



LIFE IN MY CITY
Art Festival
www.lifeinmycityartsfestival.org

Emmanuel Idowu



The EXPERIENCE

a debut solo exhibition by Emmanuel Idowu
16-23.10.2020

www.lifeinmycityartsfestival.org

Email: lifeinmycityart@gmail.com Phone: 07039353538 (Secretariat), 08032514211 (Admin Secretary)

Experience

Exhibition - October 16 -23
LIMCAF HQ, 13 Link Road, Ind. Layout, Enugu.



IDOWU EMMANUEL, born 1992, hails from Ifetedo, Osun State. He graduated from Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo (an affiliate of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife) where he specialized in painting. Emmanuel has participated in several art exhibitions including Life in my City Art Festival where he won Dr. Pius Okigbo Prize for Technical Proficiency during LIMCAF 2019, Art and Beauty exhibition at Akure, LASGIDI exhibition at Lagos and Next of Kin at Thought Pyramid Art Centre, Lagos.

Idowu's paintings are in many private and public collections including, Nigerian Embassy in Turkey, Collection of Enugu State Governor, Olubosin Palace, Ifetedo in Osun State. Emmanuel who is presently a Youth Corper with LIMCAF draws inspiration from African Culture.

Contact: 07015852310, email: edare509@gmail.com

FOREWORD

Part of the aspiration of Life In My City Art Festival's aim is to follow up on young artists who excel at its annual competitions. LIMCAF intends to nurture such artists by providing them further platforms to develop themselves until they are able to find their feet as distinguished professionals.

Emmanuel Idowu's first participation in LIMCAF was in 2018 when he made it to the "Top 50 Artists" that were sponsored to the Grand Finale. That exposure gave him the chance to see the quality of artworks that made it to the very top. Emmanuel returned to Ondo with the promise to be back in 2019, not only with a better entry but also with more participants from Ondo environment. His effort yielded fruits as there were enough entries that led to the creation of Ondo Centre in 2019. During the LIMCAF 2019 Grand Finale, Emmanuel won the Pius Okigbo Prize for Technical Proficiency and he was part of the "Top 6 Artists" who won El Anatsui's International Travel Prize.

By mere share coincidence Emmanuel was posted to Enugu State in for the National Youth Service towards the end of 2019, and he was eventually posted to LIMCAF Secretariat. Emmanuel's Service with LIMCAF was more like an art residency. He took advantage of the period to explore various painting experiments. The result is this exhibition titled "Experience".

It is LIMCAF's expectation that this experience will launch Emmanuel into prosperous professional practice.

Ayo Adewunmi Ph.D

Art Director, LIMCAF

INTRODUCTION

"The Experience" is an art exhibition of new works created by the artist Emmanuel Idowu during his mandatory one-year youth corps service at Life in My City arts festival. Although the works he created according to him revolves around the story of his experiences during this period, it also depicts an epic year for humanity coming apart under the pressure of obscure forces of unpredicted virus known as COVID_19. Simply put, the concepts of the works on display are informed by a combination of world uncertainty and the artist's personal mundane ideas.

The prominent elements and principles in Emmanuel's works are the use of lines, near-earth color schemes, value, emphasis and patterns (traditional and floral). His Unique style was formed and molded over time, especially during his tertiary school days. Emmanuel's canvas is quite unusual and unique. It comprises of a circular canvas mounted on a wooden board and strips of carefully cut rectangular canvass that runs through the back. It is on the circular canvass that he deposits the major concept of his paintings. The rectangular strips which is usually from five to seven in number has patterns and symbols.

It is clear from the works on display that traditional motifs from West Africa influenced the artist. ULI, Nsibidi, Ona and Kante motifs are clear in his works. He also has an interest in archaic traditions and a fascination for personal cosmologies and visionary languages. It is a peculiar form of magic realism that emerges from the works on view, coupled with a renewed belief in art as a tool for mythmaking which is evidence in his use of story lines inspired by African tales.

One can rightly say that the works on display blends between the past and the present. This is because the artist employs the use of traditional elements such as folktales and motifs to narrate the worlds current events. A requiem from our past, this exhibition is a unique examination of a world that requires healing in all ramification. Welcome to "the Experience"!

Odinakachi Okoroafor

Curator



3pm Rose, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular Board
Dimension: 34.6x19.6 inches.



Await the End of Lockdown, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular Board
Dimension: 17.5x13 inches.



Who Sales First
Medium Acrylic on Window Blinds and Circular board
Dimension: 18.2x12 inches.



Ageless Wisdom
Medium Acrylic on Window Blinds Canvas on Board
Dimension: 35.5x47.5 inches.



Food Gatherer and the Flying Hungry Tortoise (Double sided), Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds Canvas on Circular Board, Dimension: 18x41 inches.



