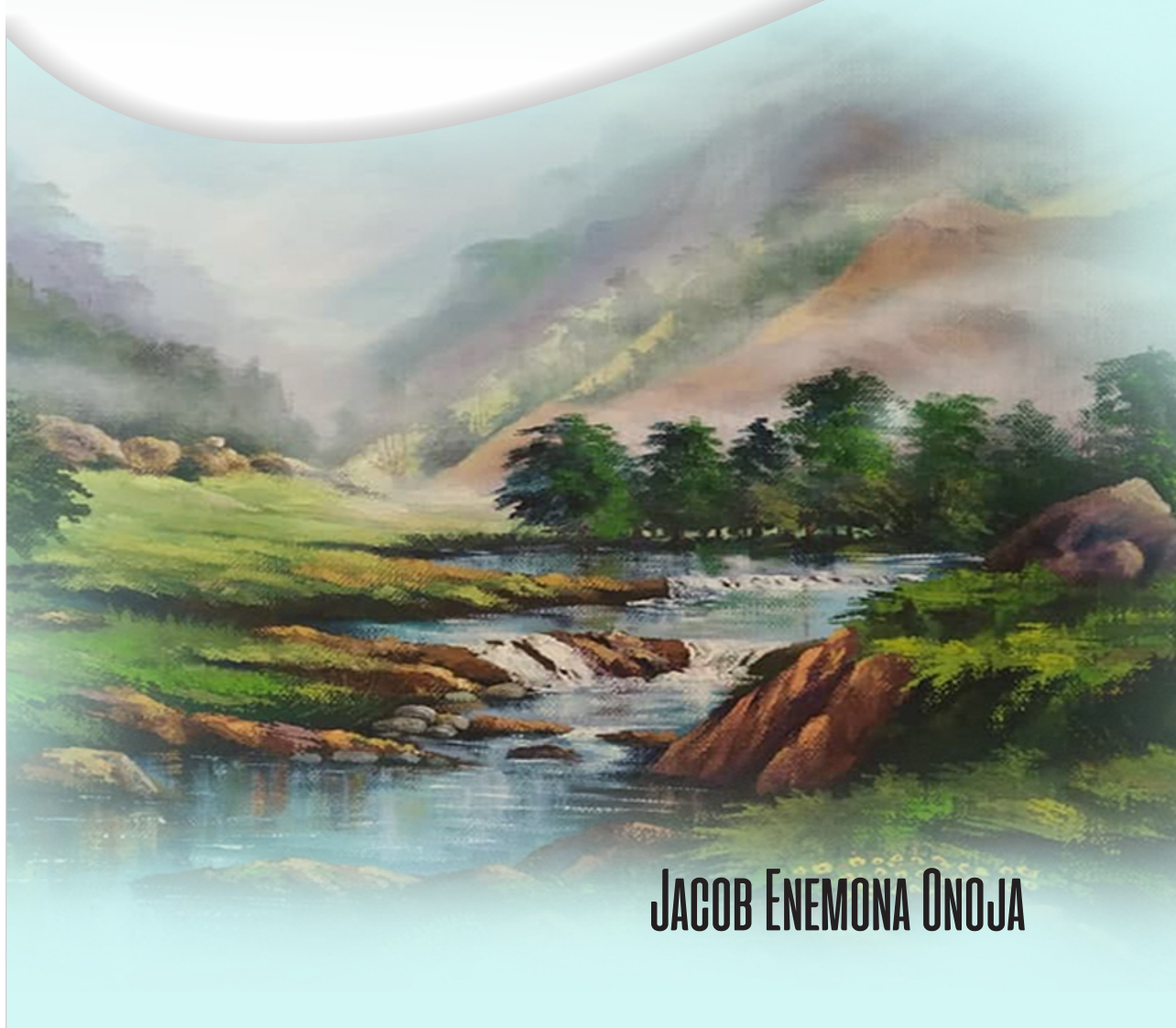


LANDSCAPES & MORE III

ODYSSEY OF A LANDSCAPE ARTIST



JACOB ENEMONA ONOJA

LANDSCAPES AND MORE III

Odyssey of a Landscape Artist

By

Jacob Enemona Onoja

B.A (Painting), M.A, Ph.D. (Art history) ABU – Zaria.

An exhibition of Paintings, Prints, Drawings and Photography

December, 2019

SUPPORTED BY:



DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS, UNIJOS



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LANDSCAPES AND MORE III

Odyssey of a Landscape Artists

An Exhibition of the oeuvres of Jacob Onoja

7th – 31st December, 2019

Magnet House, Plot 50973, Rayfield Zarmaganda Road by Emerald Royal Plaza, Jos – Plateau State.

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Department of Fine and Applied Arts

Faculty of Environmental Sciences

University of Jos, Jos – Nigeria.

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ISBN: 978-978-978-185-0

Cover Painting: Valley of delight, Oil on canvas, 90 x 121 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

Cover Design: Ishaya Shamang & Esla Embu

Print: Design Box Plus - +2348065431142

Published by: Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos, Jos – Nigeria.

FOREWORD

A landscape is a composite of natural and unnatural features viewed from a vantage point. Viewing a landscape therefore, depends on who is doing the viewing and for what purpose. Thus, for a mastering artist like Onoja Jacob, presenting what he views from a landscape should be taken seriously. This is particularly so because, he has insinuated rather consistently, and for the third time that, there is more to these landscapes.

Hence, it is imperative to let you know why Onoja is a mastering artist. I encountered Onoja as an undergraduate student at the prestigious Fine Art Department of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, several years ago. He graduated as a painter, but curiously returned to acquire both a masters and doctorate degrees in Art History. More intriguing is the fact that, while conducting researches in Art Historical issues, including art practices, he consistently practised painting and also exhibited. Thus he became critically conscious of the importance of not just form but the content that form composition manifest to the viewer. In this regard, it will be unwise to take the perceptual, as well as, the conceptual standpoints of these exhibits, which by the exhibition are being presented for the third time, passively. Indeed, they are more than just landscapes.

The landscape paintings on display in this exhibition, manifest not only his landscape vantage views, but the inner experiences of what those landscapes either represents, expose, reflect or indeed evoke. Clear examples are; "Memories" reminding us of our personal experiences of certain landscapes; "serenity " reflective of what an ideal society should be and "Nature Balance I and II"; which is expository of lessons we should learn from nature's natural tendencies to balance everything.

It is my submission therefore, that Onoja Jacob's consistent presentation of his perceptible landscapes and the many allegories they manifest, is a testament to his passion for art that must be responsive to societal needs. In doing this, he has freed himself of the restrictive shackles of art historical categorisations. Thus, he is neither your classical realists nor impressionist painter despite the works seeming resemblance to those. He is also not your typical romanticists or conceptual artist, despite the works' evocation of such ideas. He is all of those and more. I hereby, present for your pleasure, reflection/contemplation and even interrogation, Onoja Jacobs' 2019 "LANDSCAPES AND MORE III"

DUNIYA G. Gambo PhD

Professor of Art History and Criticism

Department of Fine Art.

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

And;

Professor on Sabbatical,

Department of Fine and Applied Arts,

University of Jos.

Artistic Drive

I am passionate about my creative intuitions in landscape paintings which culminates in my expressions of the existing and the perceived.

“And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, ..." (Ex 35:30-34 NKJV). This scriptural reference encapsulates my artistic journey and a quest to fulfil my God- given artistic skills on earth for His glory. I have always loved nature and the beauties of creation. The expanse of landscapes in various seasons, the majestic beauty of the sky and changing kaleidoscope of the clouds, lovely meadows, mist and fog effects on mountains and hills, floral ecstasies, valleys and varied topography, flowing life-giving streams watering the earth, insects buzzing, flying and pollinating various plants in God's recycling plant. Nature is simply phenomenal and therapeutic, and as an artist, expressing these beauties using various media of expression and paintings, especially the landscape genre is a delight. In the words of John Constable, a leading and celebrated landscape artist, painting is a science and should be pursued as an inquiry into the laws of nature. The pursuits of the ideal and pristine have led me to explore various landscapes at home and abroad, exploring possibilities for experimentation, aesthetics and entrepreneurial frontiers.

This exhibition and reminiscences of essays are my contributions to the interaction of town and gown in furtherance to the teaching /learning paradigm. My oeuvres answer salient societal issues in allegorical presentations, colour theories, spatial exegesis, perspective renditions, spontaneous drawings, photography and the freedom of expression which is usually sacrosanct to the artist I dare to say.

Photography has greatly enhanced my studio practice. Instant recordings of sceneries on transit using my SDR camera or cell phone have added to my repository of landscape images which I use as references for my works or print as images for contemplation. It is important to note that, photography is an art form whose potency, especially to a landscape artist cannot be overemphasised.

Engage with the works critically, enjoy the creative dexterity and take-along for your private collection exhibits from one of the finest on earth from the Creator. Happy viewing.

Jacob Enemona Onoja Ph.D.



Jacob Enemona Onoja - B.A (Painting) M.A, Ph.D. (Art History- ABU-Zaria) *MSNA*.

Lecturer in Drawing, Painting and Art History.

Exhibiting Artist.

ESSAYS

INTRODUCTION

Connoisseurs and lovers of the visual arts, I welcome you to this solo exhibition staged by Dr. Jacob Enemona Onoja, a staff of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts in furtherance of his town and gown engagement with his research in studio practice. Every artistic creation through deep contemplation is always enjoyed in an exhibition space as we are witnessing in this show. The studio is usually sacrosanct to the artists, and the place of engagements is the exhibition hall. Several artists over the years have exhibited their individual styles, media and philosophies in designated exhibition spaces in solo or joint shows. This solo display bridges the gap and presents a landscape artist whose works are a classic of the landscape genre as it relates to Jos- Plateau State and memories of other places visited by the artist.

Exhibition is a pivotal component of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos. Staff and students face the acid test of acceptance or rejection from the public through the artworks presented in a show, of which Jacob Onoja has brazenly upheld over the years with his Landscape and More Series. This exhibition titled “Landscapes and More III – Odyssey of a Landscape artist” being the third of the series, has put Onoja forth as a master in his own right in his unique landscape style of the Jos – Plateau and other selected landscape features across the globe. The exhibition features paintings, drawings, prints and photography, showing a plethora of the artist's use of materials of expression.

The exhibits are testaments of a hardworking artist who combines academic, administrative and studio practice with outstanding results. The experiments over time with the landscape genre which the artist cum lecturer also teaches with results among his students draw from practical studio sessions and the continuation of the creative process of God. Onoja's attitude to work is one that should be emulated for a progressive visual culture in the various sections of the department which advances aesthetics in Ceramics, Graphics, Painting, Sculpture and Textiles as areas of specialization. Take an adventurous journey into the mind of the artist and enjoy your interactions with the theory and practice of the visual arts in the essays and exhibits.

Dr. Yohanna Datiri

Associate Professor of Ceramics
Head, Department of Fine and Applied Arts
Faculty of Environmental Sciences
University of Jos.

A Succinct on Jacob Enemona Onoja

When the artist, Dr Jacob E. Onoja approached me as an Art Historian, friend and colleague to say something on his art practice, I felt honoured but at the same time, confused. My knowledge of him faded; I held my pen and blank paper for hours, I had nothing to write. It was at that point that I realised my emotional attachment to his paintings has beclouded my sense of reasoning and appreciation. As an academic, I consciously detached myself from such emotions about the subject matter, that was when the ideas started dropping about the artist and his art practice.

Onoja is an indigene of Kogi State, Nigeria, was born on 14th September, 1975, in Abeokuta, Ogun State. He had his primary and secondary education between 1981 and 1993 at the Army Children School II, and Command Day Secondary School, both in Rukuba Military Cantonment, Jos, Plateau State. After which he proceeded to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and graduated with a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts where he specialised in painting. Subsequently, he went back to his Alma Mata and bagged his Master of Art (M.A) in Art History and Ph.D. Art History in 2008 and 2017 respectively. In his pursuance of excellence, he went to New York Film Academy U.S.A, Harvard Campus programme, and obtained a Diploma in 3-D Animation in the year 2012. Currently, he is a lecturer at the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Jos. Plateau State.

Still on the struggle to explain Onoja's achievements in the Visual Art practice, few of them filtered into my memory. I describe him as a prolific landscape painter who has received many commissions, awards and participated in several exhibitions, seminars and conferences. Among such activities are to his credit: Manuscript Writing Workshop organized by the Jos - Carnegie Partnership Committee (JCPC), Unijos in collaboration with the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) 2011. A 3-D Animation workshop at the New York Film Academy, Harvard University summer programme, Cambridge Massachusetts, United States of America, 2012. Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) Artists workshop/ Exhibition. Jos Museum, 2013, and Unijos Pavilion designer/ Exhibition stand, International Students Film Festival organized by the STEP- B World Bank Project, 2013. He is an active member, Society of Nigerian Artists (MSNA.)

