



EMAJOHI

EMALOHI IRUOBE



FIND YOUR WAY BACK
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025



ROOTED IN MY MOTHERS GARDEN
SCULPTURAL INSTALLATION
MIRROR, FLOWERS, EARTH
4FT BY 2FT



AFROPHONIC BINARY MOTHER
CERAMIC, WOOD, FLOWERS, FABRIC
15" x 5"
2024

Emalohi Iruobe is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and community organizer working across sculpture, film, installation, and assemblage. Her practice is shaped by her Nigerian heritage and rooted in the cultural, spiritual, and ancestral lives of African women. Her work meditates on the cyclical nature of life, ancestry, indigenous knowledge, the resilience of memory, and the enduring presence of ancestors in shaping identity and community.

Trained as a lawyer, she brings a research-oriented approach to her art which is grounded in both personal narrative and collective histories. Much of her work centers around **cloth as a bearer of memory**. She works with textiles (known as **Aso-Ebi** in Nigeria) collected by her late mother between **1980** and **2013**—as a way of **honoring her life** and illuminating the **often-invisible labor, contributions, creativity, and humanity of African women**. These materials have become the foundation of a personal archive that **Emalohi** continues to expand through participatory projects and community engagements.

Through her community-based work, she reclaims indigenous epistemologies while creating platforms for women's empowerment and storytelling. As the founder of **Tribe XX Lab**, Nigeria's first co-working, creative, and community space for women, she activates networks of care, resistance, and creation. Her work has been presented internationally, including at the Wits School of Architecture (South Africa), Schloss Balmoral (Germany) Goethe-Institut (Nigeria), Yinka Shonibare Foundation (Nigeria), King's College London (UK), Temple University (USA), Santa Fe Art Institute (USA), and the 2024 Lagos Biennial (Nigeria).



NOT ALONE, EVER INSTALLTION
CERAMIC, WOOD, FABRIC, ASO-OKE, LACE,
GLASS BLOCK
2020



KAYO KAJO-SOFT SCULPTURE
ROPE, WOOD, FABRIC, ASO-OKE
16 inches
2020



BAMI JO- SOFT SCULPTURE
 ROPE, FABRIC, ASO-OKE
 14 inches
 2020



ISESE
 LACE, ROPE FABRIC, ASO-OKE
 15 inches
 2020



EGUN GA
ROPE, FABRIC, ASO-OKE
22 INCHES
2020



ANCESTRAL CIRCLE IS THE UNENDING SUPPER - INSTALLATION
CERAMIC, WOOD, FLOWERS, FABRIC, WOOD, ASO-OKE
2020- 2024



"Ancestral Circle is the Unending Supper" is an installation of 9 sculptures and 9 chairs to signify the circle of life that all beings belong to. Within a family, from birth to death, the end of physical life continues as the dead become ancestors to the living and reincarnate into that same family.

This cyclical perspective is exemplified by Ifa, the Yoruba belief system, which posits that individuals are born into and ultimately return to the same family lineage. The installation thus invites contemplation on the interconnectedness of generations and the enduring presence of ancestors within the family circle.

The installation encourages visitor participation, inviting them to occupy the chairs within the circle and contemplate their place within the continuum of their ancestry and future lineage. This experiential element aims to foster a sense of connection to both past and future generations. Visitors are then invited to engage with two distinct prompts, recorded on separate note cards. The first prompt encourages reflection on their ancestors, providing space to document names, stories, memories, or other relevant information. The second prompt invites visitors to envision their descendants, expressing their hopes, prayers, affirmations, or poetic expressions for future generations.



NOTHING DIES
ASO-OKE, WOOD, WOOL, FLOWERS, CERAMIC, BEADS
7ft by 2ft



IRE LOYUN
FABRIC, DAMASK, WOOL, BEADS,
MIRROR, WOOD
7ft by 2ft



INNER LIGHT
FABRIC, RATTAN, WOOL, FLOWERS, CERAMIC
6x3ft
2023



SANGO
ASO-OKE, WOOD
8" x 14"
2023



ARMOUR I AND II
ACRYLIC WOOL, ASO-OKE WOOL
21"x 27"
2023



NOMA AND PET- GOOD AND PERFECT
FABRIC, WOOL, WOOD
9" x 14"
2023



ORI WU- THE BALANCING ACT
 DIMENSIONS VARIABLE
 FABRIC, STRING, ASO-OKE
 2020-2022



ANCESTOR TRAINING SCHOOL BY ANCESTORS FOR ANCESTORS-IN-TRAINING. INSTALLATION
CERAMIC, WOOD, FLOWERS, FABRIC, CONFETTI, ONION PACKAGING
2024



"Ancestor Training School by Ancestors for Ancestors-in-Training" is a sculptural installation comprising six figures that represent both ancestors and descendants. Drawing upon Yoruba spiritual technologies and incorporating vibrant colors, the work explores the concept of ancestral guidance, the transmission of knowledge and the enduring relevance of ancient wisdom for navigating the present and shaping a future.

Serving as a companion piece to "Ancestral Circle," this installation reflects on the cyclical nature of life and the universal transition to "ancestor-hood." It proposes that engaging in a form of "ancestor training" through adhering to indigenous practices and cultivating 'iwa pele' (good character) during one's lifetime prepares individuals to guide their descendants after their own passing.

The sculptures themselves have a unique history. They are recreations of an earlier project damaged in a flood. This second iteration, crafted from the same materials, was subsequently lost during travel, leaving only photographic documentation. This cycle of creation, loss, and recreation underscores the work's thematic focus on cycles, further connecting "Ancestor Training School" to the overarching narrative of "Ancestral Circle."



AFROPHONIC ORULA

13" x 5"

FABRIC, PLASTIC, ACRYLIC WOOL, CONFETTI

2024



IYA YANRAN YANRAN

13" x 5"