20 Lies Idioms, (Double sided) Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular Board,



Entanglement, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular Board, Dimension: 26x48.5 inches.



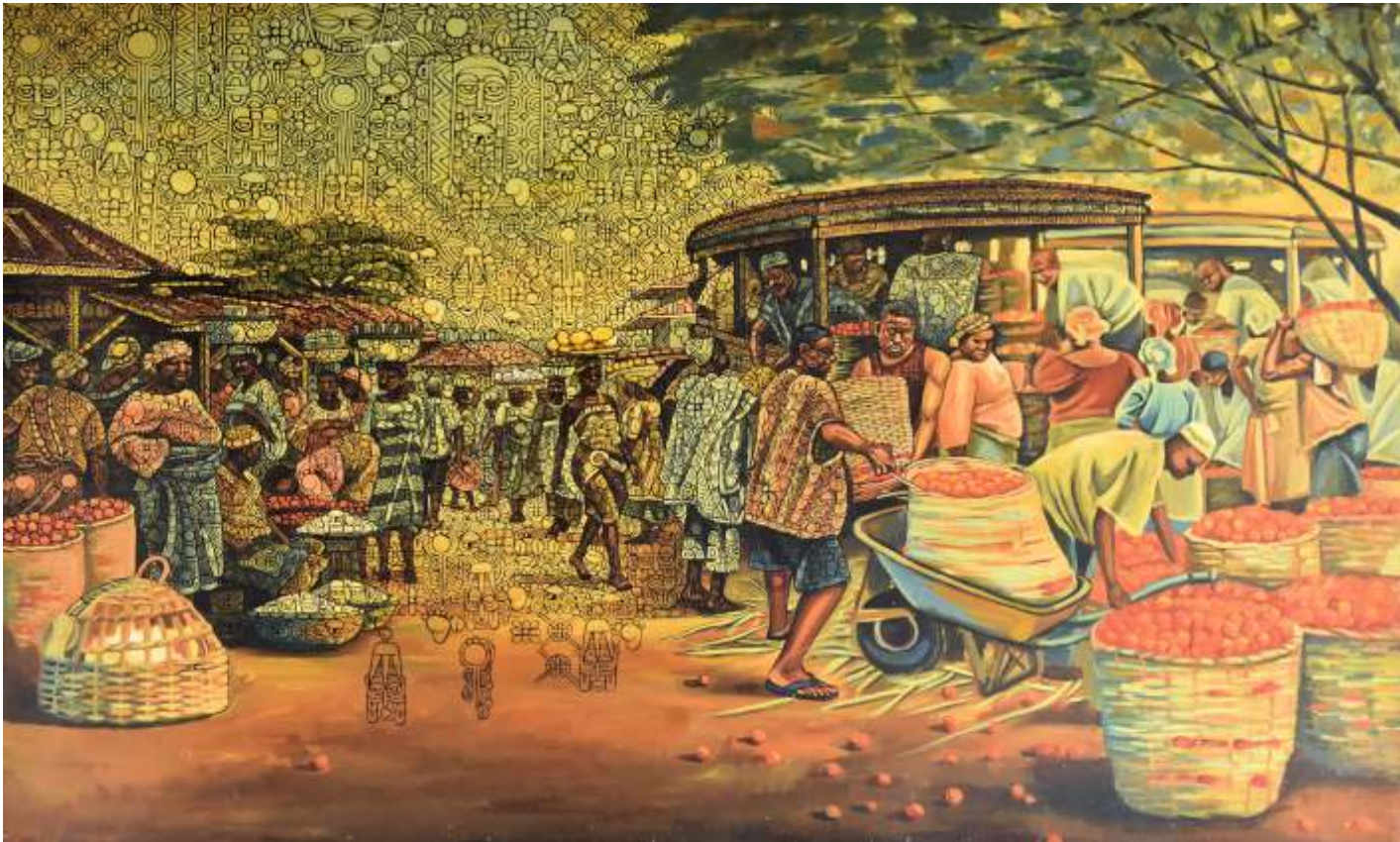
Tales we Love
Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular Board Dimension: 24.5x52.5 inches.



Omobeere, Medium: Acrylic on Canvas, Dimension: 48x39 inches.



6pm Rose, Medium: Oil on Canvas, Dimension: 28x28 inches



Dreamers Market, Medium: Acrylic on Canvas, Dimension: 35.5x58 inches.



Tortoise and the Fish Seller, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Board. Dimension: 36x53 inches.



Beds of Roses, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blind, Canvas on Circular Board, Dimension: 20x49 inches.



Mars Exploration, Medium: Acrylic on Window Blinds, Canvas on Circular, Boards, Dimension: 60x35.5 inches.



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