At this point, I need to conclude before I turn into a praise singer. Onoja, as a painter, delights in making statements using his landscapes. Recently, I had a discussion with him about five works that specifically echoed on the peaceful nature of Plateau State. One of the works has stuck into my innermost being and I reminisce on it whenever I think of this artist, Onoja. I wish this particular painting titled, "Deserted Fortress", is displayed in the exhibition he is holding this week, which he termed as a special one to his age. The work brings a nostalgic feeling about the frail-peaceful Plateau. It prompts the question, can the Plateau still be regarded as the Home of Peace and Tourism? A situation where it has become difficult to travel to many areas in the state without being hunted has undermined the heralding of the said peace on the Plateau. Tourism is equally set at the verge of collapse, since it is fretful and deadly to climb the hills for sight-seeing. The beautiful Plateau and its longest fortress jingles have more deserted hills and valleys now than ever before. This painting brings to the observer's knowledge that; the deserted fortresses can be reclaimed by sincerely living in peace with one another. Now, I feel alighted for scribbling something little but concise on Jacob Onoja, a painter, a friend and colleague.

Dr. Ezra. R. Samuila

Department of Fine and Applied Arts,
Faculty of Environmental Science, University of Jos.

THE COLLABORATION – ART MEETS ARCHITECTURE

The year 2018 was a memorable one for the Magnet Building following collaboration with Dr. Jacob Onoja in a season filled collection of sprawling art exhibition hosted by the facility, first one of its kind since the opening of the mixed-use building in the late 2015.



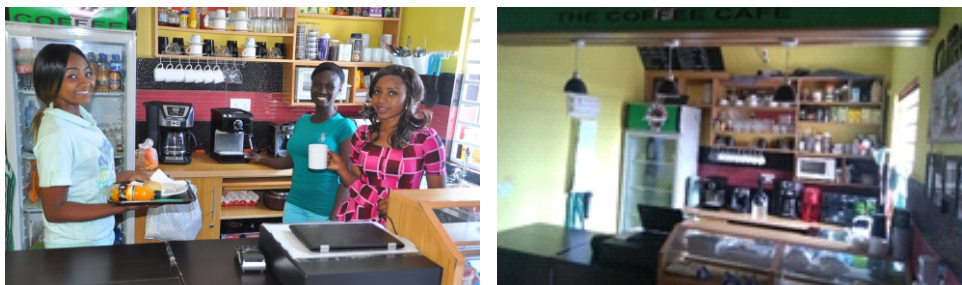
Magnet Building

MAGNET RECEPTION

The art exhibition comprised of a collection of landscape artworks on canvas put together by the artist Dr. Jacob Onoja himself in collaboration with Magnet Café and Tonees.consult and Eetee Habitats Nig. Ltd, all housed and run within the same Magnet Building with one management head. The building sits on a sprawling 1800 sq.m plot along the Zarmaganda-Rayfield road in Jos South Local Government Area (L.G.A) of Plateau State. The building designed and built by Tonees.consult with construction participation of Eetee Habitats Ltd the architectural consultancy firm based in Plateau State is intended as a mixed-use facility housing a coffee shop, retail facility, conference/seminar room and office spaces.



Magnet Café' Lounge



Magnet Café Kitchen

MAGNET CAFÉ KITCHEN

Though the building was first opened to use some four years back, the coffee shop and retail operations have only come on-stream two years back, and according to the facilities managers, it's still work in progress with regards to effectively harnessing the full potentials of the building and running all aspects of the building at full capacity. The collaboration is a way of publicising the facility following the successful outing last December 2018 to January 2019.



Press and Visitors at Last Year's Exhibition

The principal stake holder Tonees.consult an Architectural consultancy firm which runs and partners Eetee Habitats Nigeria Ltd who run office outlets within intend for the facility to be a hub of many young innovative and creative minds ready to interact, learn new trends in buildings, AI in smart home applications, IT, green Architecture and sustainable design in the built environment.



Magnet Conference/Seminar Room

MAGNET CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

The partnership envisions growth in the future for the facility when the external works encompassing green landscaping and other added functions come into a full stream. Enjoy architecture and paintings at its best.

Arc. Anthony Kingsley Ikwu
CEO TONEES.CONSULT

ONOJA'S LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS AS PEACE MEMORIALS

Landscape painting is not one of the most favourite subjects of Nigerian artists. Indeed, one can also proceed to note that there are very few dedicated landscape painters like Jacob Onoja. I am still thinking of one that I have met in most of my travels across the country and in the heavily concentrated Nigeria's art centres and galleries in Lagos and Abuja. So, from this perspective, Onoja, in my opinion, is beginning to emerge as Nigeria's most prolific and most consistent landscape painters. What also further distinguishes him is his chosen landscapes of the Jos Plateau, a once one of the most peaceful states in Nigeria, with perhaps the richest tourist attractions and potentials waiting to be tapped.

This is precisely what makes Onoja's paintings historically and aesthetically important. The Plateau landscapes have witnessed devastating land destruction as a result of mining the past. Today, it is witnessing another form of human destruction, violence, and human conflicts of unimaginable proportion. These two major human activities on the most enchanting landscape wonders of Nigeria suffer both physical and psychological distortion. In my view, therefore, Jacob Onoja's landscapes become a memorial referencing, in a sense, of the once innocent, inviting and peaceful sets of Plateaus, hills, plains and valleys. These paintings captured in such dramatic realistic rendition create in a viewer a call to peace, to purity and to the value in contemplating the wonders of God's creation that is good. Metaphorically his paintings are spiritual mirrors to our evil hearts, our hate culture and moral decadence.

Jacob Onoja's landscapes indeed are *Memories* of peace, *Serenity* the Plateau once had, which he now prays for. The landscapes also speak of the *Balance*, which the Almighty instructed Adam to strike between himself as the gardener with Eden. And, we know that where there is no balance, even the powerful Centre cannot hold.

I pray that we will find time to quietly transport ourselves into these landscape paintings so that we can once again experience the kind of life we lost in Eden.

Prof. Jerry Buhari
October 2019 – Zaria



Nature's Balance I, Oil on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob.

Plateau State is blessed with a myriad of natural wonders. This painting responds to the balance created by God over the years. Rocks carefully balanced on each other without toppling, rivers to sustain evergreen vegetation and the harmony achieved in nature. I am just mesmerized by the wisdom of God.

MY PROTÉGÉ

A look at Onoja's paintings reflected my mind to the realist philosophy, that is concerned with recording the actual facts of the environment. This is so because, in his painting compositions, I vividly feel the freshness of the forms as they are in nature which he achieves through his use of fresh palettes, that make his representations as accurate observations.

He is a painter that favoured realistic depictions of the natural environment created through close observation. This qualifies him to be an advocate of realistic representation of the elements and principles of designs naturally found in the environment he lives in. I see Onoja as a painter that has delved much into the landscape of his environment, the Jos – Plateau; this he invested with an intensity of affections that make his style to have many of the qualities associated with nature works.

The changing patterns of clouds, weather and light, which he sought to capture in his landscape paintings, probably, were factors that fascinated him. Onoja utilizes colours that are found reflecting the hues in nature. He is identified for his unique addition of the pure white highlights, which serve to represent the sparkle of light on water. I see Onoja's paintings as experimental compositions, with a freestyle of making representations, through which he can capture the effects of the elemental changes on the countryside with spontaneity.

Philip O. Gushem (Ph.D.)

Professor of Fine Art.

JACOB ENEMONA ONOJA: A VIEW FROM THE SIDE

A Painting exhibition by Jacob Enemona Onoja, Ph.D. would naturally gather together several masterful paintings of landscapes. Scenic. Colour. Lively. Almost life-like. Expressive. Strong strokes. He takes every Tabula Rasa and makes life come out of it, He would make John Locke proud. He also carries in his works the idea that all knowledge comes from outside of ourselves, through spatial sensory experience. His search for knowledge is therefore spatial. He loves the outdoors. He is a great admirer of nature, of the outdoors, rustic. Green. Wetlands. Rocky terrains. Flowing streams. Rustling winds. Serene. Can we also call him an environmentalist? I have secretly nursed the idea of acquiring one of his paintings, except that there is one problem. His latest painting seems to be better than the last one. And then the next is better than the last one. So, I keep waiting for the next one. His other passion, photography, also reveals him as a man with unique vision, peculiar view and perspective.

Onoja is a man I have known on many fronts. At one, he was a Mentee and later as a younger colleague of mine at the University of Jos. On another frontier, he is my in-law, whose temper and patience 'we' thoroughly tried and proved, after which he landed his precious pearl of inestimable value. Wazi, her name announcing she is a 'good thing'. He is my brother in the faith. He is a friend.

My earliest encounter with Onoja was occasioned by his passion for teaching painting while he was an Art Teacher at Bethany Christian Academy, a private elite school in Barkin Ladi, Nigeria. Here, he inspired and groomed young students in painting. Years later, I needed a young artist to feature at the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST). I found a young student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, named David Dam. He was patient, ebullient and effective, sitting in front of his easel. Later, I learnt he was one of the products of Onoja's tutelage at Bethany; many have since been inspired to pursue careers in fine arts. Later, I got to know of his philosophical slant through his intelligent analysis of art works. He struck me as an intellectual and a talented artist whose creativity would always take him beyond established boundaries. He combined these with a professional interest in photography, viewed from some unique perspective of life.

He graduated from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, in Nigeria with a B.A. Fine Arts (Painting) in 2001 and obtained M.A. Art History in 2008 from the same institution. After he joined the staff of the University of Jos, his explorative view of the arts led him to the New York Film Academy, USA (Harvard Campus programme) where he took a one-month practical Diploma in 3D Animation in 2012. He has so far shown a promise of a bright academic career that is steeped in a balance between theory and practice. His research potentials have been demonstrated already by a thematically focused connection between arts and peace in society.

At the University of Jos, he has mounted solo and joint exhibitions of his works, drawing media attention to issues covered in his paintings. Often connecting his surroundings to his works and representing his thoughts in quite an emphatic manner. His works have also represented the University of Jos at national events with commendable recognition and acknowledgements. This invariably brings us to another dimension to the man. Artists are often captured as being iconoclastic and sold to their paint brushes and making little sense to others around them neither caring a hoot about it. Onoja is none of these. He is jovial. Very aware and in tune with his environment. Caring. Meditative. Resilient. Patient. Engaging.

In this exhibition, he takes us on a voyage and physical tour of some of the most imaginative views we can find in our somewhat dreary climes. He challenges us to join him with almost a matching creative force to imagine a new world. Invariably, we are witnessing the rising of a new generation of artists who are carving a space for themselves, much in a direction different to the early masters of Nigerian painting. They are boldly proclaiming their presence and arrival with works that capture moments of soulful silence. That a picture is worth a thousand words can be redacted to mean a painting can speak infinite words and meanings. Several paintings are therefore pouring out a discourse.

Onoja's intellectual capacity has steadily guided his academic and career development. He is a man of peace and a great team player. Effervescence surrounds him and he easily warms up cold or negative attitudes around him. This exhibition will definitely live up to and match this characteristic on the man, the artist and the soul, Jacob Enemona Onoja.

Professor Victor S. Dugga
Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Federal University of Lafia, Nigeria.



Misty Morning. Acrylic on Canvas. 90 x 122 cm. 2018. Onoja Jacob

This painting captures an imaginative composition of a remote village on the Plateau. The misty atmospheric condition, lush trees growing by the river banks, clear water cascading from the mountains and the richness of the ochres and browns of the earth from the abundance of rich mineral resources.

The Land is indeed endowed with natural and human resources.



Valley of delight, Oil on canvas, 90 x 121 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

There is a river of joy flowing through the city of our God-the sacred home of the God above all gods (Ps 46:4 TLB). This painting was borne out of the contemplation of this scripture and to respond to a request from my colleague Dr. John Oyedemi to paint large canvases for Lagos exhibition. The painting is my first piece in 2019 and explores the trappings in an ideal landscape.

DR. JACOB ONOJA: THE ARTIST

I am privileged to have encountered Dr. Jacob Onoja who has exhibited perfection and dexterity in anything that has to do with creativity. I have been enthralled by his translation of nature into art form – whether drawing, painting or photography. His drawing and paintings demonstrate patience, insight, deep thinking and a “following the footsteps” of God, the creator of the universe. It is not surprising that he is able to capture scenes as if they are 'live'. But he also sets you thinking about and appreciate things we take for granted in nature.