FABRIC, PLASTIC, ACRYLIC WOOL, ONION
PACKAGING, CONFETTI
2024



IFA-GALATIC ALANTAKUN
13" x 5"
FABRIC, PLASTIC, ACRYLIC WOOL, STICKERS, CONFETTI
2024





ORISUN IYA
13" x 5"
FABRIC, PLASTIC, ACRYLIC WOOL, CONFETTI, ONION
PACKAGING
2024



AKUNLEYAN OMO
13" x 5"
FABRIC, PLASTIC, DAMASK, ACRYLIC WOOL, ONION
PACKAGING, CONFETTI
2024





AFROPHONIC BINARY MOTHER
13" x 5"
CERAMIC, WOOD, FLOWERS, FABRIC, CONFETTI
2024





ORI WUU
13" x 5"
FABRIC, PLASTIC, DAMASK, ACRYLIC WOOL,
CONFETTI
2024



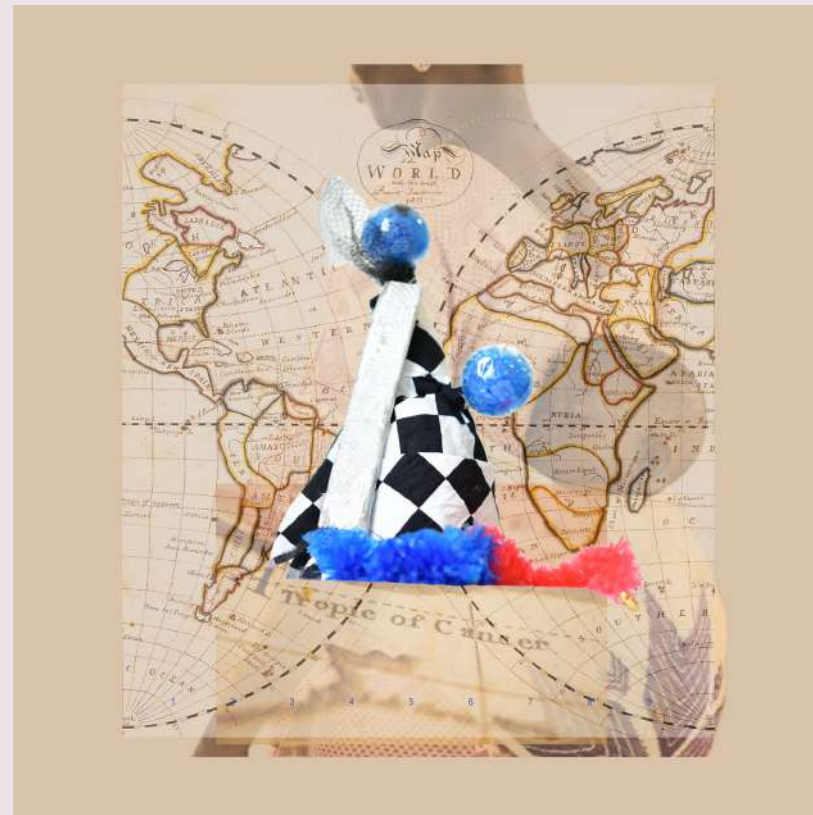
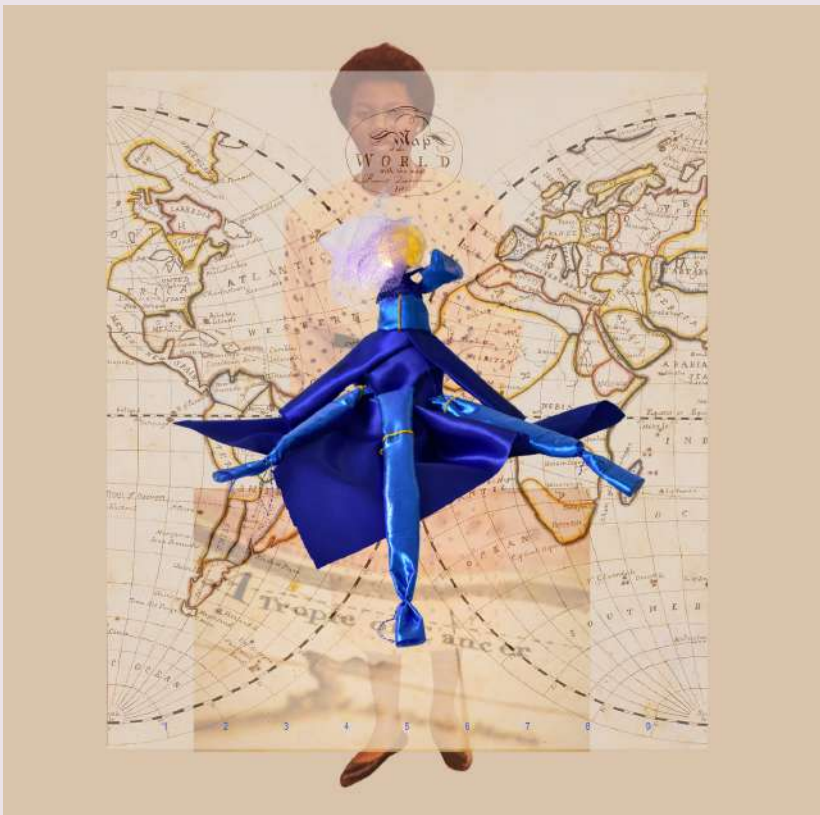








FAMILY ALTAR
SCULPTURE INSTALLATION
3FT X 1FT
WOOD, FABRIC, FIREMANS
BLANKET, CERAMIC, DRIED
FLOWERS
2024



"Ancestral Continuum" is my attempt to honor the **continuum of ancestral memory** through **digital collage**. While mourning the loss of the physical sculptures from **"Ancestor Training School,"** I found solace in the digital realm through collage. I wanted to explore how ancestral knowledge is not only inherited but also reimagined, especially in the digital age. I began this series by merging archival images of Yoruba people with photographs of the **"lost"** sculptures from **"Ancestor Training School,"** layering them onto two intersecting globes that meet at the equator. This imagery symbolizes the global reach and interconnectedness of indigenous thought, suggesting a unified world where traditional wisdom can inform and enrich our collective future. It speaks to the idea that ancestral beliefs are dynamic forces that transcend geographical and temporal boundaries.

By working with collage, I'm reflecting on what it means to recover, reconstruct, and revere what may have been lost or transformed. The work navigates Yoruba cosmology as living knowledge. Here, the past is not behind us—it is beneath, beside, and within. The ancestors are not static icons but active presences, shaping how we see, how we remember, and how we become. **Digital collage becomes ritual: a means of reconstruction after loss, reverence through reassembly.** As the original sculptures traveled, disappeared, and re-emerged through documentation, so too do these collages trace cycles of disappearance and return.



