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Italian and Nigerian artists for cross cultural art exhibition

Category - Arts & Life **Wed 18th, Mar 2011 - 13:41:00PM**



'Cross currents', a contemporary art exhibition which will feature works by artists from Italy and Nigeria, will open on Thursday, March 17, at the Civic Centre, Lagos.

Speaking at a conference in Lagos on Tuesday, March 15, the organisers of the exhibition, Herta Dossi and Marina Paduano of H Contemporary Art, revealed that the aim of the exhibition is to export Italian culture to her countries.

A similar exhibition titled 'Under Italian Eyes' had been organised by H Contemporary Art in Egypt last year. Also present at the press

conference was actress and filmmaker, Ego Bays, one of the Nigerian facilitators of the exhibition, and representatives from sponsors, Dando Plc, Agip, and Global Energy Group.

From Italy with art

The organisers revealed that 'Cross currents' is "a significant meeting point of the cultures between two countries." According to them, "this exhibition is unique opportunity to confront contemporary Italian currents with acountry and a continent, where the ancient roots are flourishing more vigorously than ever in the artistic production of the new millennium."

They added that the event was also an opportunity to "energise the ongoing metamorphosis of Italian art."

According to Ms. Bossi, some of the Italian artists are talented and well known in Italy, with each possessing their own unique styles, which will be reflected in their artworks. She added that some of the artworks will explain how the artists use different materials to explain contemporary art.

"We are sure that their selection can give a panoramic view of Nigerian and Italian contemporary art," she said.

Twenty are chosen

On the criteria for selecting the Nigerian artists, Ms. Bays stated that there are numerous talented artists in Nigeria. However, the shortlist had to be narrowed to the selected ten.

"All the artists are spectacular; they bring something fresh," she said, adding that some of the art works to be put up were new and had never been displayed before.

Apart from selecting Nigerian artists doing impressive work, she revealed that the artists were also chosen on the basis of certain similarities between their works and that of the ten Italian artists.

The organisers stated that a follow-up exhibition, which would take the ten Nigerian artists to Italy, would be organised and that a date would be announced later.

The representative of Dando Plc, one of the sponsors of the exhibition, Herta Dossi, announced that the company's interest in the exhibition stemmed from her aspiration to promote Nigerian talents.

The ten Nigerian artists participating in the exhibition include: Peju Waleye, Uche Ekechi, Oliver Enemaku, Tom Ilesha, Uche James Inaha, Chidi Ikudor, Alex Nwoko, Abiodun Oloko, Kolade Dahunsi, and Must Yehaya.

The Italian artists for the exhibition include: Matteo Savio, Angela Bellabona, Filippo Costantini, Alberto Di Fabio, Omar Galliani, Jonathan Guastamacchi, Adriano Nardi, Davide Erni Savardi, and Stefania Pabini, the only female in the group.

"The justification for us is simple and straight forward; the ability to take the made-in-Nigeria dream and turn it into a world class project," H-Dossi stated.

He lauded the initiative, and said it is a positive sign for Nigerian Art, which would end the under-representation of Nigerian art at international art exhibitions.

'Cross currents' is at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, from March 17 to 18.

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2011

- May 20
- May 19
- May 18
- May 17
- May 16
- May 15
- May 14
- May 13
- May 12
- May 11
- May 10
- May 9
- May 8
- May 7
- May 6
- May 5
- May 4
- May 3
- May 2
- May 1

2010

- December 31
- December 30
- December 29
- December 28
- December 27
- December 26
- December 25
- December 24
- December 23
- December 22
- December 21
- December 20
- December 19
- December 18
- December 17
- December 16
- December 15
- December 14
- December 13
- December 12
- December 11
- December 10
- December 9
- December 8
- December 7
- December 6
- December 5
- December 4
- December 3
- December 2
- December 1

2009

- December 31
- December 30
- December 29
- December 28
- December 27
- December 26
- December 25
- December 24
- December 23
- December 22
- December 21
- December 20
- December 19
- December 18
- December 17
- December 16
- December 15
- December 14
- December 13
- December 12
- December 11
- December 10
- December 9
- December 8
- December 7
- December 6
- December 5
- December 4
- December 3
- December 2
- December 1

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2011 (Post)

ART

Ego Bayo partners with Oando, ASIP to bring Italian art to /Nigerian

Actress Ego Bayo's Temple Productions Nigeria has announced that it has reached a sponsorship arrangement with Oando PLC, sub-Saharan Africa's largest energy conglomerate, Nigerian ASIP Oil Company and GlobalEnergy Group, to host the maiden Italian Nigerian contemporary art exhibition (INCAE), scheduled to hold between March 16 and 18, at the Civic Centre in Lagos, Nigeria.



The exhibition entitled *Cross Current*[®], organized by Temple Productions of Nigeria and Mcontemporary Art of Italy promises to be a display of the finest collection of Nigerian and Italian artists to art connoisseurs, critics and collectors. Ten of Nigeria's prominent artists namely Abiodun Oloku, Kolade Oshinowo, Alex Nwokolo, Uche Edochie, Oliver Enwonwu, Uche James Ireha, Chidi Kambiri, Ram Taihei, Peju Afolajbe and Mudi Yahaya will be showcasing their work alongside ten Italian contemporaries namely Matteo Basile, Anjela Bellabano, Filippo Costantini, Francesco Carvelli, Alberto Di Fabio, Stefania Fabrizi, Omar Galliani, Jonathan Guzmanochi, Adriano Nardi and Davide Enn Solivadi. Nigeria is the second country in Africa, after Egypt to enjoy this collaboration with Italian Artists.

