



SOTO
GALLERY

SIMON ILOANI

ADAOMA NNABEZE

EMMANUEL IFOEGBUIKE

CHUKWUMEREGO

INTROSPECTION

THE SOTO RESIDENCY PRESENTATION

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'INTROSPECTION' IS A TERM INTRICATELY WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF ART, WHICH DELICATELY ENSHROUDS THE ACT OF DELVING INTO ONE'S INNER SELF, EXTRACTING PURPOSE, AND COMPREHENDING OUR EXISTENCE.

Aristotle captures it thus: "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." This sentiment resonates not only with life's journey but also with the very essence of artistic creation. This pursuit of self-discovery forms the nucleus of both art and the human experience, guiding the philosophy behind the inaugural edition of SOTO Gallery's Residency presentation.

In May 2023, SOTO Gallery welcomed four artists - Chukwumereogo Okeke, Emmanuel Ifoegbuike, Adaoma Nnabeze, and Simon Iloani, from Eastern Nigeria to Lagos, setting the stage for a deeply immersive art tour that unfolded as a transformative odyssey.

Rooted in the belief that understanding oneself is foundational to wisdom, the residency provided a unique platform for these emerging talents to engage with the rich artistic landscape of Lagos. This comprised activities including a masterclass by the residency's academic lead - Tracian Meikle, insights from the prolific artist Anthony Azekwoh, and enriching visits to prominent art institutions such as the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, the Guest Artist Space (GAS) Foundation, and Yaba College of Technology, at the Center for Contemporary Art.

Spanning six months, the residency fostered an

environment of constant communication and encouragement, resulting in profound introspection for the participating artists. The immersive tours offered not only exposure to diverse artistic practices but also a nurturing space for personal and creative growth. As a testament to SOTO Gallery's commitment to cultivating artistic initiatives in Nigeria, the residency aimed not just to incubate emerging talents, but also to foster a deeper understanding of self among the artists.

This curatorial endeavor extends beyond the artists' personal explorations, reaching out to you, the audience. The curated experiences deliberately crafted for the artists are now translated into an exhibition that invites you to embark on your own introspective journey. As you engage with the art, SOTO Gallery and the artists anticipate that this collective exploration will encourage you to reflect inward, unlocking new dimensions of understanding and appreciation for the profound interplay of art and self-discovery.

ABOUT SOTO GALLERY

SOTO Gallery is a Lagos-based art space finding inventive ways to present contemporary art from Africa. Our programs, ranging from exhibitions, talks, and workshops, demonstrate a commitment to community-oriented, forward-looking, and inclusive art practices.

With an eye for bold & timely creative work that may lie beyond the scope of more traditional galleries, we adopt a closely-engaged and holistic approach to platforming artists, especially at the early stages of their careers, working across a diversity of mediums. We offer residencies, fellowships, and other initiatives that help the artists connected to us find stronger footing in local, regional, and international art markets.

Alongside our work with artists, we are particular about helping to grow the audience for art & culture in Africa and enabling a greater understanding of the factors shaping artistic practice and the cultural industries more broadly. This is achieved through partnerships with individuals and organizations committed to new approaches in cultural research and pedagogy.

SOTO Gallery was relaunched in 2022, growing from an itinerant model as iDesign Art. In its previous form, the gallery produced intimate and large-scale exhibitions showing the work of over two-hundred artists, many of whom have gone on to command widespread critical attention.

