

Our Mission

Nkem Gallery is a permanent space specially designed to house collections of different genres of Art. We will highlight the works of Nigerian artists for the admiration of visiting art lovers and the consumption of discerning art collectors. The guiding principle of Nkem Gallery is excellence in variety.

We wish to be universally recognized and respected as a true home of masterpieces. A forum of choice for both the artist and art lover. As such, we will apply meticulously high standards to every artistic work in our collections and exhibitions while remaining receptive to creative movements and faithful to emerging talents.

You are welcome to Nkem Gallery.

We Wish You Happy And Memorable Viewing.





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African Madonna, oil on paper, 66cm x 50cm, Okuku



Dancing Time, gouache, 91cm x 60cm, Chinze Orjih



Reminiscence of Lagos, mixed media, 56cm x 71cm, N.M. Inyang

Nigerian Contemporary Art, ... The Journey So Far - Cornel Agim

Nearly 80 years ago, Nigeria's first western-trained artist Aina Onabolu, came back from England to rekindle our aesthetic environment. Onabolu's homecoming heralded a new awareness and a new philosophy in the epoch of contemporary Nigerian art.

The first European art teachers in Nigeria, K.C. Murray and Mrs. Kurian Williams, initiated an art curriculum in the mid thirties and a new class of neoclassical artists emerged. Among their students was Ben Enwonwu.

In the late fifties and early sixties, a group of young artists in the Zaria Technical College (now Ahmadu Bello University) rebelled against the entrenchment of western styles and ideas in Nigerian art. They wanted to be indigenous and they achieved this aim, by using their own individual skills coupled with African traditional motifs, concepts and forms in a blend with

Curator's Message



Elegance, gouache, 66cm x 124cm, Fidel N. Oyiogu

western art techniques.

The result of this cultural assimilation was the emergence of the Zaria Art School which eventually became the root of the now famous three main Nigerian Art Schools: Yaba, Benin and Nsukka.

Among the Zaria 'rebels' who contributed to the formation of these Schools, were Uche Okeke, Yusuf Grillo, Demas Nwoko, Bruce Onobrakpeya and I. Wangboje.

The ingenuity and versatility of these Art Schools is evidenced in the manifestation of four generations of Nigerian Contemporary artists.

A second generation, which is the fall-out of the formation of the Art Schools, includes Kolade Oshinowo, Dele Jegede, Gani Odutokun, Ben Ekanem, Obiora Udechukwu, David Dale, Seni Jawando, Sina Yussuf, Okuku, Mrs. C.E. Ifeta and others.

The third generation that now constitute the bulk of the present-day flag bearers include Olu Amoda, Ndidi Dike, Jerry Buhari, Chika Okeke, Olu Ajayi, C.S.A. Akran, Tony Uwana, Maureen Eyutcha, Olaku among others.

The fourth group are the budding young artists who have led the way into the 21st century. They include Victor Ekpuk, Ben Osagie, Sam Ovrati, Kelechi Amadi, Tola Wewe, Chinze Orjih, Juliet Ezenwa, Inyang N. Abasse, Fidel Oyiogu, Godwin Jackson, Rom Isichei, Onu Adekpe, Morgan Nwanguma among others.

Each of these different generations of Nigerian artists, exploit their materials with an amazing experimental temper; manipulating with ease their diverse media—Oil, Wood, Metal, Water Colour, Acrylic, Textiles, Clay and other synthetic medium, in order to reveal their

inner selves and visually communicate to the viewing populace.

The establishment of Nkem Gallery out of Nkem Productions is the fulfillment of the dream of a very good friend and professional colleague, Chief, Frank Chukwuma Okonta. For years, Nkem Productions has sponsored budding artists and propagated cultural diplomacy.

The works in Nkem Gallery reveal treasures that have made Nigerian arts some of the most unique and ingenious in the world. Following the traditions of our forefathers, our contemporary artists continue their quest for artistic upliftment. The transformatory role of the arts today from its hitherto tradico-ritualistic form to more dynamic attributes, is evident as contemporary Nigerian artists broaden their aesthetic awareness in this our 21st century global village,

The artists currently exhibited at Nkem Gallery are by no means exhaustive. Numerous other creative talents will follow in subsequent exhibitions.

You are welcome to NKEM GALLERY. Happy Viewing.

Cornel Agim is a sculptor and former university art teacher. He was Assistant Director of the National Art Gallery and has curated many national and international exhibitions. He is currently Chairman, Cross River State Tourism & Culture Board, Project Consultant to Rediscover Nigeria and Consultant Curator to Nkem Productions and Nkem Gallery.



Human Forms, watercolour, 40cm x 83cm, Olu Ajayi



The King and Queen, mixed media, 67cm x 52cm, Inyang N. Abassey



Heritage, bead on board, 81cm x 61cm, J. Braimoh



My Trade, oil on canvas, 110cm x 79cm, N. Okpu



Back To Land, ink on paper, 30cm x 40cm, Chinwe Ezeani



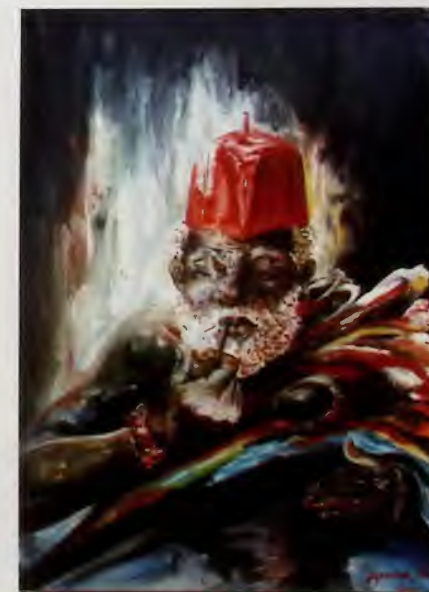
Drummer and Dancers, foil on board, 103cm x 53cm, Seth Ikusika