The exhibition is expected to address the relationship between personal identity, self discovery and history from different perceptions while charting the evolution of Contemporary Arts in both the Nigerian and Italian cultures, through thought provoking works, some of which includes social, political and pop culture references.

Commenting on the event, Ego Bayo, CEO of Temple Productions said "We thank our sponsors for throwing their weight behind this exhibition, signifying the beginning of future collaborations and development of arts between Nigerian and Italian artists. We have carefully selected artists of the finest extraction across the geo-political zones for adequate representation of the uniqueness and variety of our culture.

Marino Paduano, Director of Mcontemporary Art said "We are proud to be part of this collaboration in Nigeria, which will provide an opportunity to spotlight the rich collection of African and Italian art and allow us to celebrate our distinctiveness. We are very confident that visitors will have a rewarding time."

The Curators for the Art Exhibition are Oliver Enwonwu (Mr.) and Bethabel Soetan (Mrs) of Omenka Gallery and Marino Paduano and Marta Boeri of Mcontemporary Art.



FRIDAY, APRIL 01, 2011

Contemporary masters in Abuja

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31 Mar 2011 17:57 Africa/Lagos

Contemporary masters in Abuja

ROME, March 31, 2011/African Press Organization (APO) – The festivities in Nigeria for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Italian Unification began on 21 March with the opening in Abuja of a contemporary art exhibition: 30 works by Angelo Bontorino, Filippo Centemari, Fabrizio Cervelli, Stefania Fabrizi, Adriano Nardi and Davide Eron Salvadei, using both traditional techniques such as oil on canvas and innovative media on aluminium and plexiglass.

The exhibition was mounted by Merta Boeri and Marina Paduano's M&M Contemporary Art, and was made possible through the sponsorship of ENI (through the Nigerian Agip Oil Company – NAOC) and a contribution from the construction firm Stabilini.

A reception at the embassy followed the opening, whose guests included the Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister of State for Energy of the Federal Nigerian Government. Also present were the ENI executive for Sub-Saharan Africa, the CEO of NAOC, and many other Nigerian institutional, civil society and press representatives, members of the Italian foreign service and other Italian nationals.

Ambassador Roberto Colaninè will host an exhibition in his residence on 30 March by Nigerian artist Ben ibebe, accompanied by a reading of Nigerian poetry

Source: Italy - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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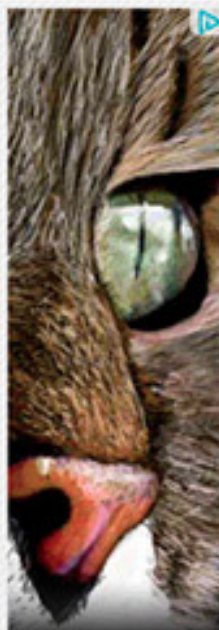
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In Crosscurrents... Nigeria, Italy melt on canvas

WHEN selected artists of the two countries converged on Lagos, the abstractive contents of Picasso of 1907 to 1909, which changed the face of modernism and linked African and European arts was though less visible, but a new cross culture age, attempting to re-energise that Afro-Euro links has beckoned

IN its title, Crosscurrents, a collaborative art exhibition, which featured Nigerian and Italian artists at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, from March 16 to 19, 2011, the message is clear. And interestingly, about 18 of these artists, are below the age of 50.

From painting, mixed media to photography and digital imaging, the exhibited artists Kolade Oshinowo, Abiodun Olaku, Alex Nwokolo, Rom Isichei, Uche Edochie, Peju Alatise, Chidi Kwubiri Oliver Enwonwu, Uche James Iroha Mudi Yahaya (Nigerians) and Matteo Basile, Angelo Bellobono, Filippo Centenari, Francesco Cervelli, Alberto Di Fabio, Stefania Fabrizi, Omar Galliani, Jonathan Guitamacchi, Adriano Nardi, Davide Eron Salvadei (Italians), showed the dynamics of contemporary art in both countries.

Organised by Temple Productions and Mcontemporary Art of Italy, the event, also demystified the widely held view that art was not attractive to corporate sectors. Three oil companies: Oando, AGIP and Global Energy Group (GEG) sponsored the exhibition.

While most of the Nigerian artists on the show used their recent familiar techniques and forms to stress the unfolding dynamics of the country's art, few others used the gathering to blow a fresh breath of conceptual contents. One of such fresh moves came through the lens of photo artist, Mudi Yahaya, in two series of female nudity, which seemed to blur the line between exploiting female sexuality and art content. Yahaya, in an apparent attempt to defend the boldness of his lens, yet mindful of the sensibility of the African environment, agreed that at immediate encounter with the works, viewers relate with them in sexuality context. He however warned: "that's not the message."

<http://www.thenigeriandaily.com/2011/03/22/in-crosscurrents%E2%80%A8-nigeria-italy-melt-on-canvas/>

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Contemporary masters in Abuja

30 March 2011

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