AKUNLEYAN OMO II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025

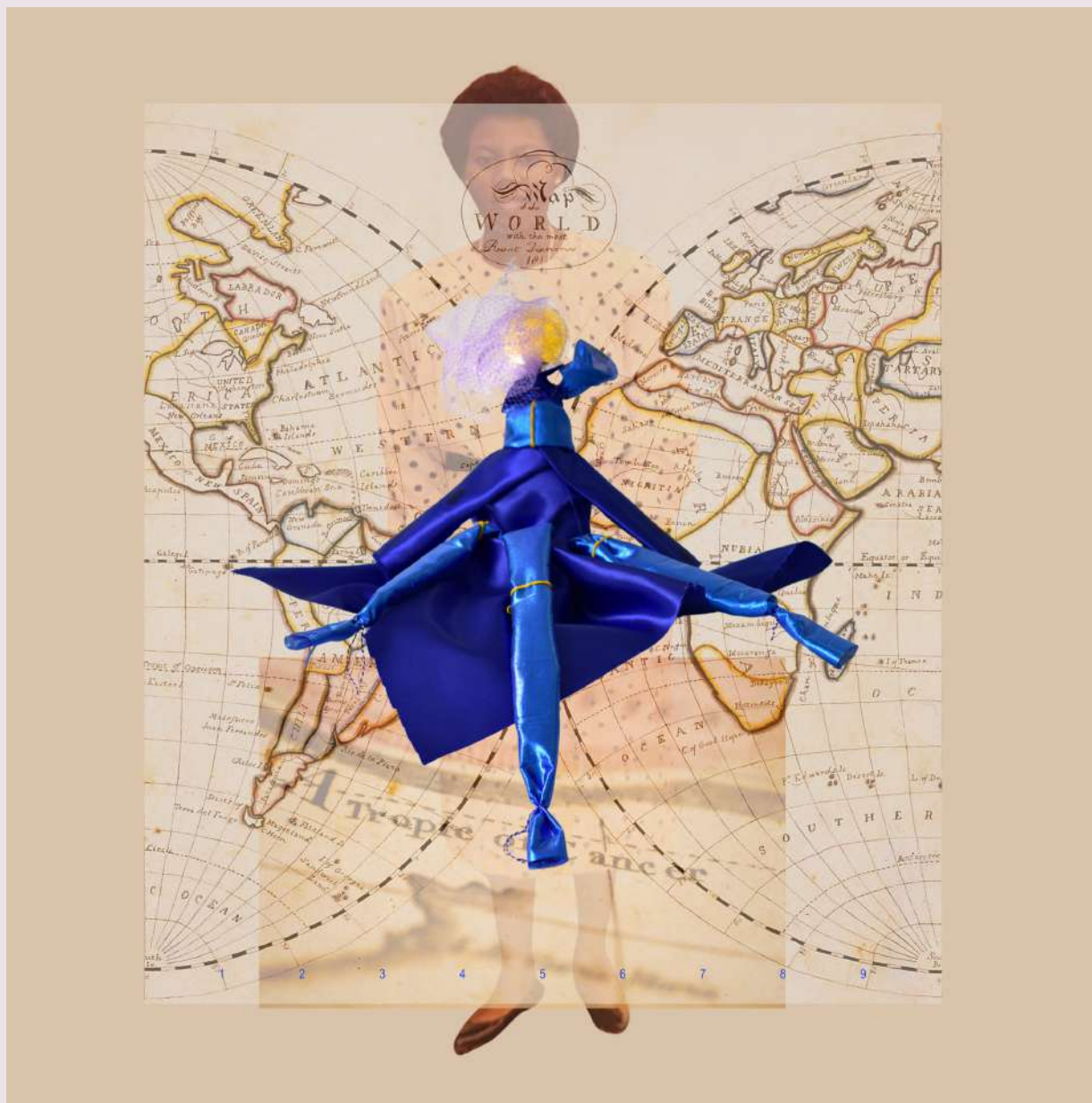


AFROPHONIC BINARY MOTHER II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025



AFROPHONIC ORULA II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025

ORISUN IYA II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025





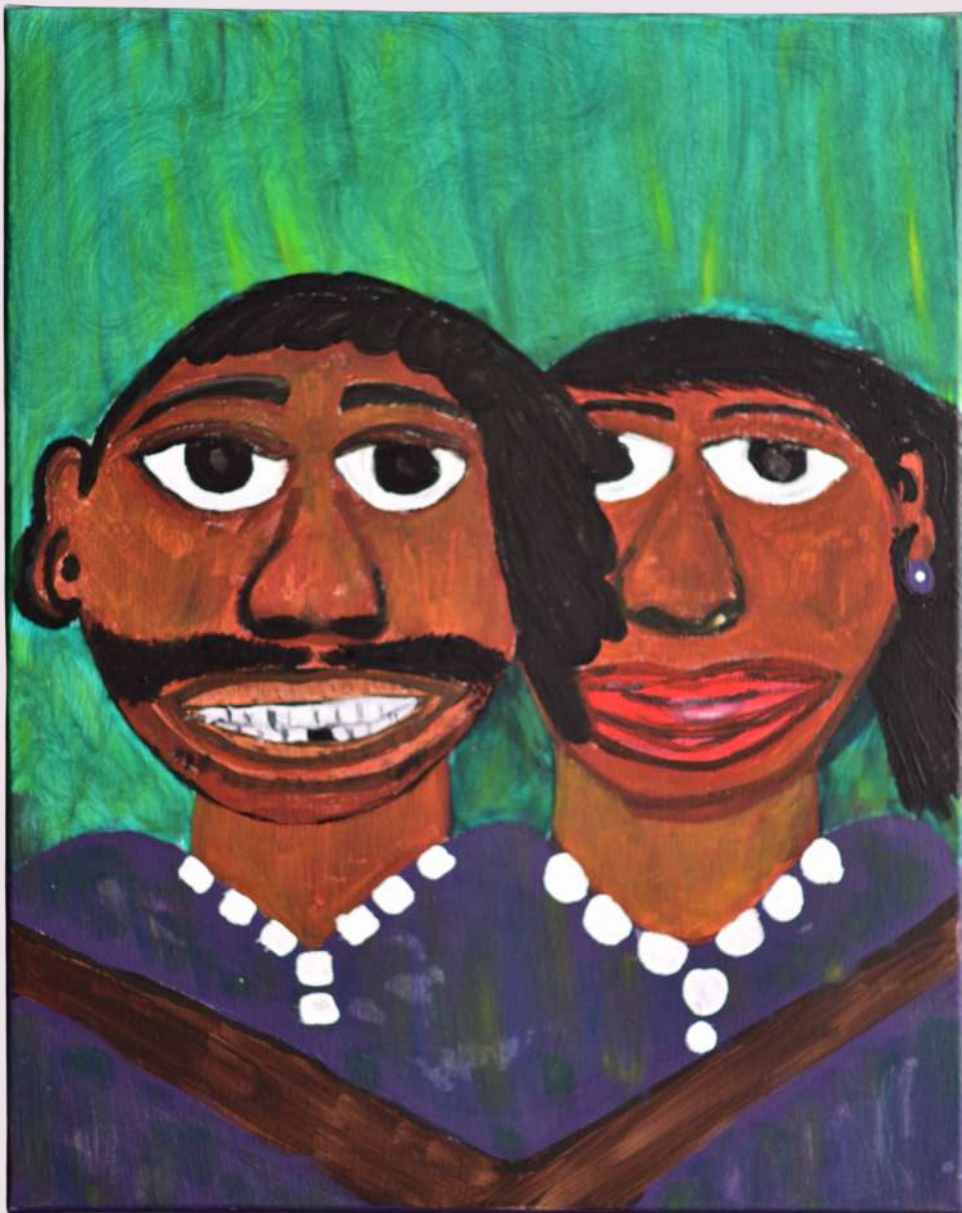
'FA-GALACTIC ALANTAKUN II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025



IYA YARAN YARAN II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025



ORI WU II
DIGITAL COLLAGE
PRINT ON GICLÉE PAPER
118.9 X 118.9 CM
2025



Not Alone, Ever is an ongoing portrait series of faces that emerge as **guides, ancestors, and protectors**, appearing each time I inhabit a new place. Though I do not know who they are, they arrive, often gently, sometimes urgently with humor, warnings, protection, stories and love, as a reminder that I am never alone, no matter where I migrate to in search of a place of settlement.