The messages transmitted through the productions are excellence, commitment and learning. Dr. Onoja continues to listen to criticisms and take them with humility, a great virtue of someone who is destined for greatness. I like his attitude of listening; as he does not appear to force his opinions on his audience. This makes his critics to interact more with him with a certain degree of freedom.

One other distinguishing attribute of Dr. Onoja is his readiness to mentor others. Dr. Onoja shares his works and thoughts easily with others. I have observed his involvement of youths, his students and anyone who cares, as willing collaborators in his projects. This I find outstanding.

He serves as the anchor person in the University of Jos Web Team for photography, and his photographs have added aesthetics and greater visibility to the university web site. I have also had the opportunity to work with him at the Teens for Christ programme where he continues to share his talents with teenagers, encouraging them to be focused and ready to explore God-given potentials in them.

Dr. Jacob Onoja, no doubt is making an impact and affecting the lives of young and old through his artworks and levels and attitudes of his social relationships. May God continue to honour him.

A. Akintunde

Stephen A. Akintunde, PhD, CLN
University Librarian, and
Chairman, University of Jos Web Team.



Moon Dance, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 121 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

THOUGHTS ON JACOB ONOJA'S LANDSCAPES AND MORE III

Jacob Onoja breathes landscapes as he speaks to them through the flora, springs, waterfalls and rich green meadows in triumphant response to his palette. To give a vivid account of Onoja's paintings, only a story in full verse would be most apt, but space here is not enough to exude the exuberance of this Nigerian landscape painter.

A life-long preoccupation with the vagrant beautiful sceneries offered by the Plateau and the compassion Onoja feels toward the aura of the sceneries only served to increase his passion to represent the pleasantries of each scene. The dynamic boldness of nature's essence, tone, colour, the vivid light and compositional renditions of his canvasses, plainly reveals a sense of attachment and passion of a free mind in constant dialogue with his environment.

Onoja's voyage into landscape painting is nonetheless, a prolific one as his creative energy has mushroomed into an incredible output, satisfying an inner gratification. He composes his canvasses in a sudden burst of energy in a robust manner that is most suited to his singularity of personality and character that is unmistakably Onoja's.

In this collection of works by Onoja, he has presented us with the hope that dwells in his inner being, which he has allowed us to have a glimpse for the paramount reason of the gamut that constitutes the beauty of our environment that often goes unnoticed. Onoja is already an accomplished mature artist as his works attest.

As an artist, Onoja is modest about his art – which, I think is true of every genius-he is not inclined to make too much of his person and appraise every brush stroke a connoisseur of his paintings, hence the diversity of treatise on this great artist. From my readings of some paintings, it is evident that Jacob Onoja often alternates between two painting techniques, but in fact closely related, modes of painting – brush strokes and knife impasto used effectively to convey his messages. The paintings in this exhibition are a testimony of his involvement.

There are no gratuitous elements to be found in Onoja's paintings; in “Deserted Fortress” even the cactus you glimpse in the horizon is just that cactus, nothing more. In its lyrical attachment to the truth of landscape, is a matter of style and belief as well as what was observed. His works are distinctively his, practically synonymous with a sort of welcoming atmosphere. His works can be parsimonious on the eye. Full of grace and lyrical crescendo, one does not have to look twice to see every form in his landscapes. Works like “Memories” “Serenity”, “Nature's Balance I & II” and “Country Side Allegory” are evocative explorations of the land and places surrounding Onoja in Plateau and beyond. This exhibition is select-works as examples of the media in painting that Onoja has handled so masterfully- acrylic, oil, and knife and brush paintings with alluring themes. His works are; to say the least, authentic and expressive Nigerian avant-garde. The themes resonate on many levels of observation and mood. No doubt, the exhibition will have a tremendous impact on the audience.

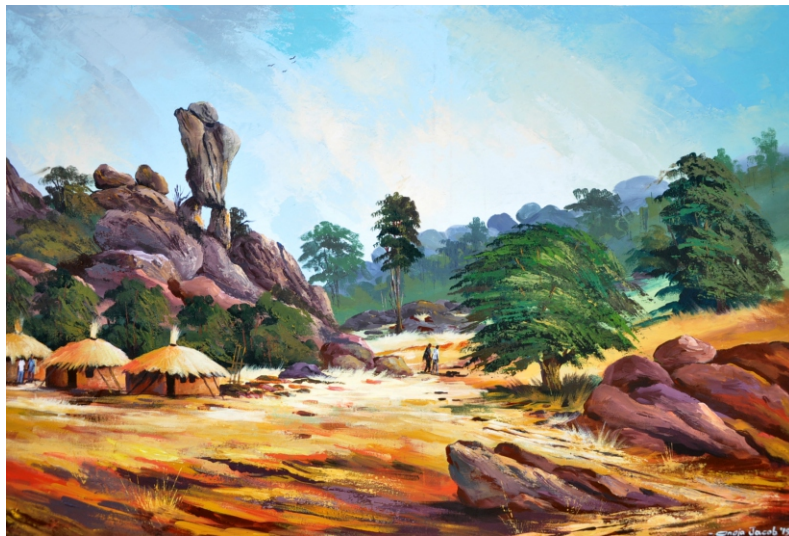
Prof. Best Ochigbo

Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies
University of Uyo, UYO.



Memories, Oil on canvas, 90 x 121 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

The savannah grasslands are always a spectacle in the dry season. The unique vegetation of Zaria, for instance, showing the Baobab tree, brings memories of a town which schooled me in the visual arts and appreciation of wide expanse of space and available arable land. The question perhaps is why is our young population not harnessing these land for agricultural production?



Nature's Balance II, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

Rocks formation carry unique features and sculpting that leave one wondering.

There are rocks with maps etched on them, trophies and faces. The tourism potentials of Plateau State are simply divine and waiting for better manifestation.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

MARVELLOUS LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS



Group photograph with the Chairman Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA) Plateau State Chapter Mr. Ezekiel Udubrae (First from the right) and members during the opening of Landscapes and More I.

It is heartwarming that Dr. Jacob Onoja is once again coming out with his marvellous landscape paintings. It is a great opportunity for the general public of the Plateau to savour his great talent and his powerful rendition of the unique waterfalls on the Plateau.

Another aspect of his features is the Rock formations, that his powerful brush strokes bring to life in such a manner that they look real and natural to the beholder. He has mastered the beautiful sceneries of the Plateau such that, even if it is possible, he rendered them in such a way that even the blind through feeling the paintings, sees the features come to life. Onoja is not a stranger on the Plateau, he has lived and worked in and around Jos, he once lectured in Design and Technical Theatre in the Theatre and Film Arts Department of the University of Jos. He is currently a lecturer in the Fine and Applied Arts department of the University of Jos, and has exhibited widely within and outside the shores of Nigeria. He is happily married to Awazi and they reside in Jos.

Ezekiel E. Udubrae
Chairman Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA).
Plateau State Chapter.

ONOJA JACOB: A FLAIR FOR PLEIN AIR PAINTING

When an artist continually takes to a subject, he becomes a master of different aspect of it. In this case, Onoja brings Plein air spontaneity to bear on his canvas of various dimension in his studio. His paintings are basically natural landscape with features of hills, land, water and skyline from which exhume colours, mist and sunshine and in other instance attempt made to represent cityscapes with dazzling colours of day and night. It is important to note that Onoja is enmeshed with the surroundings of Plateau mountains and beautiful scenic environment. This became his source of inspiration as he writes with delight from his palette his experiences and encounters on canvas. In his characteristic mannerism, every painting is a story of his familiarity and mastery of colour, texture and line. A configuration of outdoor observation which creates in viewer an experience of real world on canvas. Collection of any of the pieces is an investment with a guarantee future returns. I wish you all a happy viewing pleasure.

Dr. John Oyedemi

Lecturer in Drawing and Painting



Painting students and staff of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts in a Plein air session at the Lamingo Dam – 18 June, 2019.



Lamingo Dam, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob.
Collection of Dr. Jerry Gwamna

The Environmentalist

My contact with Jacob was phenomenal, as an undergraduate student in Zaria. His always smiling face was also the first attraction. Within this gentle upcoming artist was found diligence of always sketching outdoor. This made Jacob choose painting as an option to vent his ever developing-prowess. Like the renaissance artist, Jacob became interested in seeing things, replicating them as he sees them. Like his teachers, Jerry Buhari, Philip Gushem, Ismail Chafe who kept pace with the sceneries of their immediate environment and reflected it in their paintings; Jacob started experimenting on landscapes of Zaria and spontaneously reflected the Jos landforms where he resides and grew up. It became much stronger and evident when the artist painted scenes of Jos landscapes which he exhibited at Bethany Christian Academy, Barkin Ladi. As an art teacher, most parents became more interested in this art and prepared always to buy pieces during visits; which the artist sold many into the hand of such parents.

What one sees today as Jacob's classical naturalism of Jos landscape emanated from his deep appreciation of God's beauty pungent of Jos, from the undulating topography, to the several ponds, rivers and waterfalls of Assop and the likes. One thing of mention to this is the quiet, still and peaceful format on which his brush strokes are rendered. These goes ahead to explain the nature of the artist in question; artist at most times sub-consciously embedded in their work their personalities. By the time one goes through Jacob's paintings, the incessant greens, blues and browns are repeated as his love for them but are not superficially from the love of colours, they are born from his philosophy of life. There, God after creating the world in Genesis chapter one verses 4,10,12,18,21,25,31 said it is good, therefore I say to you that it is good to enjoy looking at the creation of Jacob Enemona Onoja.

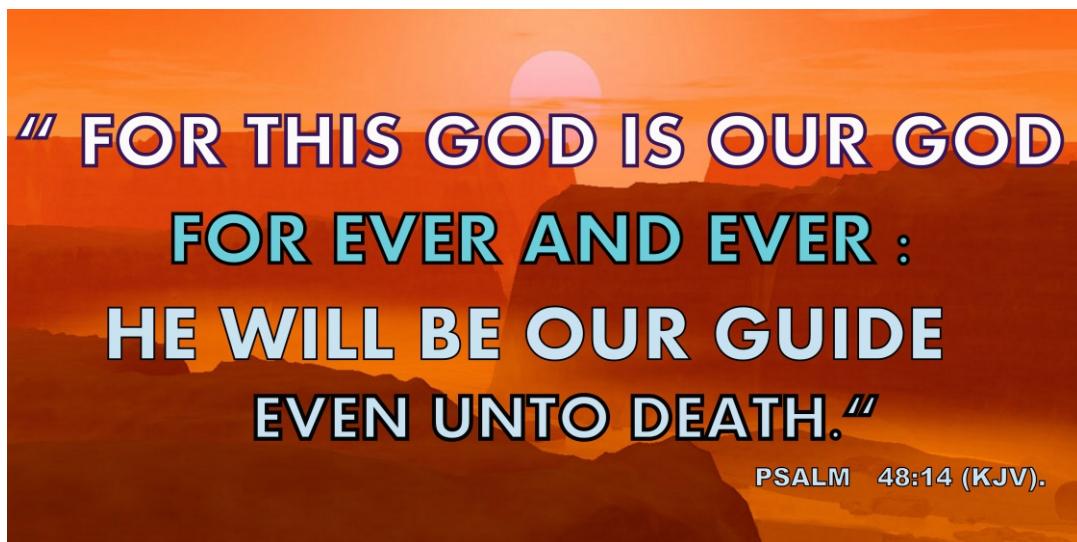
Dr. Caleb Samuel

Art historian and Critic



Countryside Allegory, Oil on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. 2018. Onoja Jacob.

The pristine air of the countryside is therapeutic. The undulating mountains, green areas and natural meadows, the heavenly feel of wildflowers blossoming with life and a myriad of fragrances filling the air draw one into the landscape with a love for more. Actually, I am thinking of a city, whose maker and builder is God. Rev.21: 18 –



ONOJA AND HIS LANDSCAPES

Landscape was an established genre in the Eastern art tradition by 4th Century A.D. but in the Western Art world, Landscape painting as an independent genre began only after the era of Renaissance Art. Prior to that, the scenery acted merely as a background for human activities. This created an opening for many artists to fall into the main stream of studying and exploring landscapes painting or drawings.

Onoja is a Zaria trained artist, a painter, an art historian and an animator. As a painter, he explores more in landscape particularly paintings and drawings. Most of his recent works are landscapes of Jos rock compositions mostly rivers, valleys, villages scenes among other sceneries.

