



HISTORICAL FICTIONS

DUO EXHIBITION

featuring

**DAVID OLATOYE
VICTOR UBAH**

curated by

WUNIKA MUKAN

HISTORICAL

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12th December - 5th January 2021

For all enquiries please contact info@pacersgallery.com

HISTORICAL FICTIONS

Historical Fictions presents portrait paintings by the emerging artists David Olatoye and Victor Ubah. Both artists are heavily influenced by their adolescence, Olatoye by his familia environment and Ubah the pop-cultural animation and social hierarchy cartoons introduced him to. Additionally, these painters portray intimate, captivating portraits vibrant in colour with textures as palpable as Wayne Thiebaud's eponymous confections.

Close proximity to his mother growing up gave Olatoye a sense of connection and pride in his family. He watched his mother make immeasurable sacrifices to overcome the confines of life as a single mother. He looks up to her, how she bends her ego to God's will and the life she models through her faith. He inherited her sense of devotion and modesty and this is where Olatoye's heritage became the focal point of his visual practice.

At 14, his mother remarried and Olatoye gained two step-sisters. The care he has for and hope he wishes for his sisters is his point of departure. He grew up dreaming for a better life, a better home for his family and these desires manifest as an imagined sphere of calm, beautiful domestic spaces in which his sisters exist. These works have an acute attention to form and patina which correlate to the love he has for his sisters. Kindred to Ubah's highly textural and vibrant portraits, Olatoye utilizes acrylics to stage lush and muted decorative interiors and delicately renders their flesh in ballpoint pen. He seems to summon the young ladies through their long, natural, virgin hair mimicking the abundance of respect for women's long hair that exists in his culture.

His domestic scapes create a bond between subject and environment emulating a filial piety and forging an emotional attachment between his subjects, himself, and the home life he dreams of. These works offer a historical fiction, as they blend the adolescence he desired with the familia values and bond he shares with his mother and two sisters. He fashions a heritage of the past that he also wishes to attain and these comforting visions are an extension of the legacy he hopes to create.

Victor Ubah grew up watching anime and cartoons, emulating their figures and imagery in his own drawings and paintings. Realizing the power of nonverbal expression, he developed his own visual language in adolescence.

His practice reflects on social infrastructures, each piece generating an intimate study of each individual. Similar to Olatoye, Ubah delineates the tonality of skin and form of his subjects from the vibrant colours and textures of their surroundings and garments, only he utilizes the geometric structure of Cubism. He captures the personality of each person in his relaxed, intimate portraits with unique posing that displays their individual demeanours. The flat backgrounds - with minimal if any reference to setting - enhance his figures' style with bold textile patterns and rich colour palettes.

Expanding upon his visual vocabulary, Ubah is crafting his poetic expression. Anchored by his fervent evocations of individuals and how they use style to their project their self worth, WE ARE WHO WE ARE conveys the symbiotic correlation of individual to community.

EXHIBITING ARTISTS



DAVID OLATOYE



VICTOR UBAH

DAVID OLATOYE

Born 1995, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Olatoye traces his artistic path from a difficult childhood, morphing his domestic upbringing alongside two sisters by reconstructing the environs they grew up in into idealized settings. His acrylic paintings are inlaid with ball point pen and demonstrate a delicate and meditative approach with particular attention to texture and form. He stages decorative interiors to frame portraits of his sisters - and occasionally strangers he encounters - conducting viewers through quiet, elegant spaces.

Olatoye received a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts from Obafemi Awolowo University and also received mentorship under the tutelage of Tope Fatunmibi. His works have featured in the Contemporary African Art Vernissage at the 2018 Circle de Lorraine in Brussels. And he participated in the group exhibition "Young Contemporaries 2020" at Rele Art Gallery in Lagos State.



David Olatoye in his studio.