These portraits are styled in the form of passport photos and other mini studio photos that are carried in wallets, lockets, bibles and other personal shrines. These faces are a continuous homage for loved ones past, present and future.

ARE YOU THE FIRST???

16" x 20"

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

2022

IKOYI SERIES



MAJOR GENERAL PRINCE DADA
5" X 7"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2024
LA NAPOULE SERIES



NOTA FAKE TUPACO FLAKES
5" X 7"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2024
LA NAPOULE SERIES



THADDUES FRANKOLI DELAW
5" X 7"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2024
LA NAPOULE SERIES



DOKTO AUNTY INNOCENTINA
 5" X 7"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2024
 LA NAPOULE SERIES

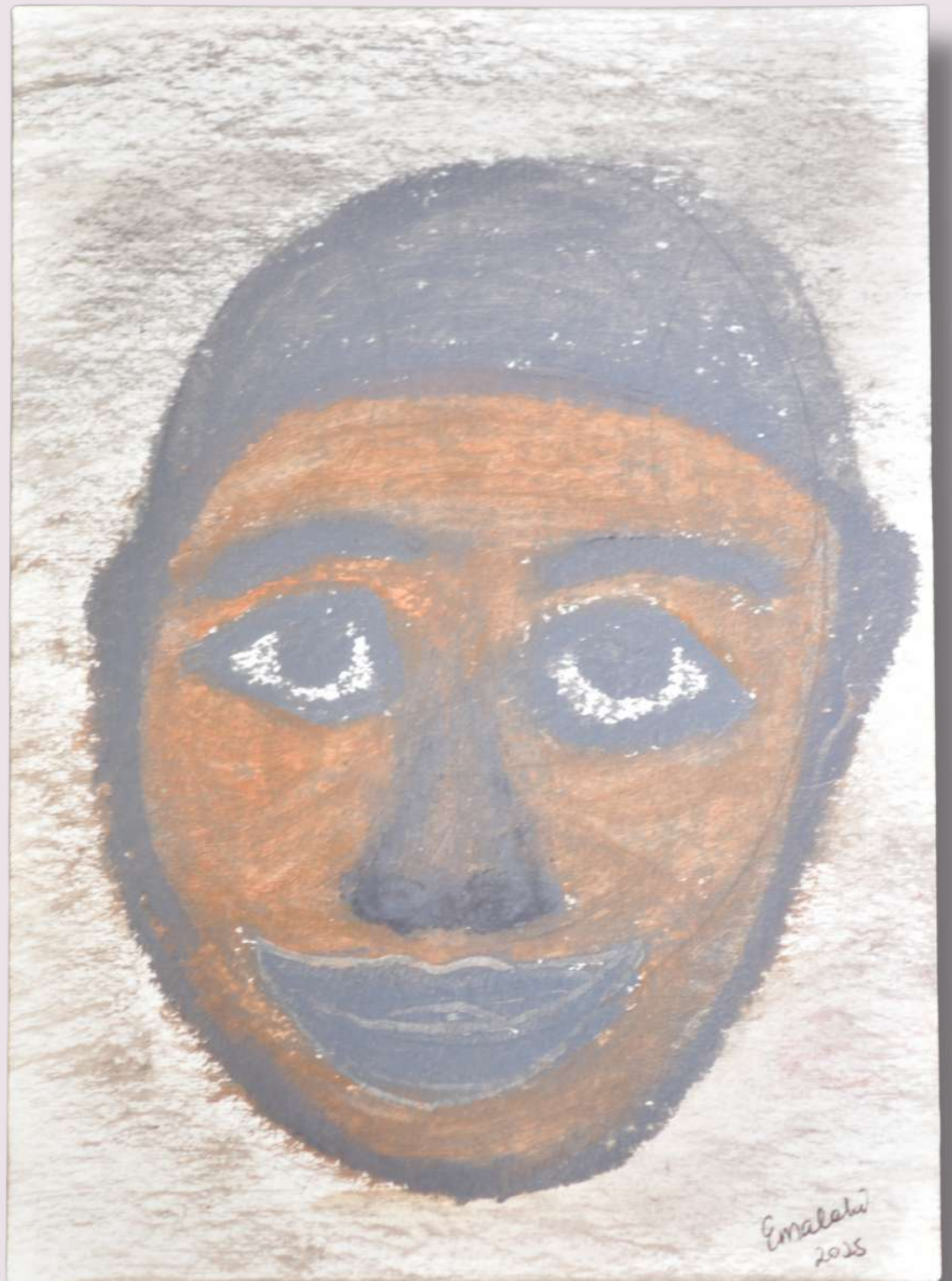


IFEYINKA JEJE
 5" X 7"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2024
 LA NAPOULE SERIES



HELHEL CU JAY OF OSOGBO
 5" X 7"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2024
 LA NAPOULE SERIES

OWENEHIZEHNMEN LOVES YOU
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES





**RICKY FROM THE GREEN SIDE
BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM ESU**
8" x 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



UNNAMED FOR NOW
8" x 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



EWE IFA COVERS YOU
8" x 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



THIS LOOKS LIKE BOBINATU
8" x 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



SUNSGONNASHINEONEVERYTHINGYOU DOO
 8" x 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



MAMA ROSALINA
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



LASER POINTERS NOT NIPPLES
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



THE COUNTINGWIZARD OF THAT
TIME
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



O YA, OYA!
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



I DONT KNOW YET
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



**RIGHTEOUSBELIEVER WANTS TO
SPIT ON YOU**
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC ON CARD
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



**WAS WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE
A CHILD OF 6,7,8 AND 9**
8" x 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



HERE TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR BEAUTY
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