Onoja being a calm, patient, and a neat artist, try to depict and capture most of the objects that appear on the landscapes in details, particularly intricate areas of the objects that seem to appear beyond eye level. His works seem to appear real in nature, his approaches is that of a realist. He expresses himself on canvas through the use of palette knife instead of brush and this has added a unique texture to some of his paintings, the use of vibrant colours for his landscape has expressive effects particularly the colours, light and shapes which appear expressive was done to capture the changing effect of light and the passing of the seasons.

Onoja is known for capturing the effects of colour and light which made him famous as a painter of bright colours as Joseph Mallord William Turner is always known as the “Painter of Light”.

Akila Yusuf Gunok

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos.

TEACHING BY PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

I consider myself very lucky to have been taught by a teacher like Mr Jacob Onoja in secondary school. It is one thing to stand in front of a classroom teaching students. It is a different thing to apply what you teach practically while your students watch you. By watching him work, I not only got to see a true artist work but it left me with an image of one of the most vital lessons to learn about success, 'the joy of doing something that you are passionate about every day'. Each of his paintings is an inspiration silently teaching the world this lesson.

Lafim Miri-Dashe

3D Animator, SPIN VFX, Canada (Former student).

JACOB ENEMONA ONOJA (THE INSPIRATION)

The expression of visual culture has over the years metamorphosed into a dynamic and adept means of recording development within society. Nature and the built environment present a myriad of genres, themes and context for artistic expression. These have been the concerns of artists throughout the ages, especially for painters. The evolution of landscape painting in Nigeria has been facilitated by the emergence of astute professional visual artists who have taken their talents to the next level. This has been demonstrated through the works of one of Nigeria's prominent landscape painters, Dr Jacob Onoja.

He is an erudite scholar of high acclaim, an avid Art educator and contemporary Nigerian Fine Artist, whose professional pedigree attest to his achievements in the Art and Culture Sector. He is one of the very few Nigerian landscape painters who has successfully scaled through the ranks of an evergreen field of endeavour. I was once a student under his tutelage, during which I caught the passion and vision for Fine Arts. The foundation for me was carefully laid through his patience and resilient guidance and care which eventually kick-started my impending career journey in this unique profession.

Jacob Onoja's professionalism as a landscape painter sets him apart from others by the way he employs the vibrancy and richness of his colour application. This is reflective in the confidence that a Fine Artist develops in order to effectively communicate his aesthetic message. His versatility in knowledge, use and execution of colour depicts an in-depth understanding of the elements and principles of art.

In addition, he possesses an impressive visualisation of nature in such a way that captures the foundations of its realistic rendition. His landscape paintings depict a variant of the natural world in a graphic representation of geographical landmarks such as grasses, shrubs, trees, hill, mountains, plains and plateau, which creates a connection to the observer. Furthermore, a clear understanding of space enables him to capture visual fluidity through the balance between light and shade. His unique approach to landscape painting inspires deeper thoughts concerning the underlying qualities of the natural world. This evokes a strong aesthetic appeal within the observer in the subtlest and sublime sense.

Dr Jacob Onoja has had a strong influence over my studies and career life. He inspired confidence in me not only as my teacher but also as a mentor which gives me the boost I need to succeed in life. He makes me believe in myself and encourages me to always aim to achieve excellence.

Godswill Ameh

Art Historian & Entrepreneur (Former student)

THE LANDSCAPE MASTER- DR. ONOJA JACOB

One will in no doubt be amazed with the handy work of God in its entirety. The spoken words brought into existence the awesomeness of God's creation and the manifestation of his glory.

The beauty and authenticity of the universe left mankind in awe of God's artistry work: The light, moon, stars and landscape speak of the epitome of the heavens blaze with the glory of God reflecting on the calm rivers and giving an atmosphere of divinity to the entire earth.

Dr. Onoja Jacob, is one-of-a-kind-artist, whom I live to know during my secondary school days. I would describe him as The Landscape Master, of whom I found his works an expression of God's wonderful gift of creation, depicting an extension of the creative process of God.

Among all his works I came to fall in love with his landscaping techniques, which in every detail depicts the representational work of landscape art.

His specialty can best be described as representational landscape art, which focuses on the naturally occurring beauty of nature, and paints a realistic picture of the subject.

A landscape is the visible features of an area of land, its landforms, and how they integrate with natural or man-made features.

A landscape includes the physical elements of geophysical defined landforms such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings, and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.

Combining both their physical origins and the cultural overlay of human presence, often created over millennia, landscapes reflect a living synthesis of people and place that is vital to local and national identity and often characterized by self-image of the people, who inhabit it and a sense of place that differentiates one region from other regions.

It is the dynamic backdrop to people's lives. Landscape can be as varied as farmland, a landscape park or wilderness. The Earth has a vast range of landscapes of which Dr. Onoja Jacob's paintings represents more of the mountain and flat landscape types and less coastal landscape types.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

See more of landscape types on: <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape>.

Conclusively one is left with the impression of feeling homesick when looking at Dr. Onoja Jacobs work of representational landscape art, because it is so breathtakingly beautiful, and the beholder is left with a wow-moment.

Ezekiel Danok | easydanoks@gmail.com | 27.10.2019



Predator and Prey. Oil on Canvass. 76 x 106cm. 2000. Onoja Jacob

MY EXPERIENCE WITH DR. JACOB ONOJA

I first met Dr. ONOJA in my secondary school, Bethany Christian Academy. Back then, he was Mr. Onoja, but that name was a great inspiration to me.

Mr. Onoja was not my first art teacher, in fact, we had several art teachers right from JSS1. One would leave while another would come in replacement, so I and a few others who had some passion in art, experienced art from several perspectives ranging from one teacher to another. But when Mr. Onoja came to be our art teacher, it was an experience like never before.

I saw art from a completely different perspective. Now right from JSS1, I had a passion for art which made arts and craft come easy for me. I found myself doing with ease what many of my fellow students would struggle to do in art. But it was like Mr. Onoja came and opened up a new book of what Art is, and thus, a new world of possibilities.

Mr. Onoja would teach on art media and techniques and it would come with such passion and expression that was obviously not as a result of mere reading and studies but genuine experience and heart. He showed me that being an artist was not just about being able to draw or paint, but my approach to life, my perspective towards creation, and my imagination as well.

I began to think like an artist, see as an artist, speak like an artist. I would look at what was once a plane field to me, now with my "artist eye" see the different colours, and shades and forms of the field. The clouds were now an ever changing exhibition of God's paintings.

Some of my favourite moments in SS1 through SS3 were the times Mr. Onoja would take us out to an open field or bush somewhere and tell us to draw what we see. Amazingly he, would sit among us and draw as well. At first it was almost a completely discouraging, intimidating feeling watching him draw with such ease and mastery. But when he made corrections and commendations, his presence became an inspiration during Landscape drawing sessions to do much better. The more I applied the corrections, the more I saw my drawings become better and almost as good as his.

Mr. Onoja seemed to never run out of seemingly difficult arrangements of still life compositions for our Still Life drawing classes. But being taught by such a master, it only took a short while before I would sit with such excitement and confidence, as I no longer saw a threat in any number of objects arranged with any level of sophistication. But what I consider to be the most inspiring expression of Dr. Onoja's art... and what was most mind transforming to me as his student was his paintings.

I still remember how it felt seeing Mr. Onoja paint from an empty canvas to a truly beautiful scenery in a few minutes without a reference. It was a wonder!

"How did he paint that sky? It looks so real!"

"How did he know to put that tree right there? It fits so perfectly!"

"Will I ever paint like this?"

"The river looks so peaceful and flowing! How is that even possible?"

Every stroke of the brush seemed to compel a question in awestruck wonder.

It has been about 10 years since I last watched Mr. Onoja paint, but I still have not seen any artist paint the way he does.

Dr. Onoja has mastered the peaceful character of nature and expresses it with such ease in his paintings.

Many artists have mastered the art of replicating the likeness of creation and nature in paintings. Some can paint in a way you would argue that it was a picture. But Dr. Onoja has mastered the art of replicating the soul of nature. His paintings express far beyond the likeness of creation, to the feeling and tune of nature. His works are truly musical, and in their way, make you adore the ultimate creator of all creation.

It would be a joy to mention all I learned from Dr. Onoja. Such priceless attributes like DISCIPLINE, DILIGENCE, HONOUR, EXCELLENCE. sadly, time would fail me. But I am ever grateful to God for the privilege and honour of meeting and learning from such a master.

Today, while I paint, I still hear his voice in my mind with words he would most likely have said if he were there supervising me.

My success story will be incomplete without Dr. Onoja's impact, both as a teacher and as a mentor, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity to express a little of my appreciation to him. Thank you.

David Dam

Artist and Psalmist (Former student)

THE LANDSCAPE THERAPIST

Onoja Jacob was my classmate at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where we both studied fine arts and specialized in painting. At a point we were roommates and we studied "human relationship". Our stay together proved to us a sound symbiotic relationship was important in learning, even from the book.

Onoja has displayed a strong knowledge of his environment through his mastery of the brush and knife on various surfaces over time, hence his dexterity of the colours in landscape paintings; this is clearly an influence by the very most powerful artist of all time, God Himself.

His style of painting stimulates a high therapy for a stressed mind and soul no wonder the clarity of colour has suggested this severally. While in school, during one of our sessions of critique, Dr. Kefas Danjuma of blessed memory had observed, " Onoja I think if you paint more of landscapes you will do well in it"

"Things to buy." This script is my personal coinage. Once the food was finished from the store Onoja would tear a piece of paper and script the grocery list of "things to buy" then pass to Lagwampa and finally to me.... this shows the chain and movement in our tales of friendship and brotherliness. This Doctor emerged the best graduating student in our time and has proven this over time.

Ephraim Dankyes

Classmate and Colleague.

MY LANDSCAPIST CLASSMATE

I have known Onoja Jacob as a course mate in the Fine Arts department at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria way back in 1997 as a quiet and diligent course mate. He became our class representative from inception and in 300 level painting specialization class in 1999 till our graduation in 2001. During which he proved to be hardworking and carry every member of the class along. Onoja Jacob is a gentle fellow who devoted his time to academic work and religious activities. His love for painting miniatures using palette knife started in our undergraduate class. Most of his works are Landscapes, city and seascapes with brilliant colours, which I felt the artist was influenced by the Plateau landscapes where he lived and grew up from. I am not surprised seeing him scale through his academic pursuit to Ph.D. in his career as an artist. This is as a result of hard work and dedication.

Jacob's soft spoken voice and calm are reflected in all his serene Landscapes and seascape paintings with brilliant choice of colours. I have never regretted knowing Jacob who is ever ready in inspiring his course mates when the need arises.

Aliyu Mohammed Bisalla

Head of Department

Arts and Industrial Design

Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa

SKY COLOURS

Before I ever laid eyes on Mr. Jacob Onoja, I saw his work first. It was a painting of a rocky area backed by a sky in full, colourful bloom. The rocky range was jagged with straight sharp edges done in deep browns and reds while the sky was done up in blues, yellows, shades of pink, orange, and violet. The painting was done in the *Impasto style* using a palette knife and was rough to the touch. In an art class, another art teacher had made reference to the painting, which hung in the visual arts studio of Bethany Christian Academy, while trying to describe Mr. Onoja and his use of colours: “he can use all the colours in the rainbow to paint the sky, don't worry, you'll meet him.” We did meet him, eventually.

The level of impact and impartation left on me by Mr. Onoja can only be termed as massive, through the various roles he embodied during the course of my stay as a student at Bethany Christian Academy. From Art teacher to Houseparent and Compound master, his principles of diligence, cleanliness, neatness and a prompt, timely manner, in addition to his keen sense of observation, were apparent in his various roles. He did his best to instill these principles in us both in and out of the classroom, as evidenced in the then seemingly impossible display of creating a painting while fully dressed in suit and tie without leaving any mess on clothing or fingers. He taught me that an artist can be both talented, neat and presentable, countering the popular notion of a scattered artist and studio environment, all in the name of practicing art.

Watching Mr. Onoja work on a painting either at his office or house studio was one of my favourite past times as a student. Once I got to know him better, past what looked like a very stern demeanor, which I now realize was just part of his observant and thoughtful nature, every time spent with him was a learning moment, consciously and otherwise, with each stroke of his brush wet with acrylic paint on stretched canvas. As I watched every stroke of his experienced hand move, over time I did get to see almost every colour fill up the skies of his landscapes, from the pink and violet sunrises to the red and orange sunsets, also in the occasional seascape.

