

The Pendulum Open Drawing and Painting Competition for Children and Students

Further Detail:

Pendulum Art Gallery Lagos has initiated an open competition for primary and secondary school children and university students in the areas of drawing and painting in Nigeria. There is no theme for the competition. It is conceived as part of Pendulum's effort at sensitizing the Nigerian youth to the potentials of art in the shaping of people and society. While the painting aspect of the competition is designed to challenge the youthful imagination of the burgeoning artist, the drawing category subscribes to the ongoing debate in Nigerian art circles about the place of drawing in the scheme of art. The competition therefore, is an eloquent contribution to development in art and society. The first edition of the competition will be held in November/December 2003. (see www.pendulumartgallery.com)

NATURE OF THE COMPETITION

Drawing:

The drawing competition is open to pupils of primary and secondary schools from all parts of Nigeria. Interested pupils are to send in drawings not more than A3 in size on any theme of their choice. Each contestant is entitled to one entry only. All entries shall be judged by a jury. Short-listed entries will be exhibited at Pendulum Art Gallery Lagos and on its website in December 2003. The exhibited work will be documented in a catalogue.

Prizes:

There are two categories of prizes for drawing. A prize of ₦30, 000.00 and certificate will be won by the best drawing by a primary school pupil. The best drawing by a secondary school pupil will attract a prize of ₦45, 000.00 and certificate.

Painting:

The painting competition is open to students of universities and other tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Interested students should submit a painting in any medium and on any ground not less than 60 x 90cm in size. There is no restriction on theme. All entries shall be judged by a jury. Short-listed entries will be exhibited at Pendulum Art Gallery, Lagos and on its website in December 2003. The exhibited works will be documented in a catalogue to be published by Pendulum Art Gallery.

Prize:

The best painting shall be awarded a prize of ₦120, 000.00 and a certificate. All awards shall be made at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. The jury will be drawn from the cream of contemporary art in Nigeria.

Goal

By focusing on drawing, the competition will help to reverse the children's perception of drawing as a preparatory art and thereby encourage them to explore their hidden talents as possible successful artists of the future. By the same token, the painting aspect of the competition will help to provide initial exposure to the art students and accord them the rudimentary experience they need in the subsequent pursuit of their careers as accomplished artists.

To this end, the stipulated prizes are very significant. At the moment, there are no institutions or instruments in Nigeria through which hard work and excellence are recognized and rewarded. This reality is highly palpable in the arts, an area which has been grossly neglected in Nigeria. It is, therefore, hoped that the prizes for the winners in this competition will help to demonstrate to the youth that excellence and hard work are worthy ideals and that art, as the pursuit of happiness, can also be rewarding in many different ways. This ultimately translates to enrichment of the social ecology (in Nigeria) which has been greatly discounted and bastardized through the rather nationalized pursuit of ignorance in the country.

Estimate

Correspondence.....	\$800.00
Publicity.....	\$2,000.00
Catalogue.....	\$3,500.00
Prizes and certificates.....	\$1,700.00
Logistics.....	\$1,000.00
Total.....	\$9,000.00

Total for five years: \$45,000.00

The Pendulum Annual Painting and Sculpture Symposium

Further Detail

Pendulum Art Gallery has initiated a symposium for painters and sculptors in its pursuit of a more composite vision for the arts in Nigeria. The symposium is envisioned as a practical annual, open-air workshop where selected Nigerian artists can gather and exchange ideas and attempt to redraw the frontiers of their creative vision as they interact with one another in a fairly convivial work environment. It is thus a timely response to the dearth of meaningful art fora in Nigeria.

As the target for this workshop is young and upcoming artists, the aim is to provide them with some necessary exposure that would encourage them to embrace their careers with greater enthusiasm while also helping to launch them to higher professional achievement. By coming together in such a workshop the artists are encouraged to emerge from their tiny individual worlds to explore the bigger picture which concert and integration can engender.

For now, there is no doubt that the Nigerian art scene is pitifully atomized. This, of course, is a by-product of the political system which has brazenly encouraged a survivalist psychology, one that has given birth to what Jonathan Sacks calls "a claimant society". In such a place, the common good takes a back seat as everybody thinks along narrow selfish lines. The general sense of sacrifice and the inventive spirit die a natural death, as social values, commitment, and development go in a downward spiral. This situation has crept into the art scene in Nigeria; the result is a philosophically bankrupt geography on which the divorce of art from the soul of society has taken a dangerous toll.

Goal

The re-enfranchisement of art at the centre of society is an imperative that ought to be addressed urgently by artists in Nigeria. It is not a task that can be carried on by individual artists perennially harassed by the demands of daily commitment in Nigeria. It requires some concert; it also requires a transcendence of the prevailing atomization that characterizes the socio-political sphere. To this end, meaningful fora should be created to enable the artists contrive viable networks that would be helpful in asserting their role and place in the society.

This is part of the goal the Annual Painting and Sculpture Symposium will try to fulfil. By bringing together artists from different ethno-cultural backgrounds to work together, visions and ideas are healthfully exchanged. Not only that. The artists discover the inherent potentials of group work and concert in confronting the challenges in the art scene. Cooperation, friendship, and tolerance – those factors that Nigeria badly needs in her pursuit of unity – are also encouraged as germs of social development.

Organization

The symposium will take place in November every year. The first edition will take place in Enugu in November 2004. Application forms will be available at Pendulum Art Gallery's website in January 2004. The symposium is envisaged as a community art project in which the artists and the audience can co-mingle for utmost empathy. Every year, the symposium will be organized in a different city:

2004: Enugu

2005: Jos

2006: Zaria

2007: Uyo

2008: Lagos

Part of the strategy for this arrangement is to ensure that the impact of the workshops is felt very widely away from the saturated Lagos circuit.

The gallery will assist the artists in procuring work material, although a premium will also be placed on the sourcing of material from the immediate environment.

Each year about 20 participants will be selected from wide ranging applications to be solicited by the gallery. Applications will be received between January and March every year. After a careful selection process, successful applicants will be notified in May.

It is expected that the gallery will cover the cost of the participants' travel, accommodation, and feeding during the symposium. The participants will be encouraged to hold meaningful discussion circles during the symposium.

Duration

Each of the annual workshops will last effectively for 5 days. These do not include the two days needed for arrival and departure.

Outcome

At the end of the symposium, the gallery will organize an exhibition in the city where the symposium has been held; the exhibition will subsequently be mounted at Pendulum Art Gallery in Lagos and on its website.

Cost

The assistance being sought in this regard is to enable the gallery provide work material, accommodation and feeding for symposium participants as well as organize the relevant exhibitions and publish standard catalogues.

Round trip.....	\$2,000.00
Work material.....	\$4,500.00
Accommodation and feeding for five days.....	\$7,000.00
Exhibitions.....	\$1,200.00
Publications.....	\$2,500.00
Publicity.....	\$1,600.00
Logistics.....	\$1, 200.00
Total.....	\$20,000.00

Total for five years:\$100,000.00