



# Kainebi

Osahenye

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## BLOOM ART

BLOOM Art originated from the visual arts programme of The Life House and was birthed out of a need to use innovative approaches to showcase, expose, and challenge Nigerian artists - particularly in response to the lack of exhibition and expression space in the city of Lagos.

Presenting select and exciting works, BLOOM Art's exhibition program offers pointed perspectives of contemporary visual art, its presentation and its engagement with the public thereby contributing to the dynamic development of visual art in Nigeria. Each featured artist is an important part of contemporary dialogue.

Currently a unique fusion of a portfolio gallery & a private studio, BLOOM Art offers intimate exhibitions of art in an accessible format that is bolstered by acclaimed ancillary programming tailored to each exhibition. These include artist talks, private salons and publications. Daring to present art in alternative exhibition spaces, BLOOM has enabled an organic interplay with other forms of creative expression as well as the vibrant multi-arts scene in Nigeria.

BLOOM Art represents Muraina Oyelami, Marcia Kure, Olu Ajayi, Chinwe Uwatse, Lemi Ghariokwu, Gbenga Offo and Angela Isiuwe.

BLOOM Art also actively exhibits and works with artists including Victor Ehikhamenor, Kainebe Osahenye, Tony Nsofor, Rom Isichei, Uchay Joel Chima, Tam Fiofori, and Gerald Chukwuma.

BLOOM Art is owned and managed by independent curator and gallerist, Ugoma Adegoke

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Kainebi's highly sought after nudes, are our delight to experience again after over a decade since he painted focally on this theme.

Visceral. Sensual. Disruptive. Vulnerable. Bold. Ethereal. Coded...

The nudes, with *their complex subject - the woman*, are an example of the existential phenomenon which Kainebi expertly tackles in his vast body of work spanning over two and a half decades.

In this recent collection of *quintessentially Kainebi* nudes, we bare witness to the possibilities that abound from his interrogation of the perception of the female form in the viewer's psyche... as we are all invited to self-reflect through these representations by the indefatigable painter, purist and truth teller that is Mr Osahenye. ”

*Ugoma Adegoke trained as an economist and corporate finance professional. Today she is a creative entrepreneur and foremost cultural curator, some might call her a one-woman army. Ugoma is a tireless community builder, a passionate art collector and a dynamic taste-maker. She directs the workings of the award-winning and much-loved apparel and home-ware brand, Zebra Living. She is also the founding director and chief curator of BLOOM Art, Lagos*

*She avidly promotes and supports the work of artists and creatives. She has curated and produced art exhibitions with the most exciting and accomplished visual artists including Professor Obiora Udechukwu, Muraina Oyelami, Marcia Kure, Olu Ajayi, Rom Isichei, Victor Ehikhamenor, Gerald Chukwuma, Uchay Joel Chima, Lemi Ghariokwu, Gbenga Offo, Ibe Ananaba, Duke Asidere, Tony Nsofor and Angela Amami Isiuwe to mention a few.*

*Ugoma completed a course in Curating Contemporary Art and Exhibition Design in Barcelona facilitated by acclaimed curator Tina Zeigler. In 2016 she embarked on a course in Art and Finance at the Sotheby's Institute in London and also attended an art writing seminar under the tutelage of Ossie Ward of the Lisson Gallery. In December 2016, she was invited to Paris to speak at the Africa-focused conference of Comité Colbert, France's premier cultural & luxury association. In May 2017, Ugoma was invited to become an Ambassador of The African Art in Venice Forum, a 2-day symposium event which took place during the opening of the 57th Venice Biennale. In the same month, Ugoma was selected by the German Consulate General and the Goethe Institut as a representative from Nigeria to attend a special segment and one-week curated immersion of documenta no. 14 in Kassel, Germany, one of the world's most important modern and contemporary art festivals since 1955.*

*Ugoma's personality inspires trend-setting and taste-making directions in design, art, culture and lifestyle. She is pushing the envelope on African design and the Nigerian socio-cultural experience and its receivership - infusing energy, purpose and creativity all the way and having a jolly good time as she impacts her world through art and all its facets*



## BEAUTY AND SEDUCTION

*"What spirit is so empty and blind that it cannot recognize the fact that the foot is more noble than the shoe, and skin more beautiful than the garment with which it is clothed?"*

- Michelangelo

Kenneth Clark in his book *'The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form'*, published in 1956 stated that to be naked is to be deprived of clothes, and implies embarrassment and shame, while a nude as a work of art, has no such connotations.