All, except the colour green. The greens were found in the lush vegetation of trees, shrubbery and their reflections in still waters, flowing rapids and roaring waterfalls. Not only are his paintings full of colour that brighten up every wall on which they are hung, but the colours flow out into his dressing, mannerisms, poetic speech and even in his methods of correction and discipline: when found wanting in his book, you are likely to find yourself feeling a red sting in palm or backside, facing grey toilet walls making everything clean and white, washing rainbow-reflective classroom louvres and in the rainy season, bending over a sizeable green portion of vegetation over rich brown soil with hoe in hand.

Of all the many lessons that I have learned from Mr. Onoja, these have stuck with me: a man found diligent in his works will stand before Kings (Proverbs 22:29); an attitude of

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

gratitude brings about an altitude and; Blue is the colour of love. As my teacher, mentor, big brother, father and friend, Mr. Onoja will always be remembered fondly for his beautiful, vivid landscapes and more.

David Lawani

Former student, Artist and Designer – Lagos



Plein air landscape session with students. Studio practice can be spontaneous for me. I am always seeking a getaway with inspirations bubbling in me. Every moment spent expressing myself is liberating and filled with divine inner strength.

MY ENCOUNTER WITH DR. ONOJA JACOB.

A great cook as I would describe: Dr. Jacob Onoja is one rare and highly esteemed artist. One that has proven to many vernal artists over time that it is possible; possible to rise up to the topmost level of the pyramid of success, with due diligence to work. As he has always encouraged me.

My encounter with Dr. Onoja exposed me to a system in the world of art and artists where good skills, discipline and variety are keys to excelling. Not adherent to possible limitations, he has through various artistic mediums exhibited themes that are a reflection of both spiritual and physical realities, responding to questions and issues that influence man's daily living. The problem solving ability of his are undeniably evident, as mourning hearts turn ecstatic at the sighting of his works.

Popularly known as a landscape painter, a lover of nature. By interacting with his environment and materials, he has so far been able to successfully inform many of the versatility inherent within man and his environment. His paintings show a very high level of commitment to practice, studiously rendered in captivating colours that are ameliorative to the human soul. Within the four years of my encounter with the veteran in the field of art, I have been able to break out of my comfort zone through the guidance of such great mentor, exploring the great possibilities embedded in the practice.

His Approach to Painting

How come his paintings are so neat? This was one of the many questions I asked when I first saw his paintings. They featured very neat colours that were properly placed thus confirming the word 'cleanliness is next to godliness'.

Why the knife technique? Encountering Dr. Onoja and his knife approach to painting has pointed my attention towards courage, flexibility and specificity as a painter. I cannot go any further without acknowledging the fact that his educational background has to a very large extent influenced his paintings and expedited his search for excellence. Undoubtedly, what makes a great cook is not just the love for cooking, it is rather; Love that is accompanied by skill, discipline, variety in application and presentation.

In summary, my encounter with Dr. Onoja and his arts has ushered me into a realm of skill, discipline, variety and excellence. Likened to a cook, patiently he has been able to own a niche to himself in the art market and practice; generally adherent to principles and elements of a successful art career. Thereby leaving me with no other option but to call him THE GREAT COOK.

Nelson Wilfred DOGO

October 2019.

MY STORY IN THE STROKES OF A BRUSH!

To critique the work of a maestro in the visual arts is to publicly haul myself up a weighing balance I know for sure will tip me off and flawed. However, I am confident that I stand on a safe and firm ground. I do not lay claim to have knowledge in the art of painting. I don't, I am a novice. Thereto, I have no jurisprudence to make any statements in matters of this sort. But I make bold to say that I am an artist of some sort, a poet in my own class. Far back, early in my days in secondary school, I was left with an option to trade my little fantasy with the visual arts for French classes. And I made my choice, I wouldn't say I regret it but I do sometimes when I look at your beautiful paintings, I feel like, **"If only I can turn back the hand of time..." Too late now**, as nobody learns to use the left hand at old age.

I was awestruck the very first time I saw one of your paintings on your Facebook wall. Ever since then, I have keenly followed your works and have always tried to leave a comment about my view on the subjects portrayed. When I look at those landscapes in your paintings, I am bemused at what goes on in your mind as you are working, those hills, valleys and the plateaus you put up. I am aware that many world class painters, artists try to leave or hide behind their works certain secrets or information that takes only intelligent and curious minds to search out those secrets. Be that as it may, I have come to the conclusion that in what I see, it is either you have an unflinching empathy for country side sites or you want to carve a niche for yourself in the area of painting country side lifestyle in its simplistic nature.

The other time I went through your rich gallery of works, my attention was drawn to a painting you made of a seemingly some sort of beautiful Celestial City. The colour combinations drooping down in gold and some cloudy blue dropping accompanying the painting, some faint ashy grey lines distinctively outlining the city and the adjoining street gave the painting such glorious swirls that spoke of heaven, giving wonderful underlying thoughts of the end of time. Every time I see fresh work from your studio, my heart jolts with excitement. And my attention is completely overpowered, every piece of your work inspires great emotions, building protective walls around my vulnerability, they well up strength, hope and zest in some very unimaginable ways. Seeing that you are more drawn to nature in your paintings than anything else, that invariably paints a picture of a man who is comely, a realist, a simple and accessible man with an unwaning strength and personal motivation to start over again at every ugly turn of event in life.

I can't predict what your experiences have been. But like every success man, there's a story to tell and I could read that in your paintings, I stand corrected, though. Your paintings may tell a different story. Maybe somebody else's experiences. Probably,

that's why I could resonate with your works. If you're in my class of experiences, welcome to the club. I happen to have come from such dark times, dire moments that almost wrecked and grounded me. But thank God for grace, your paintings seem to always come handy at shedding light on the dark paths of my journey. At the lowest ebbs of my spirit, I felt the calm and soothing naturalness of your work, and that's a nudge for me to keep moving. When I look into your work, I don't just see landscapes of country sides, rivers, beautiful neighbourhoods and hills or valleys, I see every stroke of truth spelt out loud and clear, I see every line and curve that tells a message. The story of what life has taken from us; what expectations we should be looking up to. I see the story of love or despair, I see a story of beauty, joy and peace, a story of a sad or happy ending. I must confess that you are not only talented, you are also a gift to the world of art.

Recently, I took an interest in the story of Pablo Picasso, one of the world's greatest painter of all times. And I see the vigour and aggression he puts into becoming who he became. Though, unruly, a man who lacked a stable moral compass; but his fervency and consistency at work paid off in the end. Yes, people applauded his good works but he left such a bad example as a person. As a man of prominence, it is expected that he would have lived an exemplary lifestyle, a legacy worthy of emulation (my opinion). When I see you, I don't see another Pablo Picasso, I don't see another Leonardo da Vinci, I don't see a Michelangelo. I see the first Jacob Onoja. I see a man who will leave an indelible mark in the sands of time for generations to coming. What stories are we telling if not that of putting order to the chaos of modern society? Albeit, I came to better understanding of the art as it relates to poetry, which is where I belong.

Legendary of all, your paintings expresses varying vicissitudes in the status of life and its natural glory; the calmness and allure with which every stroke of your brush spread on those pictures speak volume about your personality. You are a one of a kind painter, a gift to arts. To me, the skills with which you used in putting together those masterpieces is impeccable that I now know and believe that every piece of art that will come from your desk has something to say and I will always look forward to seeing your newest works. For the records, now, I know that you don't just paint for the sake of painting - you're telling stories. To cut a notch here, I cannot go without mentioning the fact that I have not only been following your work, I have also followed your progress as an individual and I realized that as, an elder, a man of God, you are simple but principled. You have respect for everyone, you are a great man, and a faithful husband - your wife must be proud of you. You are a man with a penchant to pep up, motivate and educate others. Practical in every true sense of the word.

Your approach to life threatening situations and dealings with men is laudable, a simple but friendly persona. And I think that that is plausible because you look at the world from the eyes of God, which is always full of compassion and simplicity.

Darwei Timothy Jah

Psalmist, Poet and Writer.



Serenity (Back to the Roots), Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 55 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob
It feels good painting after a while. Administrative work can steal one away from studio practice and the love of expression in colours. This is exhilarating. The country side life is exemplified by this painting. The serenity is therapeutic and welcoming. City life is interesting, however, in contrast with the countryside settlements, peace and tranquillity prevails.

MORE THAN A PAINTING – PEACE SOLILOQUY

On August 24, 2019, one of Africa's greatest painters in my view, Jacob Onoja (PhD) released a striking 40X55 landscape painting of a typical village community. The painting tagged “Back to the Roots” shows beautiful rock formations, captivating vegetation, plain productive land and a brilliant blue sky overlying the distant horizon. The first thing that caught my attention on this piece is the big umbrella tree sitting high up on the mountain with its shadow spread around it. In the branches of a tree-like that, birds find shelter, as do human beings and other animals in its shade. The underlying rock also finds protection from the scorching heat of the sun, as well as harsh winds and hailstorms which partly cause it to breakdown.

A tree growing amid rocks no doubt undergoes tough battles. Yet, the “Back to the Roots” umbrella tree appears to have survived and bloomed, as a testimony of life after struggles. The artist perhaps placed it on the rock on purpose, to show that everyone has a rough past which they overcome by hard work and resilience. This is a clear reflection of the Plateau story. The people, the communities have undergone so many trials. The violent conflicts that have persisted for over a decade have claimed inestimable wealth, forcing thousands of people out of their homes.

Many communities have been reduced to rubbles with majority of them completely desolated. No longer do people feel safe going to their farms or even relating with their neighbours for fear of being attacked. This has created disturbing economic challenges for the State. With increasing mutual distrust and segregated communities in the State, the road to a flourishing social relationship might seem long and bumpy. However, “Back to the Roots” is a silent reminder that regardless of past experiences, lost relationships can be restored and communities can flourish again.

Looking at the 40 x 90 sized painting, one immediately reflects back to the days when life was just about people, farms and the green vegetation, with no bombs or guns; when crude weapons of war existed, but only to be used in the defense of communities against external invasion. Such weapons, mainly bows and arrows were only seen during peace times for the purpose of hunting.

Those were the days of perfect serenity, when children basked in the fullness of sunshine and played in the thickness of the night without fear, when people walked along lonely paths to distant locations without harm, when families existed as communities and communities as families. Those were the days when only the whistling sounds of birds, chirping of crickets, croaking of frogs, the rumbling voices of wildlife, the rustling of leaves and the sizzling of flowing waters among others filled the air when one walked by a river. Those were the days of perfect harmony within the

environment, which “Back to the Roots” beautifully reflects.

The artist used acrylic on canvas to creatively highlight the serenity that flows from a society that is at peace with itself. The canopied blue sky, the white wool of fog lining the mountains, the green vegetation, the beautiful rock formations, as well as the harmonious relationship that obviously exists amongst people in the painting are a reminder of what life was before the times of war.

The piece tends to tug the viewer into a conscious reflection of the gains of peace. The destructions that lie in most villages as a result of the ceaseless attacks in Plateau State follow the loss of those values that hitherto bound communities together. But looking at this piece, communities are challenged to rethink their relationships and avoid attitudes and practices that negatively affect peace.

Perhaps, imbibing the message of peace as illustrated in “Back to the Roots” could start from the restoration of the communal life that characterized most African communities in the past. Contrary to today's life of exclusiveness, children were collectively raised as community assets and families cared for one another, sharing their resources in a mutually beneficial relationship. The painting which shows a typical Plateau community in harmony with its environment is a perfect example of what communities were and can become if peace will be given a chance.

The piece is therefore a useful tool for mediation and conflict prevention. If presenting gory images could warn communities on the consequences of war, such images of tranquillity as captured in “Back to the Roots” can remind communities of the value of peace. If contrarily, gory images incite war, such images can inspire peace.

Masara Kim Usman
Journalist

The Other: Landscapes and More

The afternoon of December 13, 2018, in the city of Jos was not ordinary afternoon as any other afternoon could be, it was a remarkable and exciting one for me, that fateful day, I was opportune to visit the Magnet House, Rayfield where Onoja Jacob Enemona exhibited a gamut of Landscape paintings, drawings and photography with the theme, *Landscapes and More II*. The artworks exhibited were exquisite and captivating, leaving me in 'wowed', and asking myself several questions after I left the exhibition ground. Thus, the memory of that exhibition is still fresh in my memory, the chats and photographic shoots we had with the artist.



Photograph with the exhibiting artist and Mr. Akila Yusuf Gunok. December, 2018.

