

# EVE

ari exhibition

curated by Adekepeti Aderemi



EVE.

*Art Exhibition.*

ADEKEPEMI ADEREMI  
NOLA AYOOLA  
JACQUELINE ADESEKE

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# EVE CURATORIAL STATEMENT

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In the beginning, there was Eve – the first woman, the mother of all, the genesis of our existence.

Not merely as a historical figure, but as a timeless symbol of womanhood, Eve has been reimagined and reanimated in Adekepemi Aderemi's debut curatorial exhibition. Held in the vibrant heart of Nigeria, the week-long commemoration "EVE" is a collective ode to the strength, beauty and essence of femininity, a celebration of resilience that stands unwavering in the face of challenges.

Come into our sanctuary, where the diverse creative voices of Nigerian women converge. Through mediums ranging from painting to ceramics, drawing to sculpture, figurative and abstract, these talented artists weave a tapestry of narratives that delve into the multifaceted nature of womanhood.

This exhibition is a testament to the power of art as a vehicle for social discourse. "EVE" challenges viewers to confront and question preconceived notions about what it means to be a woman. Through this exhibition, the artists unveil a mosaic of experiences challenging us to appreciate the depth and distinctiveness, the resilience and softness of womanhood. The works on display transcend canvas and clay, inviting us to ponder the struggles faced by women, the battles we fight, and the victories we achieve.

As women across the world navigate the intricacies of gender bias and inequality, "EVE" emerges as a catalyst for change. It is a call to action, urging us to dismantle societal norms that perpetuate injustice and to welcome a future where the strength of a woman is celebrated, not suppressed. A visual symphony that resonates with the viewer, stirring emotions and sparking conversations, "EVE" serves as a beacon, illuminating the resilience, creativity, and dynamism that define the feminine spirit.

In the end, "EVE" is an impassioned call to embrace, uplift, and honour the women in our lives and beyond. It is a plea for a world where every woman is celebrated for her uniqueness. The varying ways in which the female form is represented and explored by our artists highlights the diversity and uniqueness and limitlessness of women. In "EVE" we are revered, and the essence of womanhood is cherished.

# ADEKEPEMI ADEREMI

Adekepemi Aderemi's career as an artist began with a journey of self-development and improvement by studying and recreating her surroundings in her own way. Through her work Adekepemi has created a context for herself; a space in which she feels comfortable – she finally belongs.

In her debut exhibition, *Portals at Alara*, Adekepemi's work was characterised by its brooding colours and circular patterns, as she has continued her journey of self-discovery, her evolving mood, attitude and perception of life can easily be seen throughout her new pieces. She favours brighter and bolder colours, whilst she continues to be inspired by the natural world around her (trees, seascapes, sky etc), she is beginning to explore people, man-made structures, buildings, distressed walls, graffiti etc), and journaling has become a huge aspect of her recent works too.

As a textiles graduate from the University of Loughborough School of Art and Design, Adekepemi Aderemi is versed in several art and textiles processes, including drawing, painting, mark-making, machine stitch, and linoleum printing, which all feature heavily in her work. Acrylic paints are also an increasing focal point in her larger works. For example in her recent collection, *Woven Threads*, the mask-style self portraits painted on the glass are the main subjects, with the framed prints serving as elaborately detailed backgrounds. In addition to these above techniques, Adekepemi has also recently begun producing sculptures, created using wire rods, as well as figure paintings.

With her debut curatorial exhibition, Adekepemi now focuses on figurative expressions, evolving from her usual abstract artistry. In a body of work that commemorates self-development through introspection, this figurative approach encourages viewers to look beyond the self, to the art within.

Adekepemi's work allows her to express herself with an honesty and vulnerability that she would typically have found uncomfortable in real life situations. It is important to her that those who follow her journey and her art see her breakthrough and subsequent development and can resonate with it or even feel a sense of reassurance from it – it is possible to pull yourself out of these dark spaces. She has done it.

