



The Olaju Art Group

# PERSPECTIVES FROM WITHIN

Featuring:

Temí Coker

Juliana Kasumu

Logor Muiwa

# Exhibition Summary

West Africa is home to an emerging class of visual artists, looking to redefine a negative perception of the region. Within the current over-saturation of unfavorable portrayals regarding African culture, there are often misconceptions instilled into viewers about what Africa “really” looks like. In an attempt to break down these debilitating cultural barriers, “Perspectives from Within” explores the diverse richness of culture and beauty present in modern day Africa. All images within this collection have been captured through the lenses of three unique Nigerian photographers who share their perspectives to display what they believe depicts the true identity of Nigeria.

# Temi Coker

Temi is a freelance photographer, graphic designer and high school teacher in the Dallas/Fort Worth area who at the age of 11 left his home in Lagos, Nigeria, and relocated with his family to Texas, where he continues to live and work today. He aspires to capture moments that people can cherish for a lifetime and his style focuses on storytelling. Photography to him is more than just taking pictures, it's a voice in which he has chosen to use to tell captivating stories and allow people to feel what he once felt himself.

In his series of digital photographs titled "*Temi X Nigeria*"; Temi, shares images which positively capture the essence of Nigerian people living in Lagos; a perspective which is not displayed in the media. His goal in this body of work is to allow viewers to see and visually experience the unique character of everyday Nigerian life through his eyes. This collection shows the diversity, beauty, and zeal of the people in Nigeria, with each image telling a different story about a single fleeting moment in time.







# Juliana Kasumu

Juliana Kasumu is a photographer based in both London and the West Midlands, who uses traditional photography methods to shoot her subjects. Working between portraiture, documentary as well as fashion, Juliana's work often highlights issues surrounding themes of race, femininity and identity relating to the African Diaspora, and her identity as a Black British Nigerian.

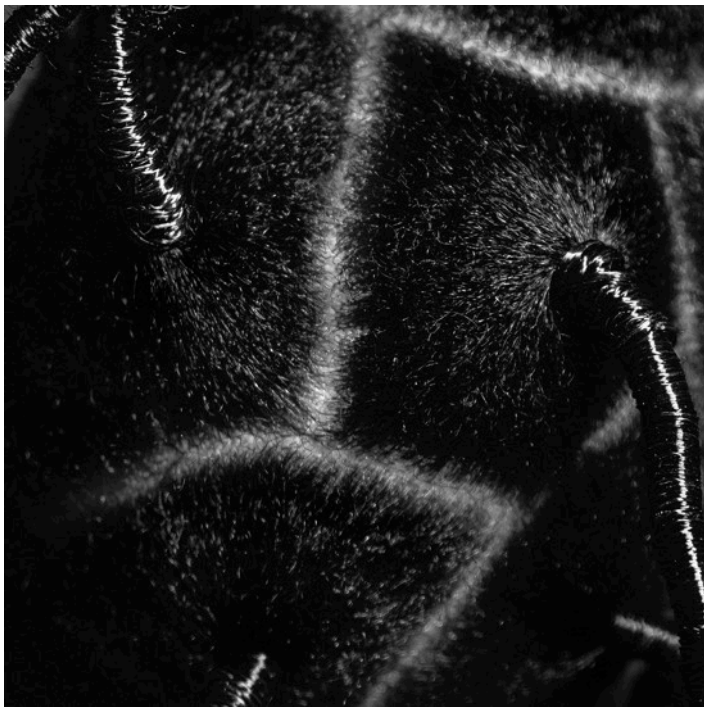
In her series titled "*Irun Kiko*"; Juliana explores the original Nigerian method for hair threading, which originates within the Yoruba tribe from West Africa, hence its Yoruba name. This project refers specifically to the contemporary African symbology of traditional hairstyles, by exploring issues of identity and looking at the translation of local African hairstyles within the contemporary society, predominantly within fashion and pop culture trends.

This on-going project, influenced by the work of late J.D Ojeikere, is a conversational piece, looking into ways in which West Africans females either conform to or rebel against current European standards of beauty, as well as providing an educational back-story for those without prior knowledge about numerous hairstyles, which are repeatedly taken out of it's historical context, and are arguably used by today's society, for purposes which they were not intended.









# Logor Muyiwa

Logor Olumuyiwa, is a Photographer/filmmaker based in Lagos who works predominantly via Black & White Photography. His approach also revolves around conceptual and documentary style photography. Logor's interest in photography is to train his eye and the camera to be a shrewd observer of the human carnival by capturing photographic narratives from perspectives that are often considered banal overlooked, ignored, and taken for granted. He explore this idea by exposing nuances that resonates with the audience enough to hone a paradigm shift on how the subject captured would have been initially perceived.

My recent and major work is titled "Monochrome Lagos", can be seen as a visual digital archive showing a unique reflection of the city of Lagos - an expose of its idiosyncrasies and aesthetics.

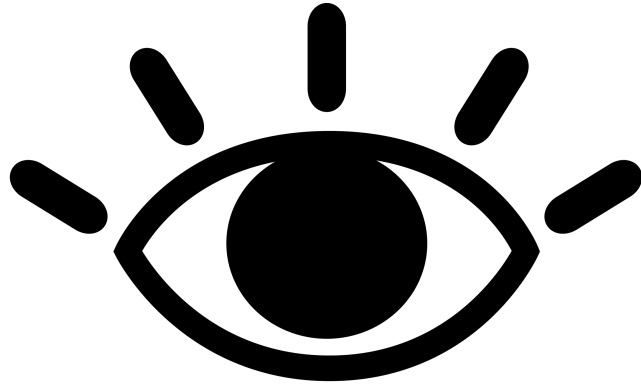
"I set out to photograph Lagos seeking to capture what I often refer to as the mystic of the city, the theatrical arrangement of almost everything-the architecture, the poetic juxtapositions of its residents-and how they relate with the city and vice versa. Most importantly, seeking the beauty in her forms, lines, patterns and texture by stripping the city of one of the most obvios features, color."











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From West Africa

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