Contemporary African art is growing fast because artists are working and are at liberty to explore with copious materials, styles, and techniques of their choice. It is significant to know that, each artist's distinctive style makes him/her different from other artists. It takes a lot of experiments and explorations for an artist to develop a particularly unique style; Onoja, like most contemporary African artists, has his own unique style and approach of painting peculiar to him. It's no coincidence that, Onoja is exhibiting another gamut of paintings, drawings and photography with the theme, 'Landscape and More III', because he has never ceased to paint over the years as a Painter and Art Historian. He is known for his unique landscape paintings and he is passionate about it, which crowns his expression that forms his identity as a contemporary African Artist.

Landscapes and More III is a cluster display of Onoja's artworks that sort to address different issues regarding nature in an allegorical manner. As such, the art works presented are the artist's exploration of different landscape paintings using oil and acrylic on canvas; the paintings are essentially realistic in rendition. Onoja's paintings thematically examine nature and environment that embodies salient messages. Artists choose landscapes as their subjects for a variety of reasons. In addition to wanting to represent or replicate their obvious beauty, some artists opt to create these depictions to study and explore various aesthetic elements, like light, colour, and texture. While some artists use scenes of nature as a way to tell a story, illustrate an idea, or conceptualize a metaphor. For instance, Onoja's painting titled '*Plateau Heritage*' thematically speaks about the rich tourism and cultural heritage of Plateau. Plateau State is naturally endowed with lots of natural resources and is known for its Tin mining operations and tourism lure. The state has unique and beautiful landscapes and its climate is conducive which has been captured in this painting. The manner at which the artist executed the painting really captures the title of the work. The greener nature of grasses and trees suggestively expresses the rich heritage of Plateau.

'*Valley of Delight*' in this painting, the artist captures a beautiful riverine and mountainous side in a bright manner. The tranquil nature of the setting can give one peace of mind and a strong feeling of happiness. The quietness and calm nature of an environment has a way of refreshing humans and renewing their energy. Most people become delighted and forget their sorrows by going to the Valley. Hence, the title of the painting, '*Valley of Delight*'.

'*Memories*' is another landscape painting executed by Onoja, the obvious objects that capture the viewer's attention is two big dry trees, depicted in a realistic manner. As social beings, we all have memories shared together with friends and family, which takes us down memory lane and make us yearn for more. Some of the warmest memories we gather in the journey of life are the ones that remind us of our beloved friends and family, moment of endless laughter, longest chats and beautiful times shared with them are simply priceless. These among others, are the landscape paintings executed by Onoja with captivating titles that speaks a lot of messages.

In conclusion, Adiwu (2017), observes that, "by creating art using nature as a source of inspiration, one is almost forced into much deeper level of connection with the immediate environment". Nevertheless, through art, the artists communicate their inner feelings visually and art is a powerful communicator in that, it can both express a point of view and invoke feelings, works of art have the power to take us on a journey; they may interrogate our thoughts and stimulate our imagination, which are seen in Onoja's paintings. The landscape paintings exhibited are novel in terms of style, technique and approach. The artist use of palette to paint, gives his works that distinctive style, and the palette approach create texture on his landscape paintings. Onoja Jacob Enemona in his words "I am passionate about his creative intuitions in landscape paintings which culminate in his expressions of the exiting and the perceived". This is because he, like most contemporary Nigerian artists, according to Duniya (2017), "has consistently exhibited their sensibilities to the environment, in its totality." Consequently, Onoja has depicted his immediate environment painterly and presented them for further appreciation. Enjoy the works displayed.

References

Duniya, G.G, (2017), *Interrogating Style in Sor Sen's "Sweet Intoxication"* Exhibition, Exhibition Catalogue, p16

Adiwu, T. (2017), A Linear Exploring of Eroded Land Surface in Painting, Maiduguri Journal of Art and Design (MASJAD), Published by Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Faculty of Arts University Maiduguri p210.

FAIDA Samuel

Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State.
November, 2019

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Deserted Fortress, Acrylic on canvas, 60x 90 cm. 2018. Onoja Jacob.
The crises situations on the Jos Plateau have left several villages pillaged and sacked. Peace is a clarion call for all communities to stop the wars and inhabit deserted fortresses again.



Plateau Heritage, Oil on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob.

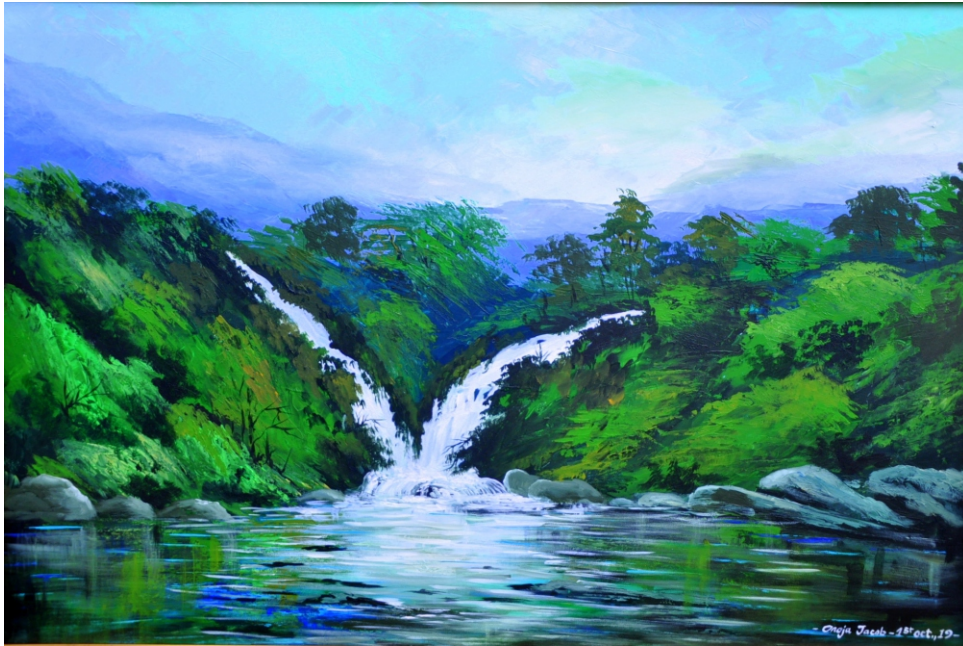
■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



My neighbourhood, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob
I enjoy walking along this path with my dogs. The undulating plane, winding path and lovely greens welcome visitors to this spot, which is just a short walk from the new government house in Jos



Memories of Ghana. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob
This fishing settlement by the sea is a spectacle. Ghana and the West African coastlines have lovely beaches which boost agriculture in the fishing ports and tourism.



National Colours. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

Painted spontaneously on the 1st of October, 2019, this painting is the allegory of Nigeria-blessed with abundant human and natural resources. The falls represent the two major rivers (Niger and Benue) that meet at the confluence town Kogi and flows towards the Niger Delta. The falls take the formation of the eagle in the national coat of arm, typified by strength and resilience of the nation. The colour usage is the various shades and tints of green and accentuated with white to represent the green white green of the nation Nigeria.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



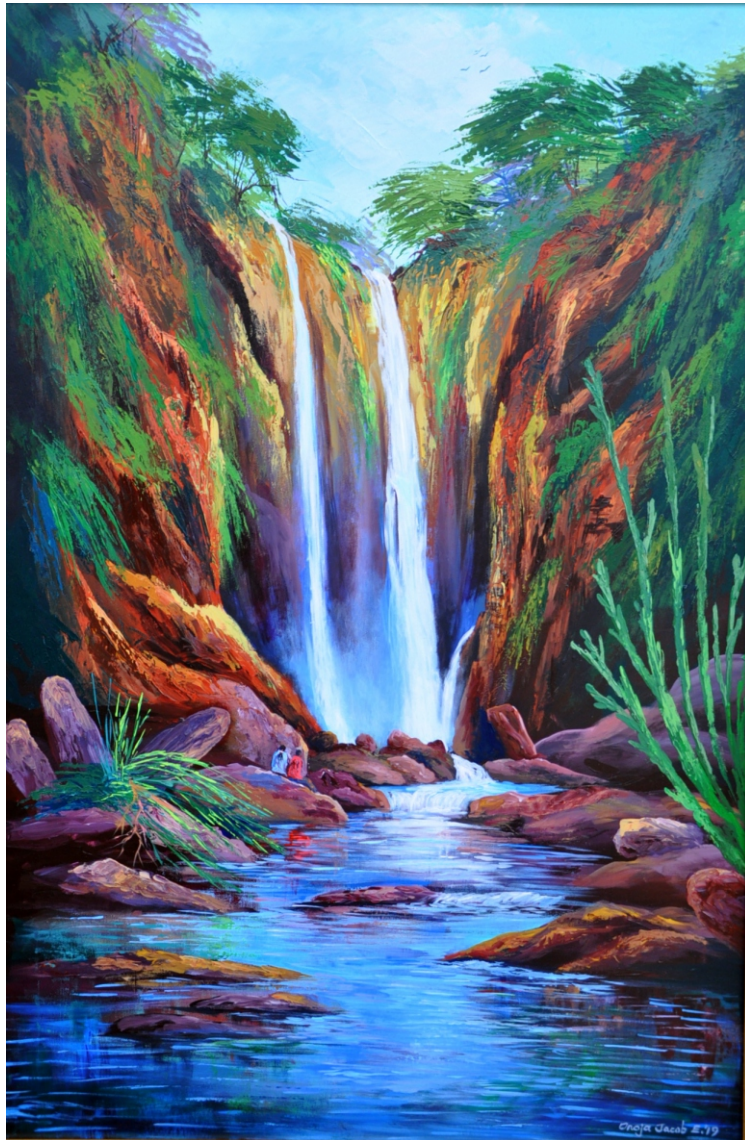
Fruitful Season. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2017. Onoja Jacob

The plains and adjoining mountains are used for growing Fonio (*Acha*) in most rural settlements on the Plateau. *Acha* is a rich staple food which adds to the culinary delights on the Plateau.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



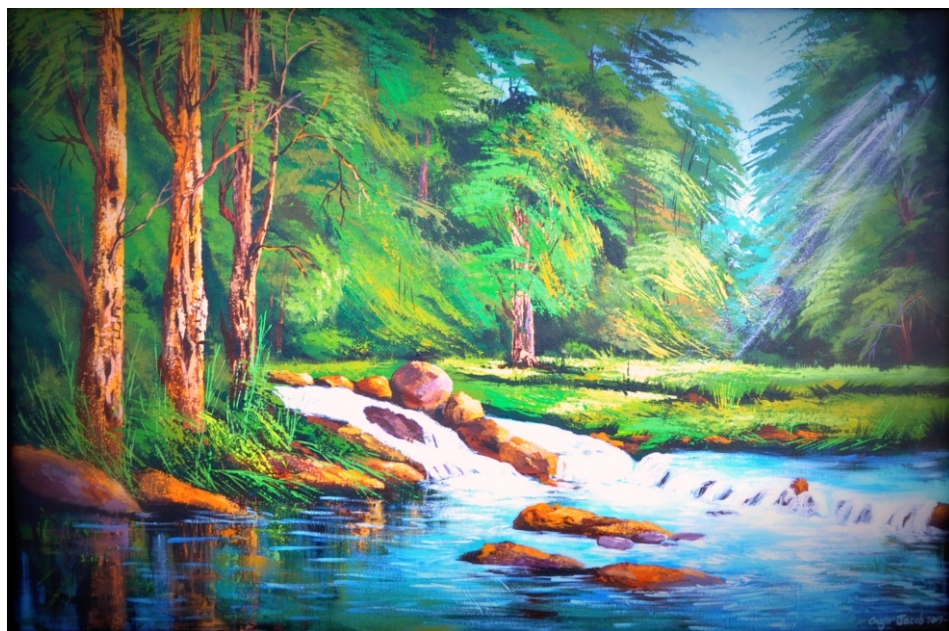
Entrance to Serenity. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2017. Onoja Jacob



Waterfalls. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob



Rural Settlement. Oil on Canvas. 40 x 55 cm. 2017. Onoja Jacob



Streaming Light on the Stream. Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



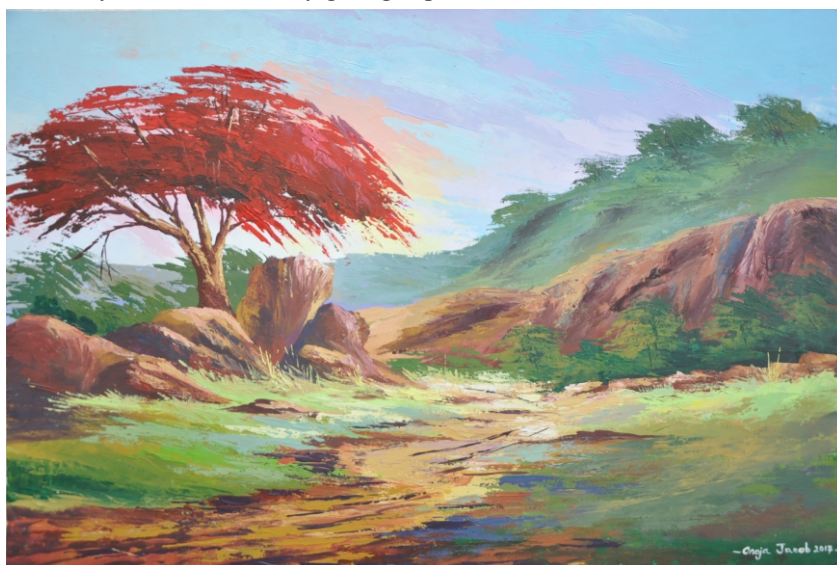
Still Water (Miango Rest Home Dam). Acrylic on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob



Kaleidoscopic City II. Oil on Canvas. 60 x 90cm. 2018. Onoja Jacob.
Collection of Arc. Ene Ijegua



Heaven touching Earth (Genesis - Revelation), Oil on canvas, 2018. Onoja Jacob
The changing kaleidoscope of the sky affects the water body in a mirror-like reflection. Similarly, things in heaven affects the earth. This painting tells the story of how our lives are affected by the divine, thereby giving expressions to our manifestations on earth.