**WE ARE ALL THE UNCLE TONY'S IN
YOUR LIFE**
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



**I COME BEARING KILLER ROSHAN
VIBES-GUARDIAN**
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



BABY DEE IS THE FIRST BABY HERE
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



IREDIWURA STARDUST; DO YOU,
 YOU ARE AMAZING
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CARD
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



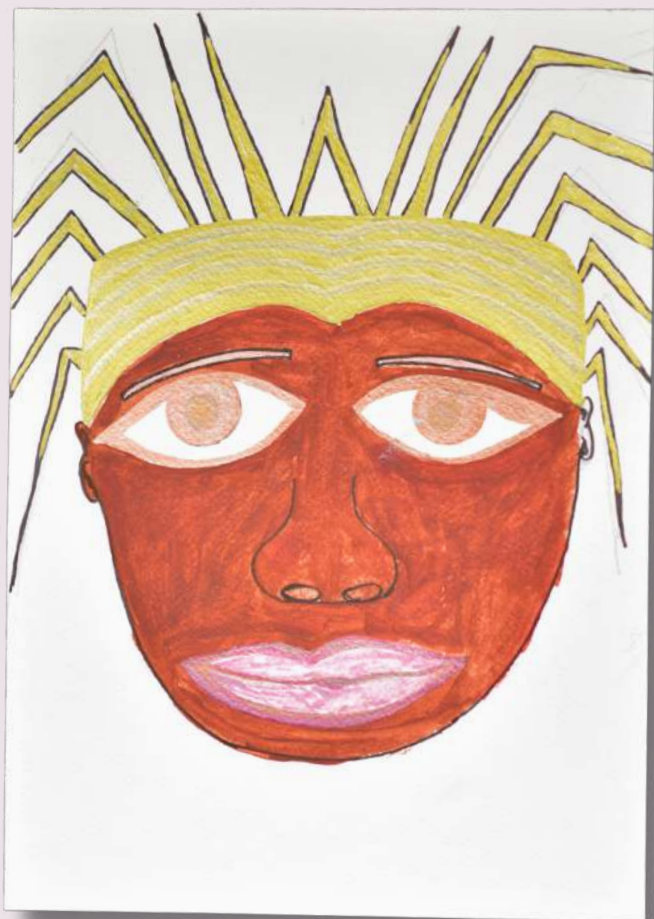
THIS IS BAYANO THAT PROTECTS
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



NEW LOVE CRISPY ENERGY
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



IYALODE OF AJE
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES

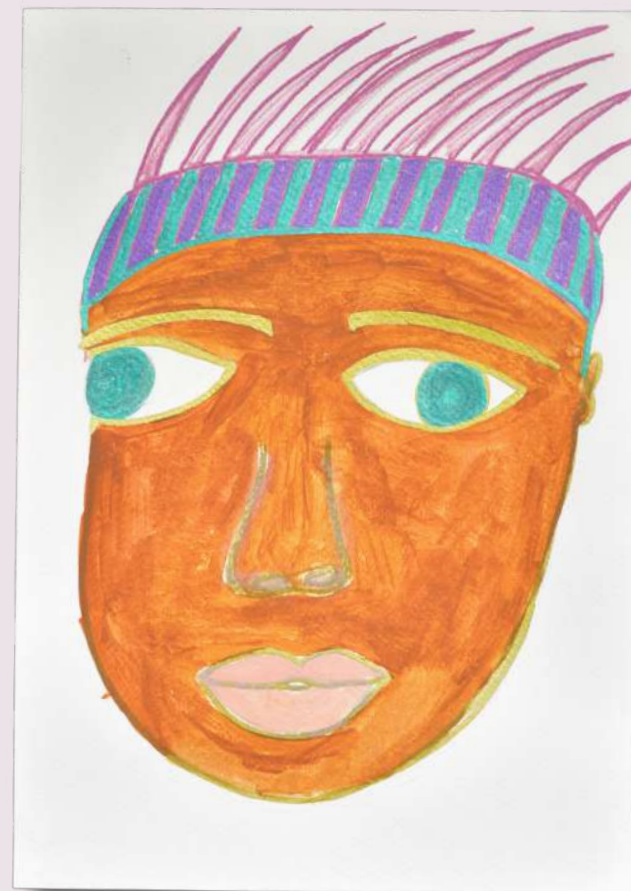


IFADIWURA ODI WURA

8" X 10"

ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
2025

MELVILLE SERIES



YOU CAN BE A BABY AND AN
ADULT AT THE SAME TIME

8" X 10"

ACRYLIC, MARKER ON PAPER
2025

MELVILLE SERIES



BABA AGBONIREGUN FOR WISDOM
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



HOLD YOUR HEAD UP
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



EKU OSE IFA
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



THE JAKPANATOR OF PEACE
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



YEJIDE TI DE
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



YOUR LIFE WILL BE SWEET
AND INTERESTING
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



HAVE NO FEAR
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
SANDTON SERIES



GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY PICKLEBALL
WITH YOUR CHILDREN
8" X 10"
ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
CANSON 400G
2025
MELVILLE SERIES



HAPPY; BECOS OF ADEYS RINGTONE
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
 CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



**ORI/CHI WITH YOU FOREVER
 AND EVER**
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
 CANSON 400G
 2025
 MELVILLE SERIES



**JULIUS OF COMPETENCE,
 CONSISTENCY AND SECURITY**
 8" X 10"
 ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON
 CANSON 400G
 2025
 SANDTON SERIES



FOR FAMILY FULLY FOURLY FOREVERLY

8" X 10"

ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G

2025

MELVILLE SERIES



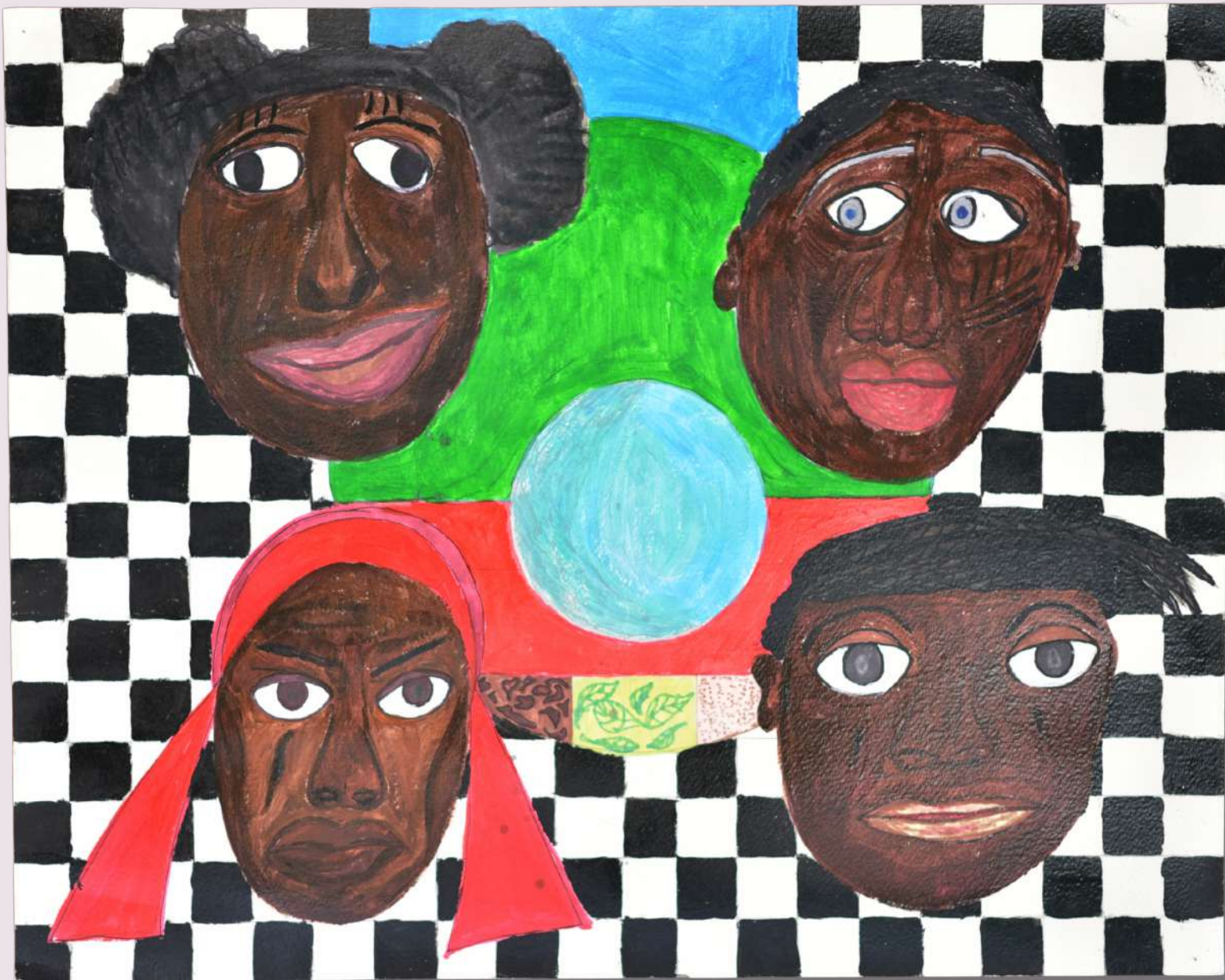
EKUNDAYO AND APEKE GO TO JAPAN, OSOGBO AND MANDAGU

16" X 20"

ACRYLIC AND MARKER ON CANSON 400G

2023

SANTA FE SERIES



KEEP CALM EGBE IS WITH YOU

16" X 20"

ACRYLIC, OIL PASTEL ON CANSON 400G

2025

SANTA FE SERIES



ABORU, ABOYE, ABOSISE

8" X 10"

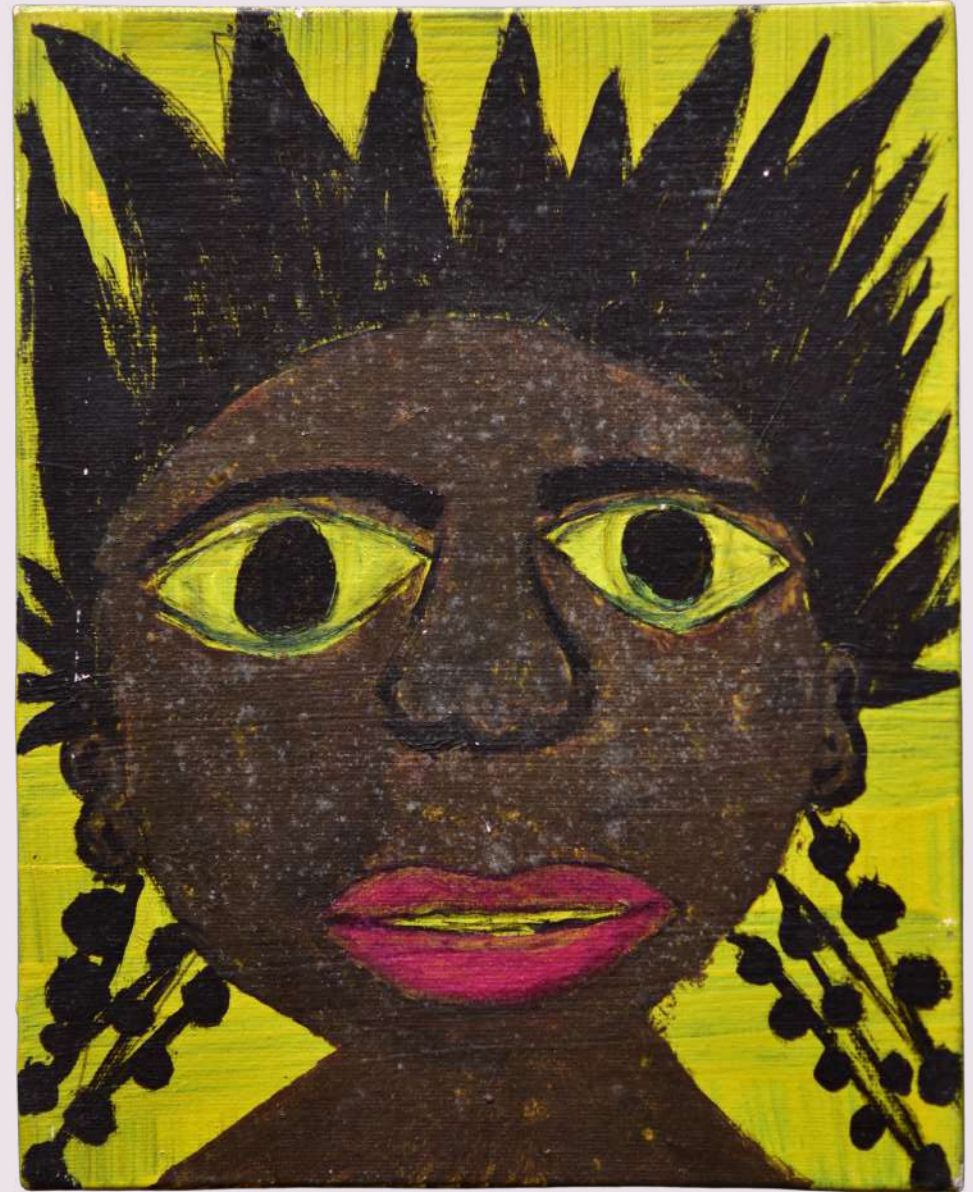
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

