

OLUWOLE OMOFEMI



VISUAL ARTIST

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

VISUAL ARTIST



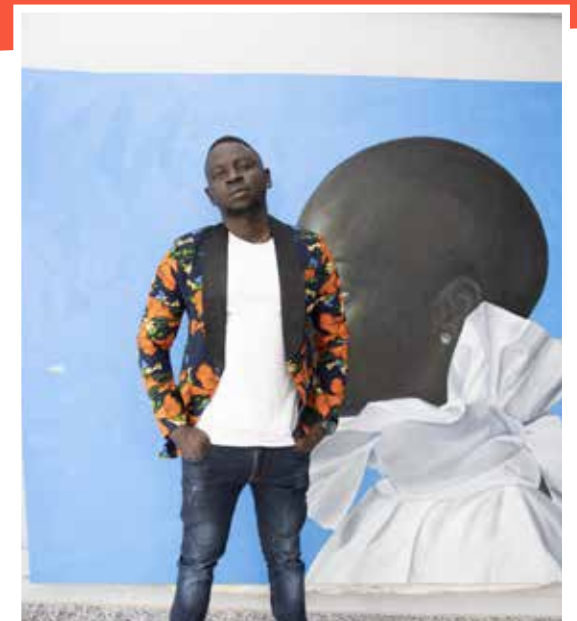
BIOGRAPHY

Much like the post World War II abstract expressionist artists, such as Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Barnett Newman, Nigerian artist, Oluwole Omofemi's rise to contemporary art stardom is rooted in the turbulent and revolutionary socio-political environment of the past, as well as in the times he now lives, and works in. When speaking to the peers of Omofemi, artists from his native Nigeria, whom he has grown up with, or those he now mentors, all speak with a great deal of pride, and adulation for him, describing him as a torch bearer and a vessel of hope for them.

Born in 1988 in the poorer inner city streets of Ibadan, Nigeria, Omofemi's humble beginnings and steep ascent to the pinnacle of the contemporary African art scene is nothing short of inspirational. His colossal talent was early identified by his neighbours and community, marking him out as a promising artist from his childhood. Omofemi used the proceeds he would gain from hawking beer, as part of the every day grind of living in Ibadan, to buy sketch books and art materials to facilitate and incubate his budding passion. However, it wasn't the hustle and bustle of life in the vibrant Ibadan metropolis nor the early signs of his natural gift for creativity and art that informed what would later make Omofemi one of the most serious and influential artists of his generation. That singular honour is due to his grandfather, who influenced him greatly, and whom Omofemi was deeply fond of.

BIOGRAPHY

His grandfather's wisdom and guidance impressed upon the young artist the importance of the preservation of culture, heritage and ancient customs, and instilled in him a lasting appreciation for self belief, pride, and determination, which today he captures and translates on canvas, through his masterful and endearing portraits. Indeed, Omofemi's work has always elevated his subjects to prominence, most of whom are either friends and relatives of his, or strangers he encounters. This sense of national pride, self esteem, authenticity, and heritage, are all keys, recurring motifs that weave together the entirety of his oeuvre, manifested in his striking portraits of independent black women, crowned either with halo-esque afros, distinctive cornrow braids, or strikingly and completely bald, 'sakora' hairstyles, indigenous to, and ubiquitous amongst his fellow compatriots, and dating back millennia.





OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

PAINTINGS, 2021



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

LIST OF SHOWS AND ART FAIRS

SOLO SHOWS

2022 – “A Woman’s Worth” - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain 2021 – “In our days” - Signature African Art – London, UK
2020 – “The Way we were” – Signature African Art – London, UK 2019 – “Irirí” (Experience) – Alexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria

GROUP SHOWS

2022 – The Queen – Sotheby’s Group Show – London, UK
2022 – Volta New York Art Fair – OOA Gallery – New York, USA
2022 – “4000 Ans” – Curated by Destinee Ross-Sutton – Wall House Museum – Saint Barthélemy, France
2021 – 1-54 London Art Fair – OOA Gallery – London, UK
2021 – “Self Addressed” – Curated by Kehinde Wiley – Jeffrey Deith Gallery – Los Angeles, USA
2021 – 1-54 New York – OOA Gallery – New York, USA
2021 – Duo show “Emancipation” with Rewa - OOA Gallery – Barcelona, Spain
2020 – “Can’t stop our flow”– JM Gallery – London, UK
2020 – “Locality and the Status Quo” - Pacers Art Gallery – Lagos, Nigeria
2020 – “Say my Name” – Signature African Art – London, UK
2020 – Piasa Auction – Paris, France
2019 - “Rise Up” - Signature African Art – London, UK
2019 - “Mayfair” - Signature African Art – London, UK
2019 – “Fashion and Art Show” – Belgium
2019 – “Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
2019 – “Impact Artist Fair” – Eko Atlantic City - Lagos, Nigeria



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

LIST OF SHOWS AND ART FAIRS

2019 – Second Ibadan Affordable Art Fair – Ibadan, Nigeria
2019 – Sogal Art Auction – Signature Beyond - Lagos, Nigeria
2019 – “Bald is Beautiful” – Alexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
2019 – “Starting point” – Lagos, Nigeria
2018 – Sogal Art Auction – Signature Beyond -Lagos, Nigeria
2018 – “New Horizon” – Discova Art Centre - Port Harcourt, Nigeria
2018 – “Fair & Square” – Alexis Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
2018 – “Next of Kin” – Thought Pyramid Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
2016 – “Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Gallery - Lagos, Nigeria
2015 – “The Return of the Slave” – Accra, Ghana
2015 – “Art for Heart” – Lagos, Nigeria
2015 – “Curore di Donna” – World Art Exhibition – Italy
2015 – “Face & Phases” – Terrakulture Art Exhibition - Lagos, Nigeria
2014 – “Emergency” – Lagos, Nigeria
2013 – “Life in my city Festival” – Alliance Française – Ibadan, Nigeria
2013 – “Unity” – National Museum - Ibadan, Nigeria



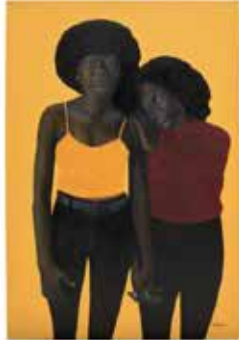


OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

PAINTINGS, 2020

PAINTING SALES / LIVE AUCTION

PHILLIPS SALE



128
Oluwole Omofemi
Me and You
Estimate £20,000 - 30,000
SOLD FOR £35,280



143
Oluwole Omofemi
Courage
Estimate HK\$100,000 - 200,000
SOLD FOR HK\$693,000



398
Oluwole Omofemi
Blue World
Estimate \$20,000 - 30,000
SOLD FOR \$119,700



22
Oluwole Omofemi
Omodunni
Estimate £15,000 - 20,000
SOLD FOR £27,720



17
Oluwole Omofemi
Untitled
Estimate \$10,000 - 15,000
SOLD FOR \$35,280



109
Oluwole Omofemi
Sisters II
Estimate £15,000 - 20,000
SOLD FOR £44,100



38
Oluwole Omofemi
Metamorphosis II
Estimate £6,000 - 8,000
SOLD FOR £100,800



112
Oluwole Omofemi
Tight Corner II
Estimate £10,000 - 15,000
SOLD FOR £44,100

VIEW AUCTION SITE

PAINTING SALES / LIVE AUCTION

CHRISTIES SALE



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Yesterday has gone

Estimate
USD 30,000 - 50,000

Price Realised
USD 151,200



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Lean on Me

Estimate
USD 12,000 - 18,000

Price Realised
USD 65,520



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Invader

Estimate
USD 10,000 - 15,000

Price Realised
USD 189,000



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Metamorphosis III

Estimate
USD 10,000 - 15,000

Price Realised
USD 118,750



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Ma Belle

Estimate
GBP 5,000 - 7,000

Price Realised
GBP 21,420



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

Soul Meditation II

Estimate
GBP 3,000 - 4,000



OLUWOLE OMOFEMI (B.
1988)

