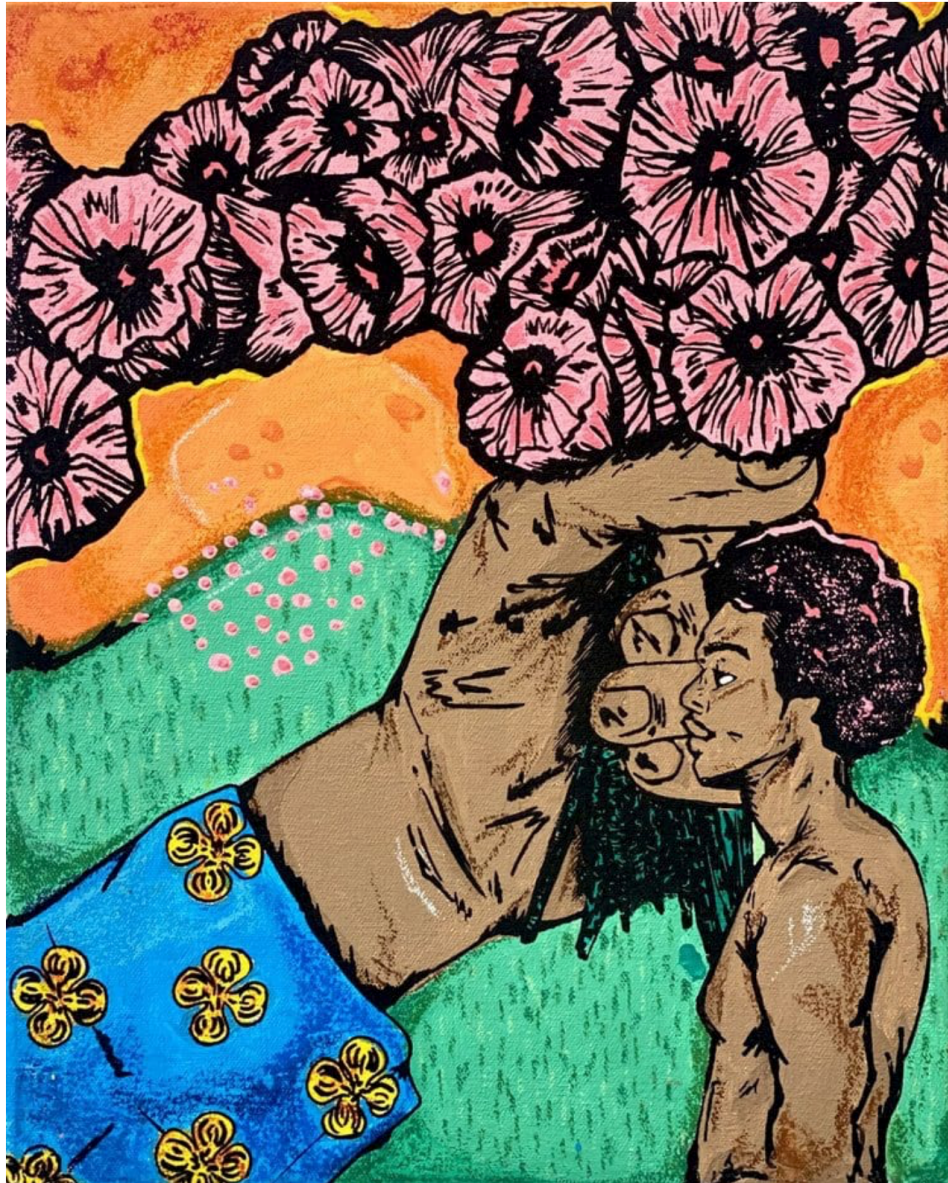


P54 MAGAZINE

LEARN ABOUT & UNDERSTAND MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART FROM AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA

8 EMERGING NIGERIAN ARTISTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

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The African art landscape has witnessed the rise of established Nigerian artists like Ben Enwonwu, Reuben Ugbiné, Peju Alatise, Yinka Shonibare, Toyin Ojih Odutola, and Njideka Akunyili Crosby, amongst others. This generation of artists, at different stages of their artistic careers, interrogated the daily living of the country through varied forms of visual representation. These artists, spread across many generations have inspired a new generation of contemporary artists and revealed a disruptiveness and sense of wonder that is embedded in the country's physical structures, spatial sites, and historical figures.

With different interpretations of personal and shared experiences as artists of Nigerian heritage, these emerging artists are restless and relentless in their exploration of issues relating to social, cultural, economic and political identity while reviewing the ideas of gender, sexuality, race, nationality and heritage. The Nigerian art scene continues to remain globally recognised as the works of these artists are pulling numbers in the art market.

Dominating the art scene in the last five years, here are 8 emerging artists you should know, look out for and support.

4. Chukwudubem Ukaigwe

Chukwudubem Ukaigwe (b. 1995) is a Nigerian-born interdisciplinary artist based in Canada. Working across a variety of mediums -specifically paintings, ceramics, sounds, sculpture, assemblage, film and performance-, Ukaigwe approaches his practice as a process of thinking through ideas. His process is interwoven with his desire to remain in the nowness of his work as he unveils his ideas, creating a narrative in his own language from the start to the (inevitable) end.



Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, Power Play 1, 2022, Photo Painting Photo Gel Transfers and Acrylic Paint on Canvas, 13 x 22 cm. Courtesy of Art X Lagos.

His use of specific mediums creates alternate and multiple realities that interact with one another in open dialogues, presenting the figure in specific and diverse scenarios and emphasising contemporary composition.

Ukaigwe says in a conversation with Toned Mag, "The job of an artist is to communicate in the most appropriate language. I feel like my approach to art-making entails being able to make a particular statement or statements in the medium or language that is most suitable. For example, particular subjects, when expressed in paintings, do not carry the same potency as when they are expressed in writing, [but] the funny thing is that it is also beautiful how these mediums overlap with each other."



Courtesy of Salt Spring Art