2024

IKOYI SERIES



ITS A FISH, ITS A BIRD, ITS EEGUN
 8" x 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
 2023
 MAPLEWOOD SERIES



I AM SOMEONES MOTHER
 8" x 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
 2022
 IKOYI SERIES



MAMA OFALL LOVES ALL
2" X 4"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
BIBLE SERIES



YOU KNOW WHAT THAT
TEENYWEENYFRO MEANS
2" X 4"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
BIBLE SERIES



HONESTLY, I'M STILL
FIGURING IT OUT.
2" X 4"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
BIBLE SERIES



SISTER SENGESENGE SOFTLY
SOFTLY CATCH MONKEY
2" X 4"
ACRYLIC ON CANSON 400G
2025
BIBLE SERIES



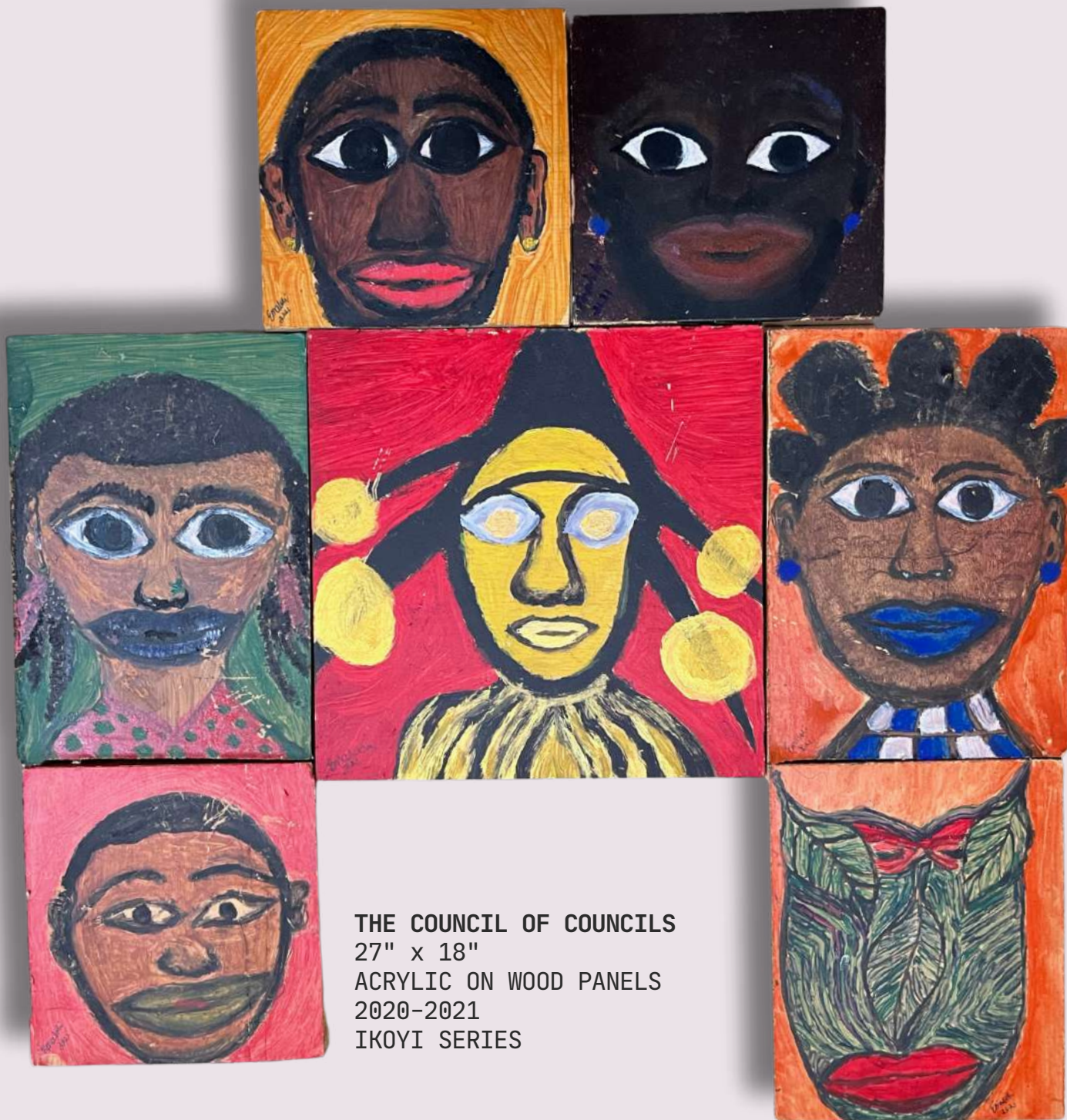
YOUR AFROMUDA SINGS
 15" X 12"
 ACRYLIC ON WOOD
 2023
 IKOYI SERIES



SANGO ASKED YOU TO DANCE
 8" x 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
 2023
 MAPLEWOOD SERIES



THEY THINK I'M THEIR WITCH DOKTO
 8" x 10"
 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
 2023
 MAPLEWOOD SERIES



THE COUNCIL OF COUNCILS
27" x 18"
ACRYLIC ON WOOD PANELS
2020-2021
IKOYI SERIES

TEMPLE OF MY FAMILIAR
ACRYLIC ON BOARD
53" X 41"
2021
IKOYI SERIES





AUNTY GIMME CAKE

ACRYLIC ON BOARD
40" X 20"

2021

IKOYI SERIES



16" X 20"