# ADEKEPEMI

## ***A Heart of Flesh***

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

40" x 58"

Acrylic on Canvas

2023

N 2, 500, 000



## ***Turn Away***

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.*

40" x 58"

Acrylic on Canvas

2023

N 2, 500, 000







## **She. Is. Woman**

*She shall be called woman.*

22" x 30"

Acrylic on Canvas

2023

**N 1, 100, 000**



## **She. Is. Perfect**

*Fearfully and wonderfully made.*

22" x 30"

Acrylic on Canvas

2023

**N 1, 100, 000**



## **EVE**

*Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

22" x 30"

Acrylic on Canvas

2022

**N 750, 000**



## **Unbreakable**

*Strength and honour are her clothing; she is confident about the future.*

22" x 30"

Acrylic on Canvas

2023

**N 650, 000**

# ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE ME

## THE BEGINNING: DIAGNOSIS & CONCEPT ...

In 2019 I began a journey of self love and body positivity by drawing self-portraits of my nude body. See, I had put on a little weight and as the scales increased my self confidence plummeted. As soon as I realised the correlation, I had to check myself and means of doing this was to change how I viewed my body. My body is amazing for all the functions she performs, for all the ways she protects me and because of how she looks, regardless of how she looks.

## DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

Posting a new nude drawing (almost) every Wednesday for the next eight months, the positive psychological impact of the art was immediately palpable. The women who had contributed loved how their bodies looked as drawings, and this transcended into how they viewed themselves in real life. Even those who hadn't taken part gained image positivity as they could see their body types represented as a work of art.

This forms the basis of the Woman Crush Wednesday mirror installation. As our viewers take in the artistic depiction of women in their most vulnerable states, they are encouraged to analyse their experience by literally taking a look in the mirror, spending as much time in the exhibition as they need to fall in love with what they see.

## REMEDY & TRIUMPH

As my personal project progressed I started talking about my nude artwork more – to family and to friends. What I quickly discovered is that most women suffer from these insecurities. We do not see how beautiful, and powerful our bodies really are. So I decided to expand my project to include other women, to encourage them to also view their bodies as the works of art they truly are. Thus The WCW Series was born. Initially I was convinced women would be too shy to share their pictures or would find the whole thing a bit too risqué but I couldn't have been more wrong. As I began posting the drawings of myself and my family and close friends who had contributed to the series, women from all around the world absolutely loved it and were more than happy, in fact excited, to contribute.



# ADEKEPEMI X ADEKEMI OLUGBADE



***Flesh of My Flesh***

30 cm x 50 cm (approx.)

Clay

2023

(Price Available on Request)



***Renewal***

50 cm x 90 cm (approx.)

Clay

2023

(Price Available on Request)



## ***Formed From Clay I***

30 cm x 50 cm (approx.)

Clay

2023

(Price Available on Request)



## ***Formed From Clay II***

40 cm x 50 cm (approx.)

Clay

2023

(Price Available on Request)



# NOLA AYOOLA

Nola Ayoola is a multidisciplinary artist whose works are her visual journal.

Through sculptures, portraiture, woven and cut out abstract compositions they encapsulate the philosophy that 'you cannot understand what you cannot pull apart.' Her works are an observation of her heritage and its profound impact on her identity by storytelling through varying lenses in which she sees and imagines, while connecting to and interpreting objects.

Nola's work is both theoretically and physically layered as a core voice, it's a study of dismantling, while telling stories of interconnection and the synchronisation between the past, present and what is to come. She describes her work as reticulations of the state of dreams and experiences.

Highlighting the varying complexities of identity, she is heavily triggered by hyper-sensory processing of sensitivity and synesthesia – naturally connecting sounds, colours and emotions to each other, it allows her to capture essence.

Nola's visual languages pay homage to traditional African craftsmanship practices – hand dyed indigo to carved block printing and weaving. The process of hand printing backgrounds (an ode to Yoruba carving techniques and traditional Adire textiles) holds equal importance to the subjects.

Whilst constructing/ deconstructing; her works celebrate representation and shared narratives. She is nurturing recurring themes of her interpretations of womanhood, social constructs of gender, human interaction with communities and environments, Yoruba tradition, spirituality, individualism, auras and the seen/ unseen.

## **Burning Firewood**

*Ilarun Combs.*

*Made using dry aged 7+ years*

*Sapele Wood*

62" x 22.5" (approx.)