Help The Needy, oil on canvas, 54cm x 82cm, R. Isichei



African Queen, oil on canvas, 77cm x 90cm, Onu Adekpe



Granpa's Smoking Pipe, oil on canvas, 44cm x 56cm, A. J. Angel



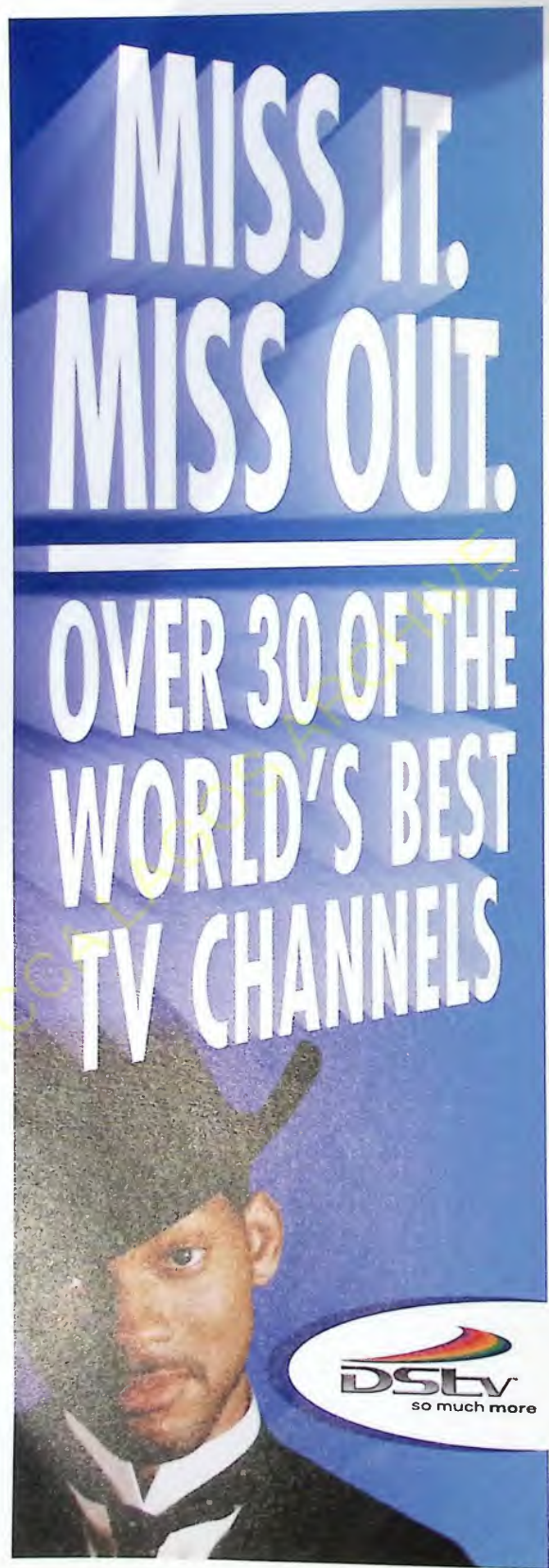
African Forms/Motifs, stained wood, 66cm x 51cm, Ndidi Dike



Ijigbo Festival, electroplated mild steel, table piece, Olu Amoda



Ceramics by Ato Arinze



Lizard On The Wall, oil on board, 162cm x 119cm, Juliet Ezenwa Nze



Harmony, watercolour, 68cm x 80cm, S. I. Athekamhe



Fisherman's Dream, oil on canvas, 96cm x 81cm, George Ighodalo



Dancers, ink on paper, 74cm x 63cm, Maureen Eyutcha



Forms and Symbols, ink on textile, 80cm x 65cm, C. S. A. Akran



Mask Forms, oil on canvas, 132cm x 66cm, Craft Heritage



Women's Desire, oil on canvas, 120cm x 90cm, Fidel N. Oyiogu

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Dream Girl, oil on board, 81cm x 62cm, Morgan Nwanguma



Traditional Meal, oil on canvas, 87cm x 57cm, Hector C. Decker



Butterfly, oil on canvas, 120cm x 100cm, L. Isimah



The Chriverse, oil on canvas, 100cm x 47cm, Taju Mohibi



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Appreciation & Acknowledgements

Nkem Productions Ltd, acknowledges with appreciation, all those who have contributed towards the successful opening of NKEM GALLERY, Lekki, Lagos on Friday 26th April 2002. We will continue to regard you as Friends of NKEM GALLERY.

We thank Alhaji Sambo Dasuki and the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Co. Ltd, for encouraging Nigerian contemporary arts and our efforts at promoting the Arts. Coca-Cola, DSTV, Cool FM, Platinum Bank, Nigerian Mint and Indomie, for their sponsorship towards the production of the NKEM GALLERY commemorative brochure.

We are grateful to Felix and Adiza Ofulue, and my dear wife, Mrs Patience Okonta for their special and dedicated support towards the realisation of the dream to set up NKEM GALLERY.

We say a big THANK YOU to all the artists who have been with Nkem Productions over the years and now have a new home in NKEM GALLERY.

Finally, we acknowledge the efforts of Tam Fiofori and Cornel Agim who have served as consultants, and Chinyelu Oranefo, who coordinated the work of Nkem Productions team, Richard, Comfort and Agnes.

THANK YOU ALL

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Production Coordinator - Chinyelu Oranefo

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Nkem Gallery Logo Metahwork - Olu Amoda

Curator Opening Ceremony Exhibition - Cornel Agim

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