



PRESS RELEASE
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(L) Jerry Buhari, *Journal of an old city*, 2013, Watercolour on paper, 15 x 22 in.

(R) Jerry Buhari, *Soft masquerades pretending to be iroko trees*, 2022, Acrylic on canvas, 36.2 x 60.2 in.

kó Gallery is pleased to present *Landscapes of the Soul*, a retrospective exhibition of works by award-winning artist, curator and professor of Fine Art, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria- Jerry Buhari.

kó is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of works by Jerry Buhari opening on Tuesday 20th September through 11th October 2022, at kó Gallery 36 Cameron Road, Ikoyi, Lagos Nigeria.



Spanning over two decades and following a loose chronological order from 1993 to the present, the exhibition presents over seventy works characterising the artist's engagement with abstract, symbolic, and thematic themes, and more importantly, his heartbeat for Nigeria. The artworks were carefully selected to represent key periods and concerns in the artist's oeuvre, thereby creating an opportunity to highlight not only his publicly known works but also exhibit his newly created artworks that have never been exhibited.

In this exhibition, Jerry Buhari draws from his experiences as well as the social and political issues in the society to examine how man relates to the earth and the consequences of this relationship on the environment. According to Buhari, this exhibition addresses matters of the heart, and by extension, the soul.

Over the years, we have been through a series of events and experiences that calls for self-reflection and a re-evaluation of our political structures and societal norms as a nation. More so, the momentous times we are in require an all-pervasive understanding of how we have contributed to the issues we face. *Landscapes of the Soul* is an invitation to such a heart-to-heart dialogue. The presented body of works in this exhibition was created for a time like this. Buhari invites us into a "trip down memory lane" revealing literal and metaphorical representations of time and space where our natural environment, experiences, and the Nigerian political terrain are interspersed. Encompassing four categories with different thematic focuses, this body of work was developed under the exhibition title and has expanded into series including *Landscapes of the Soul*, *Earth Works*, *Mixed Media* series, and *Black & White* series. Through this body of work, Buhari recreates a world of his own- of peace and void of chaos. Ultimately, the works aim to generate a reaction and convey an explicit message to viewers: a message of hope and consolation. It exemplifies ways of recollecting and understanding the past, present-day realities, and future potentialities.

In addition to the paintings in this exhibition is the presentation of a sound work that highlights the diversity of approaches to addressing the environmental issues and concerns in his society. The audio captures sounds from his environment and places that the artist visits from time to time while creating his works and sometimes, in his free time.

Finally, accompanying the exhibition are reflections and questions and answers by **Ayò Akínwándé**, an interdisciplinary artist, **Charles Gore**, a researcher fellow with SOAS University of London, and **Sabo Kpade**, a writer and journalist.



Landscapes of the Soul is curated by **Favour Ritaro**.

ABOUT KÓ

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. In addition to its annual exhibition program in Lagos, kó participates regularly in international art fairs. kó has also showcased the work of several emerging African and Diasporan artists, many of whom participated in artist residencies with the gallery in Lagos.

ABOUT JERRY BUHARI

Jerry Buhari is an award-winning artist, curator, and professor of Fine Art at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He has held over twelve solo exhibitions and sixty group exhibitions throughout his distinguished career within the country and abroad. He has received several awards and honours from the Commonwealth Foundation, the Japan Foundation, and the Ford Foundation, amongst others. Buhari has also served as a guest lecturer at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia, United States; Kansas Wesleyan University, United States; visiting professor, Princeton University; the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; and the University of Jos, Nigeria. Buhari serves as an advisor for Arthouse Contemporary.

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