Hand-carved wood sculpture. Black  
Stained Wood.

2023

(Price Available on Request)



## **Olola**

*Ilarun Combs.*

*Made using dry aged 7+ years*

*Sapele Wood*

62" x 22.5" (approx.)

Hand-carved wood sculpture. Brown  
Stained Wood.

2023

(Price Available on Request)





## *In The Beginning I*

29.5 cm x 30cm

Woven archival paper collage, oil pastel, ink pencil

2023

**\$ 1, 100**



## *In The Beginning II*

30 cm x 32cm

Woven archival paper collage, oil pastel, ink pencil

2023

**\$ 1, 100**



## *In The Beginning III*

22 cm x 27cm

Woven archival paper collage, oil pastel, ink pencil

2023

**\$ 580**



# JACQUELINE ADESEKE

Jacqueline Adeseke, a dynamic contemporary artist hailing from Lagos, captivates audiences with her unique artistic expression. Rooted in a diverse array of inspirations, her work revolves around the profound appreciation and celebration of black women. Central to her identity is the embodiment of her hair, intricately woven into the fabric of her texture-centric paintings.

Adeseke's art is a testament to her emotional depth, each piece serving as a visual narrative that evolves alongside the artist herself. Her canvas becomes a medium for the exploration of identity, culture, and the vibrant spirit of black womanhood. With every stroke, Adeseke invites viewers into a world where emotions are vividly expressed, and the essence of her subject matter is beautifully unveiled.

As she continues to evolve, so too does her body of work. Adeseke's art is a celebration of the human experience, a vibrant tapestry that reflects the resilience, strength, and beauty of black women.



***Don't Touch My Hair***

48" x 42"

Oil on Canvas

2023

N 1, 300, 000



***Broke(n) Alone***

25" x 25"

Oil on Canvas

2023

N 250, 000



***Backing Ima***

36" x 48"

Oil on Canvas

2023

**N 1, 000, 000**



***Bantu Dreaming***

27" x 27"

Oil on Canvas

2023

**N 270, 000**

## ***Sisters Not Twins***

60" x 48"

Oil on Canvas

2023

**N 1, 800, 000**



## ***Amina's View***

25" x 25"

Oil on Canvas

2023

**N 250, 000**



## ***Flower Eyes***

25" x 25"

Oil on Canvas

2023

**N 250, 000**





# MEET THE ARTISTS

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## ADEKEPEMI ADEREMI

Multi-disciplinary Artist & Curator

Beginning her career with a journey of self-development and improvement, this artist is inspired by her surrounding environment to create works that express her inner musings with a vulnerability only art can capture.

@kepemia



## NOLA AYOOLA

Multi-disciplinary Artist

A multidisciplinary artist, whose works are her visual journal, in her artistry, this artist highlights the varying complexities of identity, as she believes, 'you cannot understand what you cannot pull apart.'

@nolaayoola\_



## JACQUELINE ADESEKE

Contemporary Artist

Captivating audiences with her unique artistic expression, this artist's art revolves around her profound appreciation and celebration of black women.

@adeseke.art

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This exhibition is dedicated, firstly, to my beloved Nene; the most amazing woman I ever had the pleasure of knowing. I am most blessed to have called you my grandma. Today, 1st December, would've been her 83rd birthday. Nene, I love you dearly and miss you more than words can express. May your soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

And to all the absolutely wonderful, supportive, encouraging, caring, loving women in my life, thank you! Alongside my Big Bro, my hero (the only man getting a special mention), you all continually push me to be the best version of myself, you've always believed in me and encouraged me to believe that there's quite literally nothing I cannot do if I just put my mind to it. You all inspire me every single day, and my life is just that little bit easier knowing I have you in my corner. ♥

Many thanks also to my incredible sponsors, both public and private. Your generosity and support of the exhibition are greatly appreciated!



**arra**  
VINEYARDS

**Femme  
Africa**





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# EVE

art exhibition

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e: [adekepemi.aderemi@gmail.com](mailto:adekepemi.aderemi@gmail.com)

t: 0818 623 4028