The nude figure has always been a site for critical and anatomical exploration. Artists have consistently explored the body for centuries and continues to do so.

For me, I'm interested in the nude figure to express ideals of beauty and to understand the woman's emotions - dreams, sexuality, phantasy, femininity...

I typically enjoy working with live models, juxtaposing figuration and abstraction. These drawings appeal to me as studies. The activity in a way activates my eyes and my hand in a synchronized mode to establish the anatomical relationship in front of me. It trains my eyes to see and helps strengthen my ability to make quick decisions regarding the ideas I want to address.

When I am looking at the model, I am trying to establish gestures that emanate from the figure. Sometimes it's about her. At other times it's about the construction going on in my head. Whichever way, it still points to the mannerisms and posture of the body.

The body with all the contours and ridges, packed with inexhaustible, indescribable situations, fully embody the woman.

The pose of the body, the flow of the body, the nature of the body are all stimulating in its rendition. And it has the capacity to elicit the core essence of the work...a generous figure and radiant flesh.

The fluidity that I strive to attain in the work through the medium of gouache, tempera and acrylic help to accentuate the bodily flow.

The aura for me is definitely feminine, seducing us into her own world, without being obscene.

Kainebi Osahenye,  
June 2019







BODY IMAGE / 22 x 30 inches, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2018



HER DARK CORNER / 22 x 30 inches, tempera, charcoal on paper, 2017





JAZZY / 22 x 30 inches, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2017



SILENT NIGHT / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, spray paint, gouache on paper, 2018





FLOW / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, charcoal, gouache on paper, 2015





IN ANOTHER REALM (TRIPTYCH) / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2016-19





FUNNY HOW SHE SLEEPS (SERIES) / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic charcoal, gouache on paper, 2018





FUNNY HOW SHE SLEEPS (SERIES) / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, spray paint on paper, 2017



SLEEPING BEAUTY / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, charcoal, spray paint on paper, 2017



BLUE / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, charcoal, gouache on paper, 2017





LOOKING INWARD / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2018





IN A LIGHTER MOOD / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, charcoal on paper, 2017





SHELTER ME (SERIES) / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, gouache on paper, 2018



GREY SHADES / 22 x 30 inches, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2018





IN THE CLOUDS / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, spray paint on paper, 2017





BROWN SKIN / 22 x 30 inches, acrylic, spray paint on paper, 2016





SCENT OF A WOMAN / 22 x 17 inches, charcoal, enamel on canvas, 2018-19



## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Kainebe Osahenye b. 1964 in Agbor, Delta state, Nigeria. He studied at the Auchi polytechnic, Auchi and Yaba college of technology, Lagos, majoring in painting in 1989. In 2012, he received a masters of fine arts (MFA) from Goldsmiths, University of London, London, UK.

Osahenye works across a variety of mediums which includes painting, sculpture, installation, drawing and collage. He has used assortment of basic materials to address issues about life, spirituality, consumerism, identity and the environment.

Osahenye has had residencies at the school of visual arts in New York and Vermont studio center, Vermont, USA.

He has participated in several exhibitions including 1.54 Art Fair, London, 2018; ArtXLagos 2016, 2017; Biennale Jogja, Indonesia, 2015; Art 14, London; Shifting Currents, National Museum, Lagos, 2014; Afropolis; Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany, 2010; Dak'Art (Off), Dakar, Senegal, 2010; Trash-ing, CCA Lagos, 2009.

Osahenye was included in Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu's Contemporary African Art since 1980 and Phaidon's Art Cities of the Future: 21st Century Avant-Gardes.

He lives and works in Lagos.

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**Kainebe Osahenye**

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[www.bloomartlagos.com](http://www.bloomartlagos.com)

Curator

**Ugoma Adegoke**

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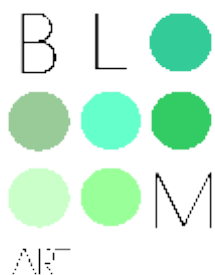
**Adeyinka Akingbade**

All Works

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GREY SHADES / 22 x 30 inches, gouache, charcoal on paper, 2018

Kainebi Osamenye