ADAOMA
NNABEZE



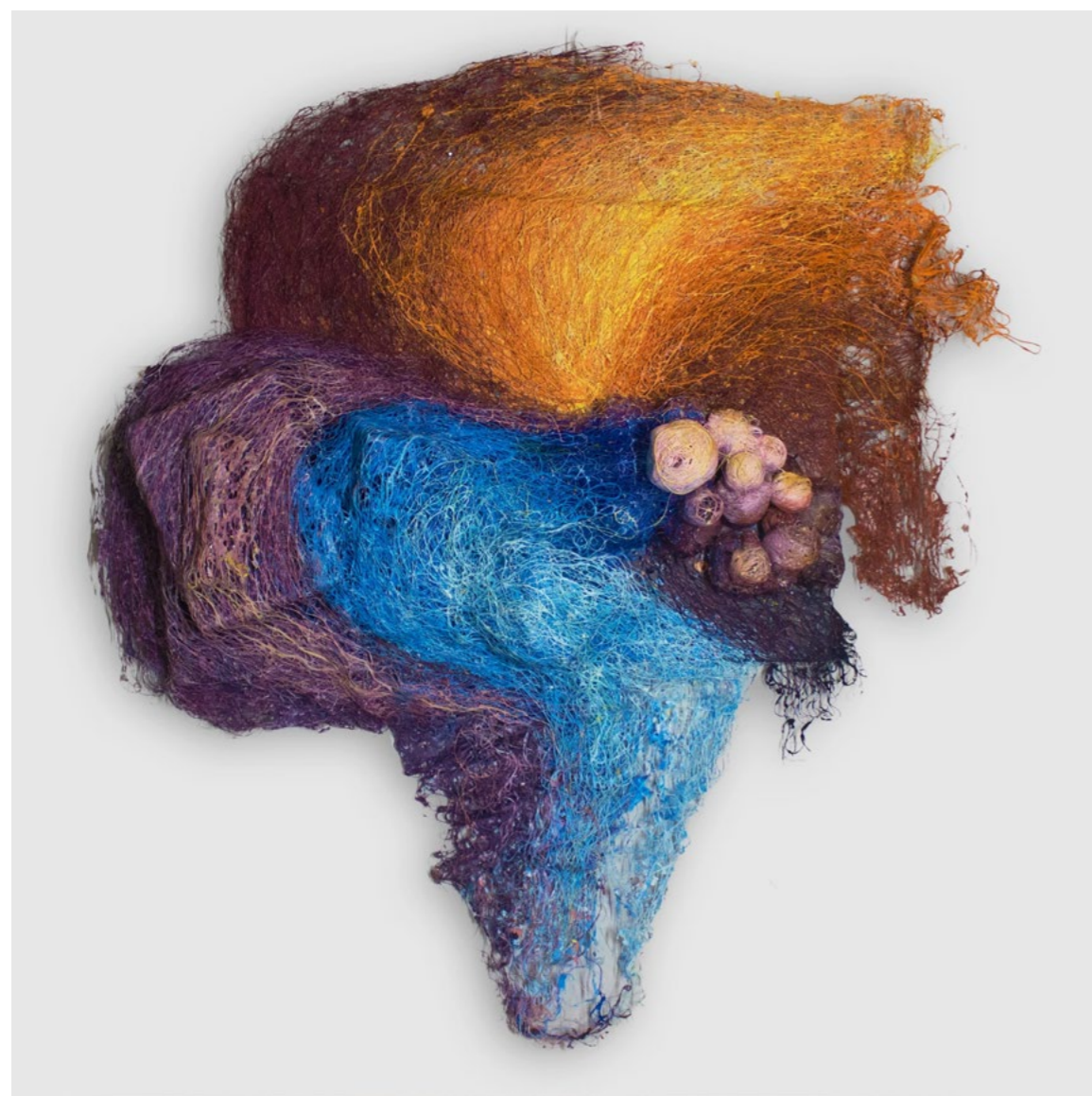
Title: Flow
Medium: Thread and Acrylic
Size: 60 by 94 inches
Year: 2023



Title: Flow
Medium: Thread and Acrylic
Size: 60 by 94 inches
Year: 2023



Title: Essence
Medium: Thread and Acrylic on cotton
Size: 31 by 63 inches
Year: 2023



Title: Redemption
Medium: Thread and Acrylic
Size: 82 by 83 inches
Year: 2023



Title: Ripples and Spirals
Medium: Thread and Acrylic on canvas
Size: 36 by 24 inches
Year: 2022



