

Profile

Isaac Erhabor Emokpae is a multi-faceted visual artist whose approach to art is rooted in the principle of duality.

He studied visual arts under Professor Abayomi Barber at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, where he honed his skills as a painter. His work primarily falls within the expressionism and surrealism art movements.

As an award-winning artist, Isaac has held numerous group and solo exhibitions both within and outside Nigeria.

His extensive portfolio boasts breathtaking and iconic artworks and images for a diverse range of clients.

Isaac remains highly selective about his work, dedicating his time between painting and his photography projects.

Additionally, he is an associate member of OHOS (Open Hands Open Space), an artist's collective based in Reading, UK.

Experience

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, THE ABBEY SCHOOL, READING, UK – 2023 - PRESENT

As the Artist in residence, I work in tandem with the art departments and the school as a whole to create a more holistic and engaging experience of the visual arts through after school workshops and clubs, advice and assistance on various creative projects.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, GALLERY AT THE LANDMARK, ONIRU, LAGOS – 2020 - PRESENT

I helped oversee the set up and running of the gallery. I am also responsible for the scouting, vetting and onboarding of Artists for events and exhibitions. My role entailed business-getting, maintaining close relationships with private collectors, public institutions and the trade, and introducing new clients from these emerging markets to the gallery as both consignors and buyers.

I also supervised the curator and gallery manager, through a variety of exhibitions to introduce new clients to the gallery.

LEAD ARTIST / CREATIVE DIRECTOR, YOUTOPIA CREATIONS, LEKKI 2, LAGOS – 2005 - 2020

I set up my Photography and Fine Art production company to streamline all my commercial creative work.

We have executed several large scale commissions and facilitated photo shoots for adverts, events, auctions and private commissions.

We also work on set design projects where I conceptualise and supervise the execution of key artistic and design works in various media, such as painting, murals, sculpture, stained glass, photography and draughting.

Exhibitions

2025 - Others (Group Exhibition) at O'DA Art Gallery, Samuel Manuwa Street, VI, Lagos, Nigeria

2025 - Abu Dhabi Art (Showing with O'DA Art gallery), Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

2025 - Nigeria Imaginary group exhibition at The Museum of West African Art (MOWAA), Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

2025 - Black Figuration, Group Exhibition at O'DA Art Gallery, Samuel Manuwa Street, VI, Lagos, Nigeria

2025 - Aken Scrolls exhibited in the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

2024 - Royal African Society Exhibition and Auction at Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) London, UK.

2024 - The Gathering Place, Salon Event at Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.

2024 - Breaking New Grounds Cambridge African Arts festival , Clay Farm Centre, Cambridge, UK.

2023 - FNB Johannesburg Art Fair (with O'DA Art), Johannesburg, South Africa.

2023 - Condition Critical, OHOS Artists, Reading, UK.

2023 - Feature and Participation in THE OTHER ART FAIR (Saatchi Art) Spring Fair, London

2022 - Feature and Participation in THE OTHER ART FAIR (Saatchi Art) Autumn Fair, London

2022 - Solo Exhibition "Are You Ashamed of Yourself" at O'DA Art Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

2021 - Group Exhibition "IN PROPORTION" at O'DA Art gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.

2021 - Solo Exhibition "IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE" at Gallery at The Landmark, Oniru, Lagos, Nigeria.

2021 - Group Exhibition "CORALS" at Victoria Hall, Reading Town Hall, Reading, UK.

2019 - Lead Artist representing Nigeria in a joint Arts exchange exhibition between The United Arab Emirates and The Federal Republic of Nigeria, at Alliance Francaise, Ikoyi, Lagos.

2018 - Live Art at Art X, Lagos (In Conjunction with A Whitespace Creative Agency, Lagos)

2017/18 - Solo Exhibition "TRANSPARENT" at Re.Le Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.

2015 - Group Exhibition "STRIP" at Re.Le Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.

2014 - Solo Exhibition "DUALITY" at The Wheat Baker, Lagos, Nigeria.

2014 - Solo Exhibition (Photography) " BODY ONLY" at Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria.

2010 - Group Exhibition "RECONSTRUCTION IN REVERSE" at Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.

2005 - Solo Exhibition "GENESIS" at Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria.

2002 - Group Exhibition "PROFESSOR ABAYOMI BARBER HONORARY EXHIBITION" at Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

2000 - Group Exhibition "CCIC VI Artists" at Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.

1996/97 - Group Exhibition " EXCHANGE OF OUR TREASURES" at UNESCO, Troyes, France.

1990 - Group Exhibition "PEACE ON EARTH (Save our Earth) at Lions Group, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Awards

2007 - Hasselblad Masters, Semi-Finalist.

1996 - UNESCO Exchange Our Treasures Art Competition.

Collections

Centre for Unesco, Louis Francois, Troyes, France.

Nigerian Bottling Company (NBC), Lagos, Nigeria.

Terra Kulture, Lagos, Nigeria.

AXA Mansard, Lagos, Nigeria.

The Wheat Baker, Lagos, Nigeria.

Northcourt RE, Lagos, Nigeria.

