

LANDSCAPES And MORE 5

THE THERAPY

JACOB ENEMONA ONOJA

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By
Jacob Enemona Onoja
B.A (Painting), M.A, Ph.D. (Art history) ABU – Zaria.

An exhibition of Paintings, Prints, Drawings and Photography

December, 2021

LANDSCAPES AND MORE 5

THE THERAPY

An Exhibition of the oeuvres of Jacob Enemona Onoja Ph.D.

4TH – 31 December, 2021

Magnet Cafe, Magnet House, Plot 50973 Rayfield – Zarmaganda Road by Happiness Eatery Station (HES), 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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Cover Painting: Refreshing Season, Acrylic on canvas, 121 x 90 cm. Jacob Enemona Onoja.Collection of Pharm. Sunny Dung

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FOREWORD

Committed artists across the globe make judicious use of art forms to express their affections and even disaffections on issues that matter in societies. People of other professions seek this platform to extend the frontiers of their mental and physical crusades. This exhibition exemplifies the thematic and stylistic tenor of Art therapy. Although omnibus in its contents, the collections' major focus, going by the array of issues examined in the combative nature of art in resolving issues, in the treatment of deficiencies and personality growth of both humanity and the environment of which we are all partakers.

Art as a therapy is one of the most successful and highly reputable usesof art right from time immemorial. This exhibition parades a heritage of several years of good works of academic excellence, professionalism, psychological treatment, health control and ideological bent, adorned with serene environmental blissfulness and soothing mood. These works have brought together great analytical minds from within and outside the profession creating a forum for sound thinking and projection of ideas. I am sure that the viewing audience will be very much challenged and inspired by the spectacular neatness of the layout (displays), the graceful studies on canvas, the photographic orderliness and the salient factors of the exhibition. This is another rewarding investment founded on the philosophy of total quality achievement.

Good works, good display and good scholarship have over the years distinguished Dr. Jacob Onoja from the multitude of his peers. Like several other people have continued to appreciate these virtues, acknowledge his skills and applaud his philosophy and aspirations. People who have had long-standing relationships with

this great artists and scholar have clearly understood and always had due respect and affection for him and his works. Onoja's life and beliefs (philosophy), programmes of activities and sense of commitment to duty have fascinated and inspired several over the years. He has been a great role model of inspiration and source of great academic and professional awareness, in intellectual wealth and moral strength to many. These legacies will forever remain indelible for those who have been in contact with him and his works.

The therapeutic treatment of his works provides extraordinary comfort, warm blessings, and heartfelt joy of peace and neat environment of diverse species. He has proven to us that art remains an extremely important part of our social fabric. Onoja has held several exhibitions of huge success over the years. This is an additional feather to his cap and another harvest of victories. It is a celebration of incredible footprints of the indomitable spirit of hardwork and scholarship. Congratulations on a job well done and thank you for giving us a share in this history-making exercise. For me, it is also a privilege and honour to write this brief.

Have a therapeutic engagement.

Prof. Ema Ema
Department of Fine and Applied Arts
University of Jos.



Jacob Enemona Onoja - B.A (Painting) M.A, Ph.D. (Art History- ABUZaria) *MSNA*.
Lecturer in Drawing, Painting and Art History.
Exhibiting Artist.

Introduction

Artistic Drive

I paint and create art to heal, I heal others through the contemplative engagements they have with my artworks. The therapeutic power of the visual arts cannot be overemphasized. This is because several people have used the arts as a therapy to heal from personal and various issues that have inundated the society. I use the therapeutic natural power of serene landscapes to heal internally and relate same to various issues that surround me ranging from boredom to contemplative moments. Landscape painting for me is a medium of expressing my love for the earthand also a platform through exhibitions of reaching out to different classes of people in the societies that need therapy of spiritual, psychological, psychosocial and other forms of healings where applicable. This exhibition features several paintings especially my landscapes which discuss the healing power of contemplating nature within a confined space of execution (Canvas, Compact Disc, found objects etc.) and the small things in life which we usually miss out. For instance, seeing the birds perch on the tree, flutter and fly freely, the artistry of the buzzing bees on flowers can activate the feeling of freedom and the uniqueness of everything created by God. The breathtaking sunsets which I enjoy often at my backside, early morning dew and misty weather, cascading waterfalls, rainbow in all its brilliance showing the colour play of God Almighty, and several other features which are seen in nature bring a sense of awe and healing to me as a person; which I also try to translate to paintings and pass on the healing grace and potency to anyone contemplatively viewing. The experimental processes in the studio, long hours of work and scenic results are indeed great therapy for me, placing me in a world devoid of stressors and other

vices which idleness can cause. Several scholars have used and advocated the use of the visual arts especially painting to heal from trauma and order psychosocial ailments. my art forms are born out of deep meditation on scriptures and the attendant results bring “wow moments” of resultant beauties and aesthetic considerations from the creation of such works using available media and improvising where necessary. God in the creation story gave a pronouncement about what He created and “saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:10), in the same way, after every creative work, I will stand aside and enjoy the exhilarating moment of the good work which God has graciously gifted me with in the visual arts- especially painting. Every painting is a visual delight and as God spoke in Genesis chapter one in the creation story God said it is good... And I can say my creations give me that spiritual fulfillment and therapy of unfathomable peace, inner rectitude and fortitude which I also present to the world. Enjoy the exhibits and find healing.

Jacob Enemona Onoja Ph.D.
Exhibiting Artist

ESSAYS

The Many Contexts of Landscapes and More.