HERITAGE AND DREAMS, 2020

Haven grown up with a keen proximity with home, 'Heritage and Dream' - my explorations of the inherited traits and major occurrences in the confines of home that led to where I am today. These features are used to project a future, a space of self-expression and manifestation, a dream.

Haven grown up with my single mother, which later remarried, unconsciously I have experimented a lot of features in the family I never knew especially my mother and my step sisters.

Looking up to my mother, whom I consider an epitome of God's nature because of her immeasurable sacrifices, I explored natural look and the virgin long hair of my step-sisters. My mother is what we call SU, the Nigerian Christian religious sect known for modesty and natural look. Also, she pioneered the family with abundance of long hair which I have often experimented with in my social fashion life.

This series of work showcases living rooms with obvious filial emotional attachment between the figures. This is a projection of what my mind considers a home, which I didn't grow up to enjoy.

Summarily, this body of work showcases the strength and values of my family which are our heritage. This heritage is thereby fashioned as a dream of where I wish we attain.

HERITAGE AND DREAMS, 2020



Picture Frame, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 151cm



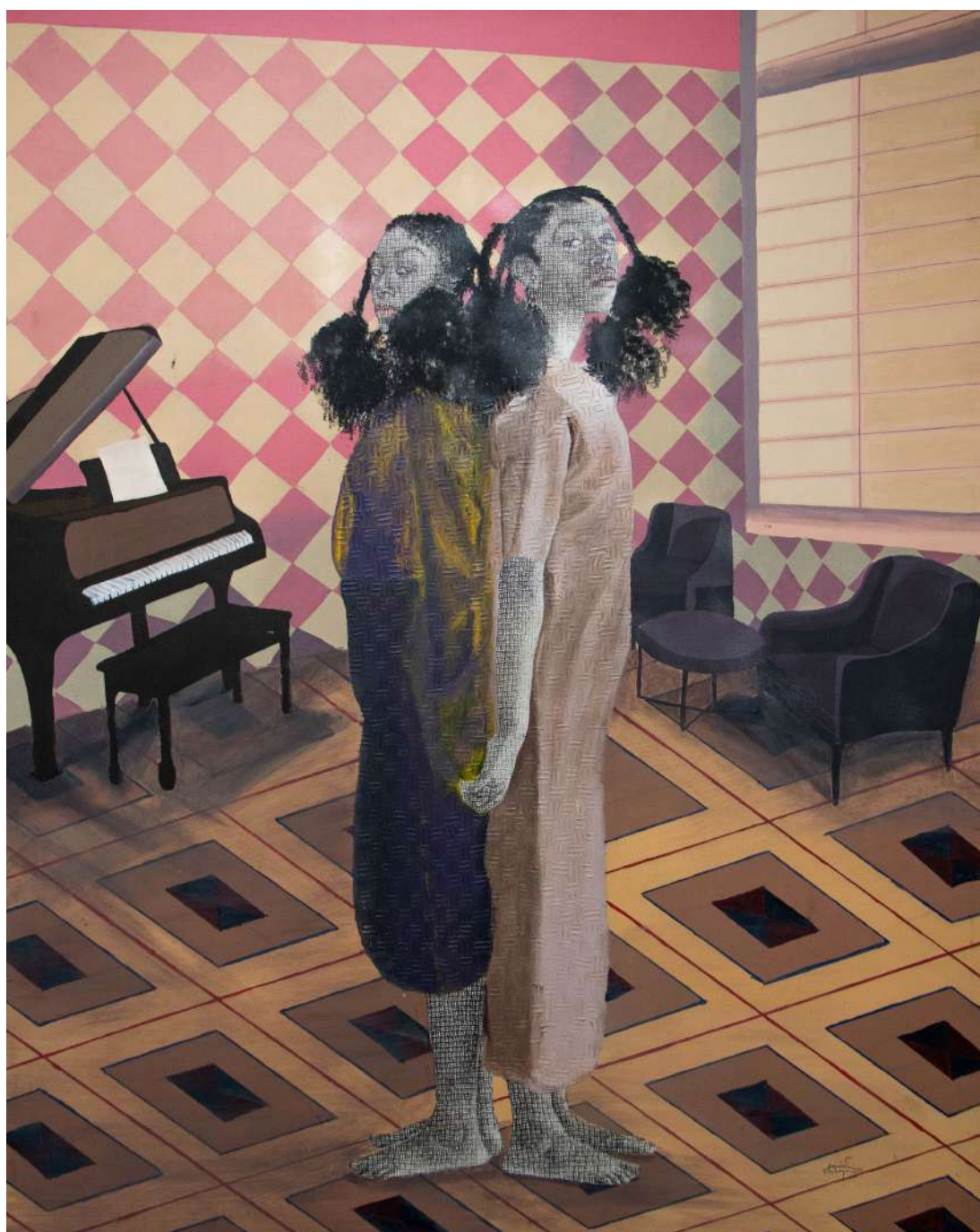
Picture Frame, 2020 detail.