Deutsche Bank, Germany.

As well as works held in several private collections globally.

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Artist's Statement

My practice is driven by a fascination with duality, reflected in my Christian faith and Bini culture. These principles fuel my work.

My primary mediums are forms and colours. My style is a secondary mode, reverting to Abstract Expressionism, Realism or Surrealism depending on the message.

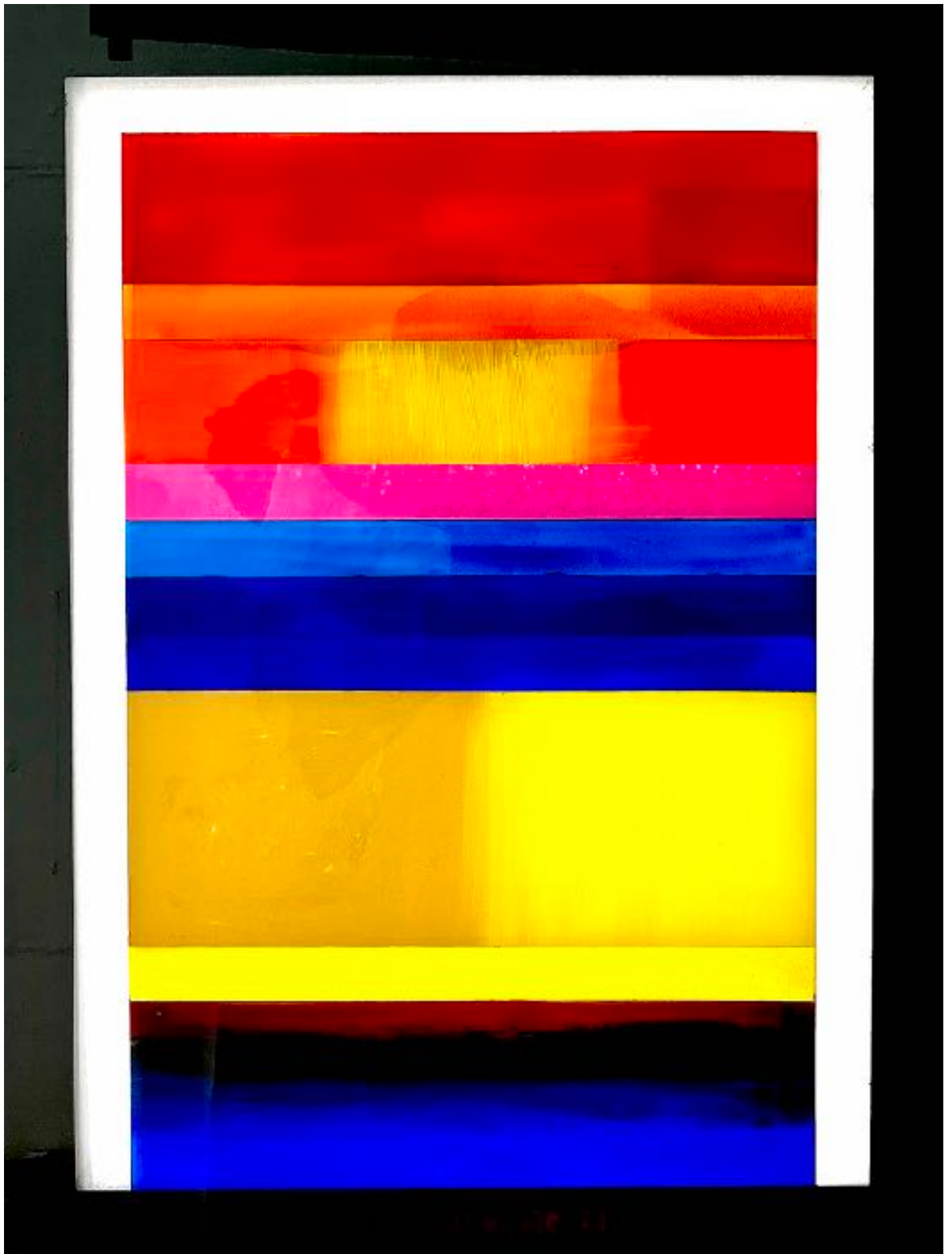
My process begins with written introspection on a single topic like joy or hate. I then translate these ideas into the style that best conveys the narrative.

I believe most of my conclusions are best expressed in non-representational forms. This allows me to explore the relationship between our emotions and the human soul. I hope my work connects deeply with the audience on a personal level, transcending generalised classifications. I create beauty and hope to inspire reflection on the most fundamental aspects of our humanity.

IMAGES OF MY WORK



Oil on Canvas / Children in The Big House / 65 X 65 inches (2024)



Stained Plexiglass / A Beautiful Sunrise 2 (Infinity Series) / 24 X 32 inches (2023)



Stained Plexiglass / Nigerian Flag - Faithful / 48 X 64 inches (2021)



Stained Plexiglass / A Day of Prosperity - Infinity Series / 48 X 32 inches (2021)



Bronze / FAMILY / 15 X 25 X 7 inches {Each} (2021)