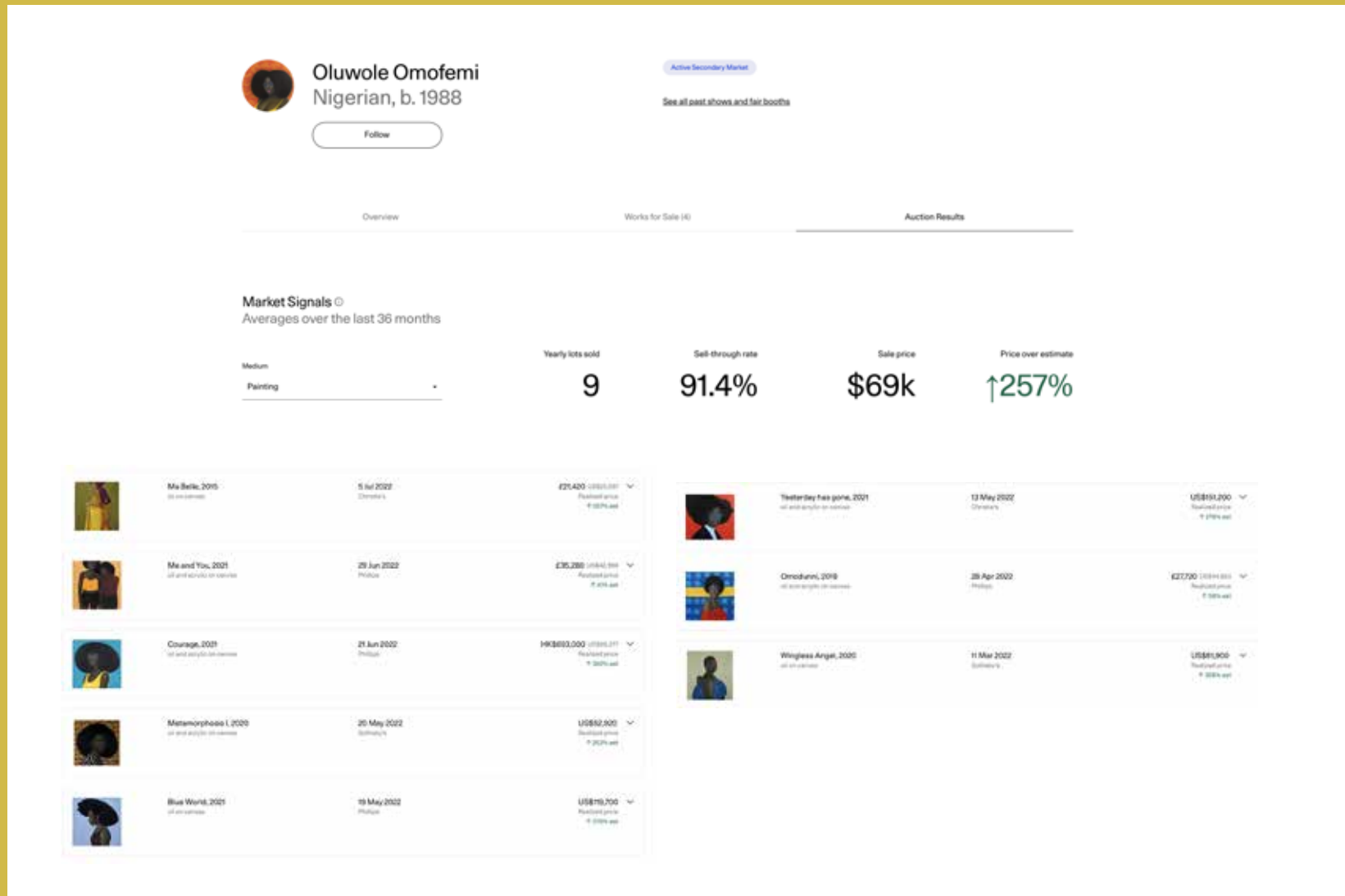
Unnamed

Estimate
GBP 20,000 - 30,000

Price Realised
GBP 44,100

VIEW AUCTION SITE

ARTSY - AUCTION RESULTS



VIEW ARTSY PAGE



18

OLUWOLE OMOFEMI

PAINTINGS, 2020

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN – A special commission for the cover of Tatler's Platinum Jubilee issue.



CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN – A special commission for the cover of Tatler's Platinum Jubilee issue.



READ FULL PUBLICATION



IN THE NEWS

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

HUNGER

Meet the Nigerian artist whose muse is Black women and their natural hair

Jamilah Rose-Roberts speaks to Oluwole Omofemi about his depictions of natural hair and their shared understanding of the African diaspora.

The Nigerian artist, Oluwole Omofemi certainly has a muse: the Black woman and her natural hair. For Omofemi, hair is a metaphor for freedom, power and identity, and through his wonderfully evocative portraits he seeks to uplift Black women to be themselves and embrace their individuality in equal parts. "My message concerning Black hair and Black women is unconditional and direct," says the artist, who recently gave the Queen a bold crown of black hair in a new Platinum Jubilee portrait. "For a long time African women have been deprived of many things because of their gender. My paintings aim to empower women to stand and fight for their constitutional rights."

Born in 1988 in South Lagos, Nigeria, to humble beginnings, Omofemi was singled out as a child for his artistic talents. Topping into the themes of his seminal work at a young age, he learnt about the civil rights and natural hair movement of the late 1960s and 1970s from the grandfather, who were an Afro. His grandfather's wisdom and guidance impressed on the young artist the importance of preserving culture, heritage and historical traditions, which is evident in his subjects. They are often adorned with hair-wrap Afros or have completely bald before hairstyles, as well as exuberant marks to identify their roots. As Omofemi puts it so eloquently: "Hair seeks volumes about our values and cultural heritage as Africans."