Title: Igwebuiké
Medium: Threads and Acrylic
Size: 24 by 22 inches
Year: 2023

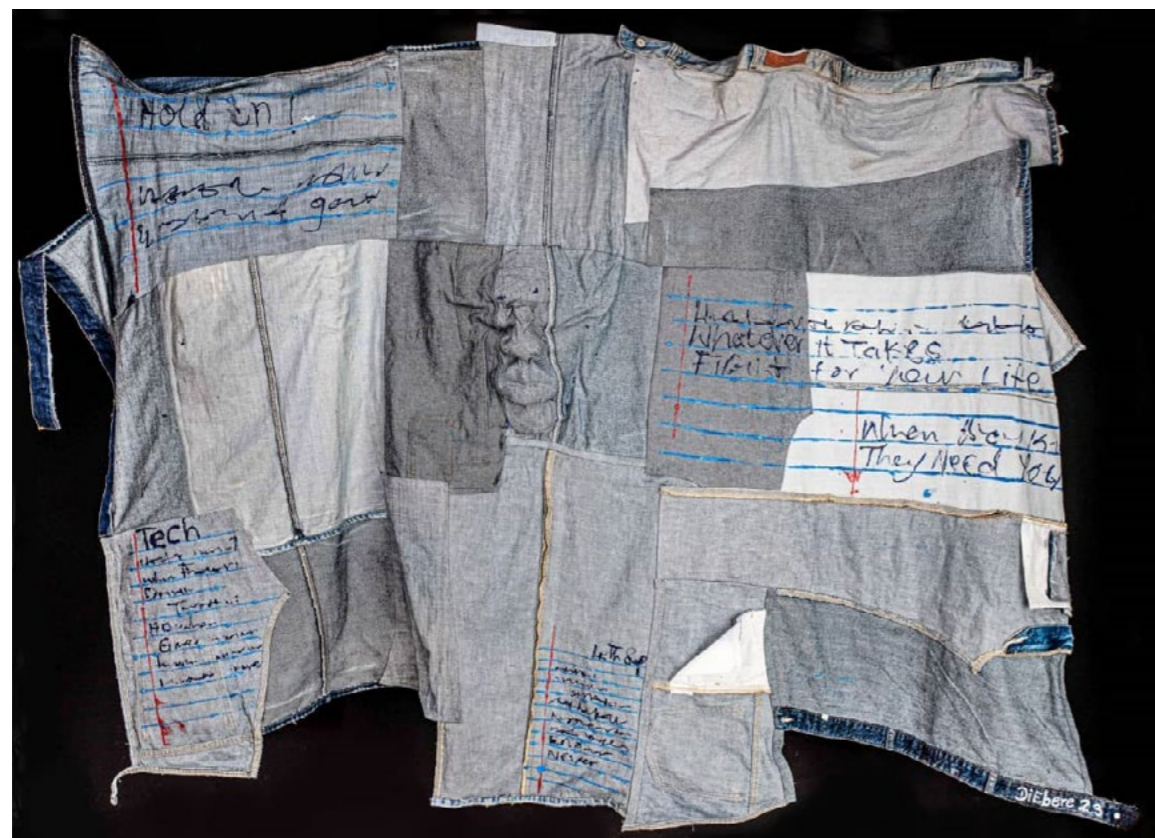


Title: Exuberance
Medium: Threads and Acrylic
Size: 24 by 88 inches
Year: 2023

ILOANI
SIMON



Title: When
Medium: Denim(Jeans)
Size: 65 by 69 cm
Year: 2023



IFEGBUIKE
EMMANUEL

Title: Behind Optimism
Medium: Denim(Jeans)
Size: 157 by 188 cm
Year: 2023



Title: Talku Talku, Plenty Voices, Silence Everywhere
Medium:
Size: 230 by 150 cm
Year: 2023



Title: Plenty Patches on My mother's Gown
Medium:
Size: 114 by 75 cm
Year: 2023



Title: Plenty Patches and spots on my Beautiful Cloth
Medium:
Size: 150 by 96 cm
Year: 2023



Title: Labourer's Short Nicker
Medium:
Size: 108 by 78 cm
Year: 2023



CHUKWUMEREGO

Title: Talku Talku, Plenty Voices, Silence Everywhere

Medium:

Size: 86 by 120 cm

Year: 2023



Title: The Meeting of the 54
Medium: Acrylic, charcoal and pastel on canvas
Size: (ft) 4 by 3



Title: Man and Materials
Medium: Acrylic, Charcoal and Pastel on canvas
Size: (ft) 4 by 3
Year: 2023



Title: Time will Reveal II
Medium: Acrylic, Charcoal and pastel on canvas
Size: (ft) 4 by 3
Year: 2023



Title: Time will Reveal
Medium: Acrylic, charcoal and pastel on canvas
Size: (ft) 4 by 3
Year: 2023

SOTO

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