AKRYLIC ON CANVAS

2022

IKOYI SERIES

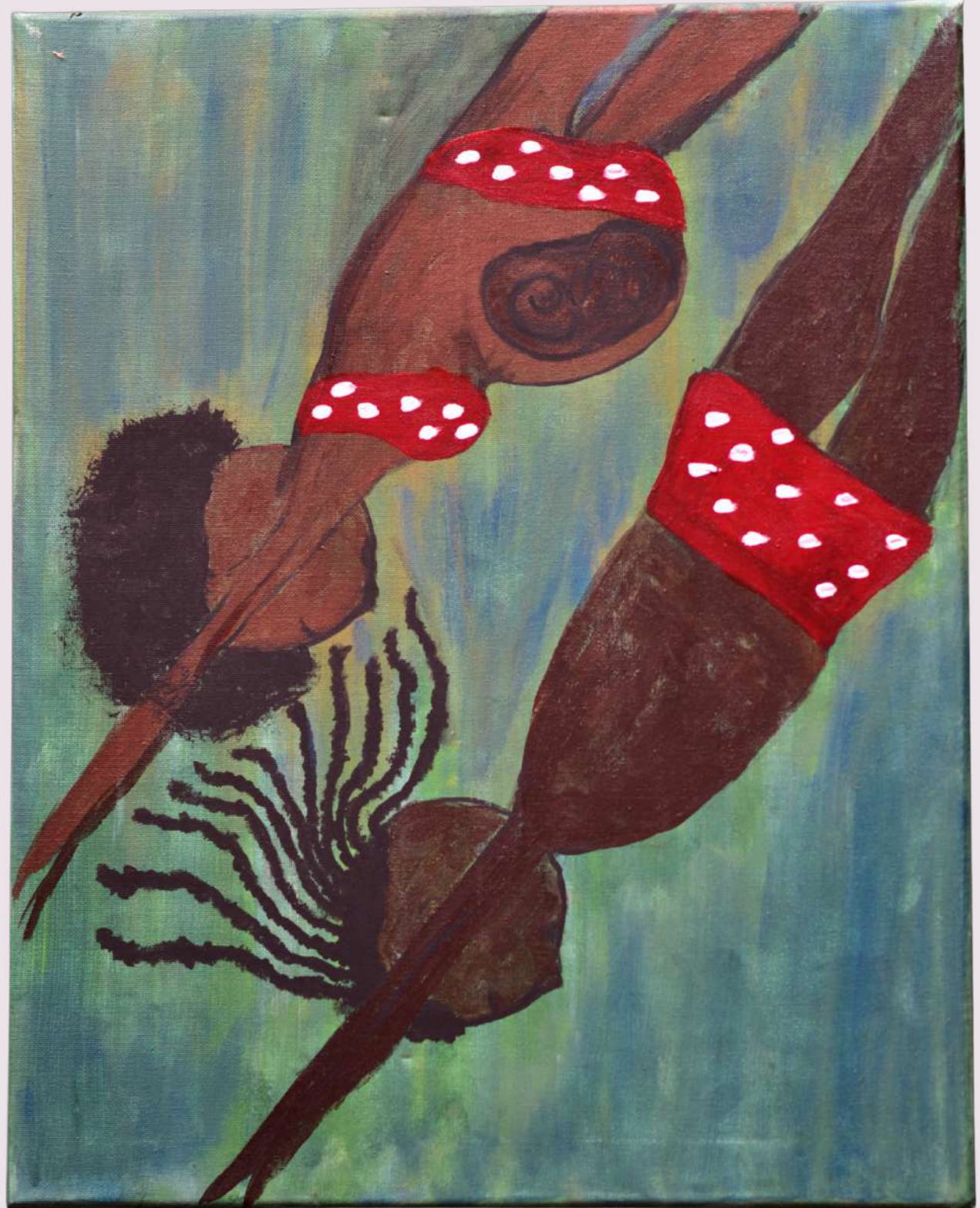
16" X 20"

AKRYLIC ON CANVAS

2022

IKOYI SERIES

HEY, COME GET YOUR BABIES
16" X 20"
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
2023
IKOYI SERIES



IBEJI IS ACTUALLY 4
BECAUSE OF EGBE
16" X 20"
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
2025
SOUTH ORANGE SERIES





DANCING GELEDE IN THE FIELD

16" X 20"

ACRYLIC AND MARKER ON CANSON 400G

2025

SANDTON SERIES



IN THE BEGINNING
16" X 20"
ACRYLIC WOOL ON WOOD
2021

EMALOHI IRUOBE

www.emalohi.com

SELECTED GRANTS/AWARDS

2022 Echoing Green Social Innovation Challenge. Winner

2025 Springfield Avenue Public Utility Mural Competition. Winner

COMMUNITIES/ORGANIZATION

Tribe XX Lab. Established 2018. Tribe XX Lab

Represent Black Girls. Established 2022 RBG

UPCOMING RESIDENCIES

2025 BlaxTARLINES, Kumasi Ghana

RESIDENCIES

2024 Schloss Balmoral, Bad Ems Germany

2024 Santa Fe Art Institute. Sovereignty Residency. New Mexico, USA

2023 The Little Brain Lab. South Orange, New Jersey, USA

2023 Sahel Studios. Abuja, Nigeria

2022 Cité International des Art Paris, France

EXHIBITIONS

2025 "Tropical Ontology" Kings College, London, United Kingdom

2025 "Tropical Ontology" Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2024 "Whose Monuments?" Schloss Balmoral, Bad Ems, Germany

2024 "Renewing damaged threads" Schloss Balmoral, Bad Ems, Germany

2024 "Sovereignty Set" Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2024 "Reclaiming Our Names." The Goethe Institute. Lagos, Nigeria

2024 "Petrichor." The Lagos Biennial. Lagos, Nigeria

2024 "Folarin Fifasese" Schloss Balmoral, Bad Ems, Germany

2024 "Irin Aajo:Virtual Reality, Actual Migrants." Arrondissements in Paris. Paris, France

2024 "Irin Aajo: Ejioybe Ifagbamila." La Napoule Art Foundation. Mandelieu-La Napoule, France

2023 "Trust the Dust." Sahel Studios. Abuja, Nigeria

2022 "NIRI" ati "IRIN APEKE." Tribe XX Lab. Lagos, Nigeria

2022 "The Abele Premise." Film Screening. Cité Internationale des Arts. Paris, France

2022 "NIRI" ati "IRIN APEKE." Tribe XX Lab. Lagos, Nigeria

2022 "Aso là 'nkí, kí a tó ki èniyàn – We greet the cloth before we greet its wearer". Guest Artist Space Foundation by Yinka Shonibare Farm House. Ogun, Nigeria.

2021 "A Haiku and A Tanka For We Dem." Tribe XX Lab. Lagos, Nigeria.

TALKS/WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

2024 "Subversive Threads and Dadaism" Arp Museum. Rolandseck, Germany

2024 "Engaging Sovereignty through names, hair and gender" Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, USA

2024 "Reclaiming Our Names." The Goethe Institute. Lagos, Nigeria

2023 "Naming Practices in Hip-Hop and Black Culture." Temple University. Philadelphia, PA

2022 "Bystander Intervention on Campus." Gender Mobile Initiative. Abuja, Nigeria

2021 "Journey Through an African Colony with Olasupo Shasore." Miliki. Lagos, Nigeria

I use my art as a speculative world building tool in order to understand the realities of my life's journey.

Using sculpture, installations, assemblage, performance and several multimedia tools, I propose different social realities, alternative futures, communal and ancestral ways of being as a way to create and include myself in the future I want to see.

My work is deeply personal, deliberately collective and thoroughly focused on reaching beyond individual experience in order to build personal archives and forge unexpected collaborations that challenge artistic boundaries.

-Emalohi Iruobe