Here, the artist discusses the most of hair, how emotions influence his far-reaching creativity and his desire to champion female traditions.

READ FULL PUBLICATION

EXPRESS

Nigerian artist gives Queen 'bold halo of black hair' in new Platinum Jubilee portrait

The Queen's portrait will sit alongside portraits of each of the seven queens regnant of Britain, including the iconic Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I on loan from the National Library collection.

When working on this portrait, the artist said, he imagined he was "to find all the Queen" which helped him "connect with her" and explore "the essence" of the subject.

Of the 94-year-old monarch's coronation by the 34-year-old African painter he said "She is the longest reigning monarch, and when I look at her I see someone who has conquered life."

"She understands what she needs to do and she knows she can do it well."



Prince Charles spent a relaxed day in his garden with his horses.

With an AI? Board what? The Queen of the Year has a new look.

Let's hear it for the Queen of the Year who has a new look.

With an AI? Board what? The Queen of the Year has a new look.

With an AI? Board what? The Queen of the Year has a new look.

READ FULL PUBLICATION

FINANCIAL TIMES

Oluwole Omofemi's rapid rise to Nigerian art royalty

A portrait of the Queen for her platinum jubilee fuelled international recognition for the Ibadan artist



Vanguard

Omofemi Oluwole: How I was chosen to paint portrait of Queen Elizabeth II

June 24, 2022



READ FULL PUBLICATION

CONTACT

adebeyuu@gmail.com

oluwoleomofemi@gmail.com

+447551424492

www.oluwoleomofemi.com