Flame Tree, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. 2017. Onoja Jacob
To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: (Eccl 3:1 KJV). The changing season as exemplified by this flaming tree gives credence to the above quoted scripture. There is always a time to blossom after the tedium and rigorous processes of life. Red is also symbolic of peace. From the rocky land, peace and tranquility thrives.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



A City set on a Hill, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. 2016. Onoja Jacob

LANDSCAPES AND MORE III: JACOB ENEMONA ONOJA AND HIS CREATIVITY

Introduction

When the woodpecker consistently pecks at a tree, such sustained pecking is done with determination towards achieving a consecrated goal. In other words, for it, it's a calling. That is the case of Nigerian master landscape painter, Jacob Enemona Onoja; but for him, it is more than just a calling, it is a habit. His affection to landscape painting, over the years, has taken the uncontrollable dimension of a mission. Yes a mission, however, the positive nature of the mission has influenced his artistic development and procreation of many masterpieces. When looking at one of the great collection of the 21st century Nigeria paintings and one finally reaches Jacob Enemona Onoja, one may feel touched by a certain festive cheerfulness in the use of colour which surpasses that of any of his predecessors.

The truth about the steady recurrent change in our environment which depict day and night or old and new is the essence of *The Landscape and More III* by Jacob Enemona Onoja, reflecting some 'old' environmental memory of our beliefs, tradition and culture in their 'new' garbs. By so doing, they are bringing back to reckoning some of the classic manifestations of our historical pasts. This is a replication and relevance of the primordial to the present, and revealing to all and sundry how the pristine state of nature has become important in reshaping the present state of the art of our contemporary incarnate. If we do not appreciate the nature of our past environment, how do we understand how we have found ourselves where we are and how to structure our future environment?

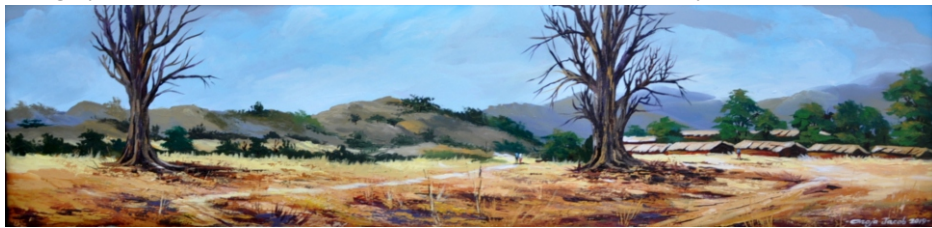
The Artist, Onoja Enemona Jacob

Jacob Enemona Onoja is a multi-talented artist whose art cuts across multiple artistic disciplines and genres in drawing, painting and photography. As acknowledged by his exhibits, he is very much at home with and flowering well in painting and other chosen media of expression. His creative impetuosity and ingenuity is doubtless not and it is exceedingly observable that whatever media of painting he touches turn to art. However, the question that is begging for answer is: How does Jacob find it easy to oscillate between these various forms of paintings? Jacob Enemona Onoja cut his teeth with a Bachelor's degree in year 2005 from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He specialized in Painting. As his love for Arts grows, he further obtained his master's degree in the year 2008 and Ph.D. in 2016 in art history in the above institution mentioned respectively. Since his first degree, he has been very busy in the art scene, he had played his roles as secondary school teacher in Bethany Christian Academy in Barkin-Ladi local government area of Plateau State and currently as a lecturer of art (Painting/Art history sections) in the department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Jos, contributing his quota effectively and diligently paying his dues in the field of the visual arts. Jacob who has taken part in various exhibitions and commissioned projects is likewise a recipient of many awards and prizes. He has honoured us with the opportunity to see his new works and media, with inventiveness that is more than the magnitude of a mere imagination but of the replicate of his personal experience which was influenced by his environment and nature. I humbly declared,

having seen these works, to the effect that what we had on display is a reverberation of five main characteristics of the artist (5 'D's). Through the exhibition, this all-rounder has served us with a potpourri of visual Desire, Decision, Discipline, Dedication and Delivery menu, made up of the 5 'D's ingredients, out of which I have chosen only two (2) of the works to be displayed in the exhibition ground for a short analysis.

Analysis of works

The choice of Onoja to depict landscapes, and waterscape using oil and acrylics is very inventive. The techniques used set the works in this media aside from other conventional oil and acrylic painting in other art display. Adaptive and experimental ability of the artist to use these media successfully is estimable. Most of the work on display brings us into a dialogue with our environment and this is a slight deviation from common representations of figures and animals, which we have been used to. This highly decorative landscape is a depiction of variety and unification of colours and shapes within a space. The landscape reveals a creative use of technique in a way that the ability of the artist is projected as an experimentalist whose strength is his draftsmanship skill. The work reveals the beauty of array of blues in the sky which penetrate into the depiction of hills and mountains and the foreground is present with brighter colour that complement the rocky hills and the sky as seen from the artist's eyes. It is patent in the work that the artist familiarity with his old environment is a blessing by God on the Plateau State which cannot be taken away from our memories.



Memories, Oil on canvas, 90 x 121 cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

In Onoja's painting of nature's Balance, one can see that he is less novel and more elusive, revealing the world of reality within the world we know. Without much question the nature painting was painted with faithful reference to an actual spot and could still be identified by its topographical features. Lyrical in a way and familiar enough in landscape painting, it is more than a component picture in this respect alone. The visible natural trees with colourful green and a reflection of yellowish ground shows the glamor and aesthetics nature of the painting. The juxtaposition of the natural rock through beauty, but the artist has shown how powerful God is as he can do an undo. In the way it is rendered, the rock reveals the ambivalent nature of some of God's creations and also showcases the artist as highly dexterous and creatively charged.



Nature's Balance II, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90cm. 2019. Onoja Jacob

Conclusion

The exhibition among other things has provided that; visual narratives of the values of nature must be held in high esteem regardless of what global developments have to offer. This is the only way to maintain environmental decorum and make our society a better place to live. It is right to state that the artist, Onoja Jacob, through this show has engaged our thoughts and has undoubtedly impressed it on our sensibilities that the success of an artwork goes beyond landscapes and there is more to it. Though environmental landscaping has its germane role in the process of executing an artwork, the factors of determination, skills, dexterity and self-confidence on the part of the artist, and the purpose for and methods of creating the work are cumulative essentials in guaranteeing artistic innovation and accomplishment.

Oluwaseun Isaac Abati

Doctoral Candidate
Department of Fine Art and Design
School of Creative Arts, Film and Media Studies
Kenyatta University
P. O. Box 43844—00100, Nairobi—Kenya.

MINIATURES



Colour Chart (Triptych). Acrylic on Canvas. 20 x 25 cm per piece. 2019. Onoja Jacob.



Jos Museum. Watercolour on compressed paper. 20 x 25cm. 2018. Onoja Jacob

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Notebook Series. Acrylic on Canvas. 20 x 25 cm per piece. 2019. Onoja Jacob.
This series records various sceneries using various technique. The collaged finish is a visual delight. The paintings were further framed as individual paintings of 20 x 25 cm.



Notebook Series. Acrylic on Canvas. 12 x 17 cm per piece. 2019. Onoja Jacob.

DRAWINGS



Patriarchs of Faith. Illustrations. Pen and Ink. 30 x 35. 2004/19.



What's underneath? Scratch Drawing. 20 x 25 cm. 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY



Memories of Miango Rest Home (Triptych). October 2019.



Contemplation at ABU Dam Zaria. Quiet moments of enjoying the enthralling sun set.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Kwall. The picturesque serenity of the Plateau. Misty mountains, lush green vegetation and countryside settlements.



Flourishing Fortress.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Phases of the sunset.

MEMORY LANE



The newly renovated University of Jos Library complex hosted Landscapes and More I.



Some staff of the National Gallery of Arts, Jos – Plateau State at the exhibition.



Discussing works with the Erstwhile Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Admin Prof. Ibrahim Musa while Dr. Steven Akintunde looks on



Interview with the NTA – Jos Visual arts anchor Rose Garos.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Engaging Dr. Davwar. One of my collectors.



The communication that only the artist and his wife understand.



Landscapes and more II. With Prof. and Dr. (Mrs.) Ogboru during the exhibition.



Media interview with Prof. Jerry Buhari during the exhibition.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Contemplative viewing of exhibits by Dr. & Dr.
(Mrs.) Akintunde.



Enthralled



Interview with View Point Nigeria anchored by
Comrade Longul Dakwom



Discussing art with an aspiring designer, Mariam
during the exhibition. Art is engaging and therapeutic.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Hilarious moment during the opening of Landscapes and More II with Prof. Jerry Buhari, Dr. Yohanna Datiri (HOD – Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos) in a handshake with Dr. Jacob Onoja.



Prof. Philip Obed Gushem's (left) Landscape paintings inspired me a great deal during my undergraduate's days. His visit to the exhibition was encouraging as he shared several artistic thoughts with me.



Rev. Dr. Dauda Chentu and Youth Fellowship members during the exhibition



Creative minds and sages.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



Inspiring the next generation of artists.



Family Time

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■



With two pioneer staff of the department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos. Mr. Babajide Lambo (Left) and Dr. John Oyedemi (right).



Mentor and Mentees



Family time at the exhibition



COMMENTS

Love all the paintings especially "Country Side" its
kind of real, it made my day. Am glad I was here.
Welcome Uncle Onsa

-Angela Sojo-

Brava! Beautiful
Jojo

This is what we call beauty without boundary. Your works
are indeed great and worthy of feeding the soul. I never regretted
coming.

Sat. Panshak Pilwat. 02/12/2018.

SPLENDID PAINTINGS

Dr. DATIRI Y.C.
01/12/18 HOD FAA DEPT.
UNIJOS

Great works. The paintings are so lovely and
natural. They story line behind most of the paintings
are so touching.

Selven Collins Ladel. 1/12/2018.

Amazing works. You've always inspired me sir.
Your works are great. Really had fun and felt
fulfilled.

Datin' Comfort.

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

every work. Great and challenging, making me love art works the more. God bless!

Faisal Dombin

The art works here are really beautiful, very creative ideas and it just so unique and moves that they all spring from the scriptures gives us an idea of how Creative God is and His Creation. May this dream and passion be lead to its perfect place of fulfilment.

Nanyit Dombin

It's great to put to use the wonderful gift God has given you to reflect His glory. Please keep at it. May you finish strong!

I've seen some beautiful works of art at this exhibition. I ~~number of~~ ^{was} ~~pieces~~ really disappointed to find that the number of pieces have been taken. There are works that can give rooms in a home a lot of life, when used in interior decoration. I'll endeavor to attend the next exhibition early to ~~steal~~ good pieces of my own.

Rahindukun Okole

The art works here are excellent, with unique concepts, and landscapes. May God bring more ideas and concepts.

Really nice Concept you have here. I can testify they are world class and unique. Keep up the fantastic work.

The most innovative place I have seen in Jos.

Nice!

F. A. Afek 9th January 2018

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

All the concepts are heavenly, every name fits each piece perfectly. The pieces just seem to speak to me in different ways. The work is truly inspired and in turn, inspiring. More Grace To You Sir!!!

Victoria Yamsat.
for Ponsak, Vic, Zumi & Ella.

