



**Art Dubai**  
**Booth A-11**  
1-5 March, 2023

**kó is pleased to present works by Jerry Buhari, Eva Obodo, and Kwadwo A. Asiedu at Booth A-11, Art Dubai, 1-5 March 2023.** kó partners with First Floor Gallery, Harare, to present a dual-gallery booth of artists in dialogue between Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

**Jerry Buhari** (Nigeria, b. 1959) is a painter who adopts an abstract approach to forms as metaphors for social and political issues in Nigeria and humanity across the globe, including corruption in the oil industry, environmental concerns and the growing insecurity around the world. In his most recent series, *Black & White*, Buhari incorporates loose, abstract shapes and a monotone palette, creating fields of energetic, staggered markings. In *The Emperor and the People*, for example, Buhari was inspired by the charged turbulence, uncertainty, and ambivalence present in everyday Nigerian life. His work captures the great emotional and psychological intensity of an atmosphere equally defined by constraint and possibility. His continuous movement beyond traditional modes of representation has culminated in a body of work that is not only responsive to the most pressing issues of the era but one that also captures with great emotional and psychological intensity an atmosphere defined equally by constraint and possibility. In *Landscape of Angels and Devourer*, this tension is revealed in brusque, congealing lines and whorls that might suggest the kind of pressurized, frenzied movements made by marginalized segments of society.

**Eva Obodo** (Nigeria, b. 1963) focuses on fibre and charcoal as conceptual mediums, creating relief paintings and sculptures that are created from processes of wrapping, tying, and bundling. Incorporating discarded materials such as charcoal and jute fibre, Obodo creates visual narratives that evoke the complex socio-political and economic structures that frame contemporary culture. Obodo's charcoal works reference issues of natural resources and development in Nigeria, while his fibre works utilise nylon threads that are tied, rolled and wrapped to create colorful visual metaphors. Together, they speak to the connections between individuals and their social relations woven against economic and political backgrounds, connected by community, nation and the global economy through the trade of goods and ideas.

Working within and extending the central ideas of the Nsukka Art School, Obodo's mixed-media works follow the artist's close investigation of the aesthetic and political potencies of materials.

**Kwadwo A. Asiedu** (Ghana, b. 1987) is a painter who depicts highly impressionistic landscapes with a visual language of rich, textured layers, and pulsating light, texture, and colour. Asiedu examines the poetic and mysterious qualities of the natural world, channelling the idyllic world untouched by humanity's corrosive tendencies. By channelling the idyllic, the artist draws attention to a world yet untouched by humanity's corrosive tendencies. This focus, however, is anything but utopic. *Ebb of Agou*, for example, recalls the geological marvel of the Mount of Agou, which rises from Togoland and borders Ghana. It is said to have stood, for the communities who built their homes around it, as a symbol and source of refuge from invading aggressors. Asiedu highlights the spiritual and material interdependence between humans and their environment, creating an arresting homage to natural beauty and an urgent plea to preserve what's left of it

**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

## **ABOUT JERRY BUHARI**

Born in 1959 in Kaduna State, Nigeria, Jerry Buhari attended the Department of Fine Art, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he currently serves as a professor. He has received a number of awards and honors, some of which are from the Commonwealth Foundation, the Japan Foundation, and the Ford Foundation/Triangle Trust/Vermont Studio Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, "Who is Who" in Nigeria, Who is Who in Nigerian Art, and Fellow, Society of Nigerian Artists. In addition to his professorship at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Jerry Buhari has also served as a guest lecturer at Savannah College of Art and Design in, Georgia, United States; Kansas Wesleyan University in the United States; a Visiting Professor at Princeton University; the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; and the University of Jos, Nigeria. He is External Examiner and Assessor of professorial rank to several universities in Nigeria and abroad. Buhari serves as an advisor for Arthouse Contemporary. In 2019, he curated Arthouse's long-deserved exhibition of the Zaria Art Society. He also served as chairman of the Visual Arts National Arts Festival (NAFEST) in 2012 and Consultant to the Central Bank of Nigeria Currency Notes Museum. In 2022, his solo exhibition, *Landscapes of the Soul*, was held at kó, Lagos.

## **ABOUT EVA OBODO**

Eva Obodo serves as Senior Lecturer in sculpture at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he received his MFA and Ph.D. Obodo held two solo exhibitions with Arthouse-The Space in Lagos, including *Ngwugwu (Packages)* in 2019 and *Line.by.Line* in 2015. In 2021, his solo exhibition, *Recent Works*, was held at kó, Lagos. He participated in several international exhibitions including the Osaka Triennale (Japan) and DAK'ART (Senegal). In 2013, he was the recipient of the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Award.

## **ABOUT KWADWO A. ASIUEDU**

Born in Mexico and based in Lagos, Nigeria, Kwadwo A. Asiedu is a Ghanaian self-taught artist whose practice is rooted in an intimate exploration of place. Through undulating, abstracted landscapes that play with elements of flora and fauna at different scales, he considers humanity's position within nature and our need to cultivate a more sustainable and respectful relationship with the earth. He holds a Masters degree in Environmental Management from the University of Hertfordshire, England. Group exhibitions include *We See We Hope We Dream*, TAOH, (2022) Lagos and *Tomorrow is Tomorrow*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery in London (2023).