Soul Sisters I, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 151cm



Soul Sisters I, 2020 detail.



Cord of Melody, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 151cm



Cord of Melody, 2020 detail.



Feel at Home I, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
151.5cm x 121cm



Feel at Home I, 2020 detail.



Feel at Home II, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 152cm



Feel at Home II, 2020 detail.



Home Alone, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 121cm



Home Alone, 2020 detail.



Soul Sisters II, 2020
Pen and Acrylic on canvas
121cm x 152cm



Soul Sisters II, 2020 detail.

VICTOR UBAH

Born in 2000, Lagos, Nigeria.

Victor Ubah grew up watching anime and cartoons, emulating their figures and imagery in his own drawings and paintings. Realizing the power of nonverbal expression, he developed his own visual language in adolescence.

In his artistic practice, he is reflecting on social infrastructures and is influenced by Cubism. He incorporates the geometric style of this early 20th century, avant-garde movement led by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque shaping the tonality of skin and form of his subjects. He captures the personality of each person in his relaxed, intimate portraits with unique posing that displays their individual demeanours. The flat backgrounds - with minimal if any reference to setting - enhance his figures' style with bold textile patterns and rich colour palettes.



Victor Ubah in his studio.

WE ARE WHO WE ARE

Say it till you believe it

In the social jungle of human existence, there is no feeling of being alive without a sense of identity.

My identity is who I AM

Yes, I don't cover my face because I want to show my identity because I AM WHO I AM

Unlike a drop of water which loses its identity when it joins the ocean, man doesn't lose his being in the society in which he lives. Man's life is independent. He is born not for the development of the society alone but the development of his self

Our identity is one thing that can never be taken away from us.

Be yourself; everyone's already taken

I AM WHO I AM

YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE

"WE ARE WHO WE ARE"!!

We all dream for a home filled with our legacy and heritage.

WE ARE WHO WE ARE



Black Dress and Scarf, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
117cm x 147cm



Black Dress and Scarf, 2020 detail.



Brown Coat and Yellow, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
117cm x 147cm



Brown Coat and Yellow, 2020 detail.



Dream Boy, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
99cm x 120cm



Dream Boy, 2020 detail.



My Space, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
109cm x 138cm



My Space, 2020 detail.



Orange Dress, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
21cm x 23cm



Orange Dress, 2020 detail.



Orange Suit, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
65cm x 80 cm



Orange Suit, 2020 detail.



Purple Bow Tie, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
117cm x 147cm



Purple Bow Tie, 2020 detail.



Shade and Green Scarf, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
78cm x 116cm



Shade and Green Scarf, 2020 detail.

CREDITS

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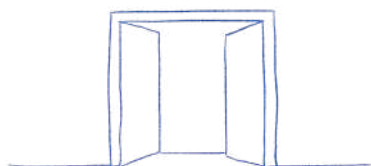


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