Mr Ondo, you're an artistic Beast. Your finesse is outstanding. I'm simply in awe of this artworks. The works/artpieces are nothing short of Immaculacy. Your works are Magnificent. more oil to your paintbrushes literally. This place is stunning!!!

Duanlong Yonkur.
BCA.

The art works are very good and natural the place is also nice and good. May God give you more strength

Dagan Dabis

The Art works are beautiful. Meaning full, Cultural, May God give you more knowledge, Amen

Dagan Dabis

Great works of art depicting nature, et al. May God enlarge your coast.

Yusuf Dabis

A lovely exhibition showing rare Creativity, passion, professionalism and ART. It's amazing what the Creative mind can Conceive and actually put down.

Joseph Ondo.

Item work seems to be unique and well given time to. Cute and I'm excited the creator is printed to

Godly exhibition. More of God's grace and insight to you. Quite inspiring.
Dr. S. A. Stephen A. Akintun
December 27, 2018

this is beyond and exhibition this is an Evangelism

Sadiq Abdul 12/27/2018
07067765948

Quite a colourful rendition of colours. Wonderful.
Prof. & Mrs. H. J. Gukas.

Incredible works with a powerful message, that would go on for generations to come.

Okpanachi Joshua 28/12/18
Manasseh Amukuan.
Fadun Leonora
BCA //

This beautiful and very Godly concept.
quite inspiring. God bless you Sir.
Ronald Longman
Great Commission movement of Nigeria.
Jon.

Wow! Every work seems to be "Meeting point"
Pointers to the creator of beauty, colours and creativity.
When everything finds meaning, interpretation and above
all inspiration from God, that makes All the difference.
More grace Daddy!

TONGRIANG DASPAN
FCNN BUKURU

Dr. Brian Ademisi-Bepo & family.

Came, Saw & Conquered! And more of nature.
Very insightful! Bravo! Eureka!
Hope to call again!?! 26/12/18 4:43pm. (K)

I am just amazed at this wonderful talent that the Lord has enriched you with. This is really beautiful. You will soar higher. Use this to the glory of the Most High God, the giver of all ^{good} things. More insight Sir. Well done.
Helen Samuel.

Thank God I came. Dedication and diligence will take a man to a height in life. I know when Jacob will draw just with pencil and paper and I am amazed with his work today. It is just Wow!

Keep up the good work Sir.

Edmund Samuel.

Place to be. Very beautiful paintings and art works - God will continue to take you to greater height in life my big brother. You will stand before kings in life in Jesus name. Keep it up and stay blessed. Love you brother, Love your Art works.
(Pastor Abigail-O. Ezeke).

A good place to relax and fill your mind with good sight of art. It's a good place to just come and relax with the family. Love to come back again.

What is it about this place? I feel as though I'm on holy ground. There are depths here I cannot even begin to put in words. I'm leaving here with more questions than answers, and I'll definitely be back. Thank you for answering the call. God bless you richly!

~~Abigail Komol~~
Nambilip N. Ladan
08033660813

The art work is amazing and service is splendid

~~Abigail Komol~~
Abigail Komol
0813926256

This is my second time of coming and I feel like coming again and again. The art work are very amazing.

~~Favour~~
Rev Favour Ayuba Andu

I really encounter an eye opener, of a kind I appreciate and gotten a place for celebration.

~~Paul~~
Paul
08144669768

Just I've come here, but the artworks still amaze me.
~~My first words~~ Fire Talent

~~Manjer~~
Manjer

~~My first words were wow!~~
My first words were WOW!
Love the cake!

Bekima

~~0802000000~~ 0809140411 836

Challenging

All the works were really eye opening and challenging.

They are pushing me to put in more effort and become more serious.

Emmanuel Onokun

Emmanuel Onokun
09066458301.

DRAMATIC!

Great expression was captured in the use of inflect and very internal and technically executed much strokes. Depth and Relief very well captured! Emotional notes well done sir!

Emmanuel Etuje

Emmanuel Etuje
07036042512.

'AWE-MAZING!'

WHEN GLORES TICKLED BY FEARLESS STROKES
DECIDE TO SPEAK IN TOTALLY
ARTISTIC TONGUES THEN YOU KNOW WE
HAVE GODS AMONGST HUMANS. THE EXHIBITS
ARE BEYOND MORTAL FAILING WORDS
AWE-MAZING! PHEW HAVE BEEN 'ARTIFIED'

—MAA MA GRADO IKAEKU—

20TH DECEMBER, 2018

081 4810 4192

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

Fantastic! I'm particularly impressed by the colour play on the horse riding paintings as well as the depth of the abstract work (Faces and Colours). This is a great one. I hope we'll see more exhibitions.

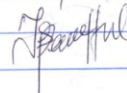
Jeff Sci - Shawna Tolis Briel

The art is beautiful! The work is exquisite. We will be back!

TechFusion 

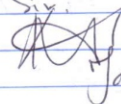
Very interesting and captivating pieces. The landscapes speak.
Miriam Nadab

"Beautiful"! It is an understatement to describe the classical expression of art. These great display of paintings are so lovely to the eye and mind, only the heart can express the exquisiteness of the exhibition. Great work my Bishop.

 The Daniels

"INSPIRING"

Sums it all up. I love your diversity.
Deeper insight I pray
you Sir.

 James Kwon.

Delighted with the pieces exhibited. ~~James Kwon~~ Joseph Davis

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

This is my first exhibition and I feel wowed already. The work is great, it has made me to want more of this.

Rev Farouk Ayub A.
14/12/2018

This is simply amazing and beautiful. I found this so interesting and inspiring and also educating. Looking forward for more.

~~R. D. K.~~
14/12/2018

Great & wow privilege experiencing this today it was a moment and educating to my daddy J

Sunday Innocent
~~Sir~~
14/12/2018

I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO AN EXHIBITION 'SOLO'
TO ~~SEE~~ SEE THIS NUMBER OF WORKS,
CONGRATULATIONS SIR.

Kash Karshim's
~~Sir~~
14/12/2018

This is an amazing use of colours, I will like to be like you one day Sir

FRANZEN SOHN
~~Sir~~
14/12/2018.

Simply amazing. using a special touch of
clean and direct expression. Clean pallet.
I am so encouraged Dr. and will pick
my brushes and pallet.

Dina Nadeja Afu

[Signature]
13/12/18

"You can tell how clean someone is from his Working
(Painting Palette)" Jerry Butner 2005

Excellent job Sir ONOJA

GEO QUENCE

[Signature]
13/12/18

"Simply Amazing. Thanks for unleashing your gifts,
talents and passion to bless the world

→ I've been fired up!"

Bar. Parshuk Haggai

Exceptional work here, would love to
flood my entire home with this art works

Emmanuel Retian

[Signature]

14/12/18

Beautiful! Beautiful!! Art is life, what a
wonder, capturing The Master Artist's creation
on a canvas!

Great mind - Dr. Onoja Jaciel.

Dr. Felix Wini.

[Signature]
14-12-18

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

This is amazing a beautiful Place with beautiful painting to fit, I really love the sight I did not stay long enough on each painting as I would love to. More grace to your elbow.

John Yusuf David

5:00pm.

12/12/2018.

Breath-taking, beautiful paintings
Vintage Dr. Jacob! Please keep it up!

Blessings

Dr. Vicki Lundy

13/12/2018

Beautiful! love the creativity and the beauty in each painting. Is a wonderful experience to have this on the platform. More grace Dr.

Joseph S. Ngfulukun.

13/12/18

Your exhibits are exquisite! The themes of the works are interesting and the works are novel in terms of materials and styles.

More grace to you Sir. It's a privilege knowing you and then viewing your works.

Rich Samuel

13/12/2018

The exhibition of fantastree with fascinating colours and impressions
Congrats Doctor Inoja.

Very Creative, great Ideas. This is just the beginning of great things.

I enjoyed seeing your work and talent! Your work has a lot of energy in the strokes, even in the more serene scenes. Your mastery of both palette knife and brush is refined, and yet very experimental, which shows your skill.

Scott Dayl
11th Dec. 2018

Beautiful! This was indeed an inspiring experience. Listening to the story behind each of these works of art was a wonderful reminder, to know the things that truly matter in this life and to cherish them.

Keep up the good work Sir and More grace

More grace Sir

Alex Onogah
~~Onogah~~

12th December 2018

This has been a wonderful experience; especially that my student were having their first exposure to art exhibition. More grace Dr.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel W. Thling OSA
Peace Model Academy Katakoto Jai

One Can't Live a positive life with a negative mind. Every thing looks very Beautiful!

With all have seen indeed it from an inspiring experience. Art is Life (Keep up the Good & Work Sir. Thumps up to you Sir)

May God enlarge your Coast in Jesus name it a privilege to be here.

Aadeshma Israel

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

This place is really awesome and also mind blowing, most especially the works. Keep it up!
Socrates Dauda.

This place is totally legit and really cool, very impressive expression and splash of colors.

Jemimah Pwajok.

11/12/18

Your artwork is very inspiring and to they tell us good stories of the past, ~~present~~ present and maybe even the future. may God bless the hand that painteth!

Isaac, Theima, Jemimah

(BCA) 11/12/18

*The place is dope as ~~anything~~ anything. It is very nice and the art works are very impressive and mindblowing. God bless

Byenna

BCA 11-12-18

Your works are inspiring and audacious. It gives a kind of sense of talent awakening. God bless.

Wanger Tyoyima

(BCA) 11-12-18

This place is Inspiring and Amazing. God bless!

Ainta Ochogbo, Precious

M. and Caleb Kohof.

This place is cool, awesome, so amazing. The artworks are outstanding, inspiring and so attractive. God bless!!!

Chidiogo. W. Ibemesi and

Jessica Galadima

I like the way all the pictures are very beautiful and colourful. Mercy Adekunle Ademola

(11th December 2018)

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

First experience of an arts exhibition. The Artist obviously realises that God is the originator of arts as evident in his titles. More grace Jacob Ojoja.

- Arc John James Amu
10.12.2018

This is an excellent exhibition that captures and expresses simplicity of artistic concepts.

Dr. Ojoja you remain the best - the very best. Congrats to rising icon of the arts on the Plateau, Niger and beyond. Keep it up!

James Duma
11/12/2018

Using the hands the Lord has gifted to gift the world with a glimpse of glory divine is my brother's mission! I am so refreshed, enjoying the excellence on canvases. Wish you lots of success.

The Makama's
December 11, 2018.

Very impressive express of Colours and good display of work, keep it up.

Ezekiel E. Uduhial

This place is beautiful, amazing, lit, and so colourful. The display is gorgeous and the allegory is very telling. Hopefully we'll get to come back here. Keep on the good work!

Kwoonam, Jesse, and Michael
(BCA Students)

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

The artist is very creative and has good concepts.
great work!

Anene Calister E.
7/12/2018

This is one of the Exhibition that is big and well arranged, that I have every attended in my life. More grace to your elbow

Kenneth Samuel
7/12/2018

Quite interesting and challenging paintings that are inspiring

Dr. Philip Gustin

7/12/2018

The paintings are amazing, I like the digital painting that looks like a water droplet so inspiring

Isomah A. Dapoel
8th/12/2018

I love the sublimity of the city scapes and the urban settlements are really nice and interesting. Nice paintings, calm and beautiful.

Ukem Christiana O.
10-12-2018

The works are enticing. In simple word AMAZING. Only seems to notice the prices are not attached to the works

Achu Joseph Sambo

■ LANDSCAPES AND MORE III ■

Greatly Impressed by the artistic works, this
is the beginning of great things to come.
Well Done Sir, Ando Anyanwu
Anyanwu

I love the essay II beautifully
finished and framed but the price is not
for the faint hearted. Please reconsider.
Steve Nwankwili
08023180382, 4.12/18

Is very amazing.

Ekejiuba Victor
07034779054, 04/12/2018

Exceptionally Stunning! Simply the Masters Touch.

~~Samuel~~

ADIE, Joe Adio
08065315047 6/12/18 ~

lovely artwork, intriguing and lovely concept.

stephen DBem
07034502721

Compliments of a True Season
Plateau is indeed a beauty
Vankap's

The works are very inspiring and deep. Love the
neatness and strokes. The display is very attractive
and well arranged. Hope to see more exhibitions in
the future. Well done

3rd Dec 2019.
Hansel

Well done Sir, the works are really inspiring.

Shemfe Faith
Hl.

The speed strokes are unique, the horse
series great! Good job
coach Ben Duanlong

There is more than meets the eye when some
one looks at your works. They are mostly
for mature minds to comprehend which makes
your works priceless, continue to inspire us.

Jeff Gan

APPRECIATION



We doff our hats and hearts in appreciation. God bless you all richly

