



PRESS RELEASE

Lagos, Nigeria

kó is pleased to participate at Art X Lagos, in Lagos, Nigeria, featuring Demas Nwoko, Taiye Idahor, Amanda Shingirai Mushate, Tony Nsofor and Chike Obeagu, November 4-6, 2022.

Following kó's dual mission in promoting modern and contemporary art, this presentation will feature limited edition fine art prints by pioneering modern artist Demas Nwoko, alongside a selection of contemporary artists.

Demas Nwoko (b. 1935, Idumuje Ugboko, Nigeria) is a painter, sculptor, architect, and designer, and a leading pioneer of Nigeria's modern art movement. As a member of the influential artist group The Zaria Art Society in the 1950s, known as the "Zaria Rebels," Demas Nwoko bridged his Western art training with a focus on African narratives and forms. He was an active member of the Mbari Club of Ibadan in the 1960s, which brought together a diverse group of modernist artists and writers. As an architect, he formed a unique modernist interpretation of localized building practices and materials. His work in stage design was influential in developing contemporary African theatre with experimental production styles. Nwoko also created numerous murals and public commissions throughout his distinguished career, in addition to his practice in furniture design.

This series of limited edition giclée prints features many of Nwoko's most iconic paintings from 1958-1967, including *The Beggar* (1958), *Ogboni Chief* (1960), *The King and I* (1961) and *Nightclub in Dakar* (1963), in addition to paintings created during the Nigerian Civil War, such as *The Combatant (Soja 1)* (1967), *Soldier in Ambush* (c. 1967), and *The Warrior* (1967). These works have been recreated as fine art prints with archival inks and printing processes, and are signed and numbered by the artist in an edition of five.

Born in 1935 as the son of the Obi of Idumuje Ugboko, Demas Nwoko studied at the College of Arts, Science and Technology in Zaria from 1957-1961. After university, Nwoko pursued private studies in creative architecture in Ibadan. Nwoko won his first national architecture competition in 1960 to design and build the National Arts and Craft Pavilion during the Nigerian Independence celebration in Lagos. In 1962, Nwoko received a scholarship to study at the Centre Français du Théâtre in Paris, where he studied theatre architecture and scene design. He returned to Nigeria and served as a lecturer at the University of Ibadan, where he was a pioneer staff of the School of Drama. In Ibadan, Nwoko designed for staged theater productions. Nwoko won a Rockefeller travel grant in 1964 to study the theatre of Africa, Asia, China, Japan, Canada and the United States. As an architect, notable commissions include the Dominican Mission Chapel and the Cultural Centre in Ibadan and the Benin Theatre. He founded the New Culture Studios in Ibadan, which is presently run as a training centre for the performing arts and design. Nwoko also founded the New Culture Magazine, a publication that documented contemporary art and culture.

Alongside this special project, kó features new work by contemporary artists **Taiye Idahor, Amanda Shingirai Mushate, Tony Nsofor, and Chike Obeagu.**

Taiye Idahor (b. 1984, Lagos, Nigeria) works in collage, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media, exploring the concept of identity and women using hair as a visual language. Tangled through issues of trade, beauty, the environment, and globalisation, she examines how these factors build women's identity in Africa today, particularly in her hometown of Lagos. In 2007, Taiye graduated from the Yaba College of Technology with a Higher National Diploma, specialising in sculpture. In 2014, her first solo exhibition, *Hairvolution*, was held at Whitespace in Lagos. Idahor has participated in several local and international exhibitions and workshops including *TRANS*, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa (2018), *Ori Meta*, *Odun Meta*, *Ibikan*, at the ISCP, New York, USA (2017) and at the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Lagos, Nigeria (2016); and *Timeline*, Bag Factory Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa (2015) amongst others.

Amanda Shingirai Mushate (b. 1995, Zimbabwe) creates abstract paintings that blend looping line-work with amorphous blocks of colour, generating networks that suggest geographical and interpersonal connections. Her focus on the realm of abstract fantasy, with passionate, playful and maze-like canvases, allows her to think about the future without the narrative constraints of figuration. Drawing her inspiration from music and from people around her but not wanting to be constrained by over figuration, she paints and sculpts her happiness and burdens. After completing her studies at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe Visual Arts Studio in 2016, Mushate was mentored by Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude to develop a vibrant and unique personal vision and modes of expression, presenting her first solo exhibition in 2018 with First Floor Gallery. Her work is in private collections in Cape Town, New York, Harare, London, Amsterdam and Paris.

Tony Nsofor (b. 1973, Oguta, Nigeria) is a visual artist whose work deals with themes of governance, migration, sexuality and the Nigerian condition. His mixed media paintings at Art X Lagos investigate the immediate environment by exploring the visual language of signs, text, and symbols adopted from the Uli, Nsibidi and Adinkra traditions. He has participated in exhibitions at Pan-Atlantic University (Lagos); Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal); Fondation Sonatel (Senegal); Galerie d'Art Houkami Guyzagn (Ivory Coast); and the British Council, National Museum, and Omenka Gallery in Lagos. Nsofor graduated from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1997, majoring in painting. Nsofor is currently based in Columbia, Maryland, USA.

Chike Obeagu (b. 1975, Enugu, Nigeria) is a mixed media artist who uses techniques of photo-collage and painting as a commentary on the social and political environment in Nigeria. Obeagu's work explores the dualism of human nature and its social manifestations. Obeagu combines colorful compositions and geometric patterns, using torn pages from magazines and commercial advertisements. He explores the experiences of the everyday through narratives of music, politics, religion, family and kinship. Obeagu's work has been exhibited in many international exhibitions including Dak'Art (Senegal), the Hood Museum of Art (USA), Richard Taittinger Gallery (New York), Art Expo (New York), and Art X Lagos. In 2015, he was included in the Imago Mundi project in conjunction with the Venice Biennale's 56th International Art Exhibition at Fondazione Giorgio Cini. After obtaining his Bachelor and MFA degrees at University of Nigeria Nsukka, he is currently pursuing his PhD. from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

kó is an art gallery based in Lagos, Nigeria, that is dedicated to promoting modern and contemporary art. kó has a dual focus in championing Nigeria's leading artists from the modern period and celebrating emerging and established contemporary artists across Africa and the Diaspora.