In 2019, this writer submitted that “Onoja Jacob’s consistent presentation of his perceptible landscapes and the many allegories they manifest, is a testament to his position for art”, what this writer did not say, however, and which will be added in this essay, is that, his exhibitions have also been consistently done in December, over the last few years. December, for most Christians, including Onoja, is a reflective month as well as a celebratory one. This is because, the circumstances leading to the birth of Christ, which is celebrated in December, requires deep reflection. Indeed, the lections actual birth of Christ, calls for celebrations as have been faithfully done during the Christmas celebrations.In another sense, December is a winter month, where the regenerative life of plants, that dot our landscapes are obvious, through the falling of leaves, the drying up of grasses and wilting of some plants. Thus, it will appear, even if not deliberate, that the choice of December, and the consistency with which he has pursued it over the years, is philosophical and therefore, directly connected to the landscapes, vis-a-vis the thematic considerations with which, he presents them. For this year for instance it is “Landscapes, and More: The Therapy”, while in 2020, it was landscapes and More: Memoirs of My Studio Practice and The Joy ofthe Lockdown Season, and in 2019, it was “Landscapes and More; Odyssey of a Landscape Artist”.It is obvious, therefore, that Onoja is deliberate in thematically presenting his landscape paintings. This is because of the natural tendencies to assume that, landscapes are just for aesthetic enjoyment. For instance, Onoja’s landscapes mostly exhibit tranquil, vibrant and serene conditions, which, like this year’s theme, can be therapeutic for persons under certain conditions. Hence, the acknowledgement of same, through the exhibition title. Also of significance, is the

absence of figures in his landscape paintings. Again, he deliberately presents than bereft of figures, as he philosophically places the viewer or viewers, in the landscape. In that perspective, the viewer becomes part of the painting, in order to feel, enjoy and experience the landscape in real time. In that sense, the work philosophically embraces the viewer, as part of what makes it complete and as this year's theme, allow the viewer to receive therapy that is peculiar to the viewers need.

This exhibition's exhibits strengthen this writer in 2019 submission that, Onoja is passionate about his landscape art and the many allegories they allude to. In this case, his choice of "The Therapy", as the sub-theme of the Landscapes and More, could not have come at a better time. This is because of the traumatic circumstances that most Nigerians have found themselves, arising from Boko haram, Banditry, Kidnapping and IPOB inspired violence. Thus, the tranquil nature of his landscapes and the serenity it offers the viewer who experiences it, serves as therapy to most "traumatized minds" even if it is just temporarily. It is therefore the conclusion that, viewers should open up their minds, in order to experience the therapeutic healing of the exhibits.

Prof. Duniya G. G.
Professor of Art History and Criticism
Department of Fine Art
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

The Altruistic Aestheticism of Jacob Onoja's Art for Therapy

While the Pandemic may have derailed the lives of plenty, it has, interestingly, elevated others through a meditative process that births self-discovery and actualization.This is true for so many creatives. Art therapy, a hybrid field largely influenced by the disciplines of art and psychology, is both altruistic, humanistic as much as it is aesthetic. It uses the creative process to initiate self-awareness and resolve emotional conflicts. It equally carries a purgatory process of self-actualization through practical art making. The inherently self-healing process found while encountering the works of an artist exposed to the therapeutic activities of art is being recapitulated by Jacob Onoja in, "The Therapy". When art begins to intersect with such intangibles as psychology and medicine, it becomes even more obtuse and challenging to understand. Plato believed that art is a powerful shaper of character that is able to stir up our emotions and influence our behaviour. In the same light, Hegel described the role of art as giving intuitive, sensuous benefits to the viewer by showing him what divine and human freedom can look like from the mirror of art. While many creatives have explained their works away by giving values that don't belong to those works in a rather deceptive manner, Onoja appears to understand the tasks involved in using a plastic, non-medicinal medium to achieve restorative wellness in one looking at his artworks. He believes, as I do, that the artist must vicariously go through a process in the art that first ensures healing onto himself, before passing it to others through the medium of his works. Even if this may not have clearly illustrated his intentions, this is what I could see in the character of the artist, his subjects, motifs and patterns of his landscapes. There are

no double standards in art. You cannot give what you don't have. You can't possibly be schizophrenic and create works of art that can heal or pacify. Onoja's character and dispositions, in truth, are subtly revealed in three important elements in his landscapes: Water, Wind, and Particles. To be able to create the peace and calm that water gives, he has, himself, worked assiduously to denude himself their opposites. To be able to proffer strength and speed offered by wind, as can be found in all his landscapes, he had gathered the strength and wisdom from his intercourse with spirituality. Onoja has made wind become clearly observable in the ways the wind swooshes and whooshes through his trees, and in sometimes the fallen leaves and floating daffodils found in the streams of his landscapes. The third element in his landscape is repeatedly a subject in mainstream theology: Particles. These particles are seen in the fundamental building blocks of the material world and the fundamental forces that hold them together. Every other element besides water and wind in his works may be found in his rendition of particles as can be seen in all earth materials. How this art could eventually help to heal is apparent for some, while for others this may unarguably remain a mystery. Research has it that browsing through an art gallery can help lower the body's concentration of the stress hormone called cortisol while increasing that of the pleasure hormone, dopamine. Anyone who feels overwhelmed by the difficulties of today's world can try art therapy as is offered by the works in this exhibition. Even if not immediate, these could kick-start a process. In my opinion, however, in all of the awesomeness of the elements in Onoja's works, is a quiet but urgent call to worship the maker, a worship that ultimately heals and pacifies the soul of men.

Professor Ernest Agoba
Department of Fine and Applied Arts,
University of Jos, Nigeria.

A Peek at “A New Dawn”

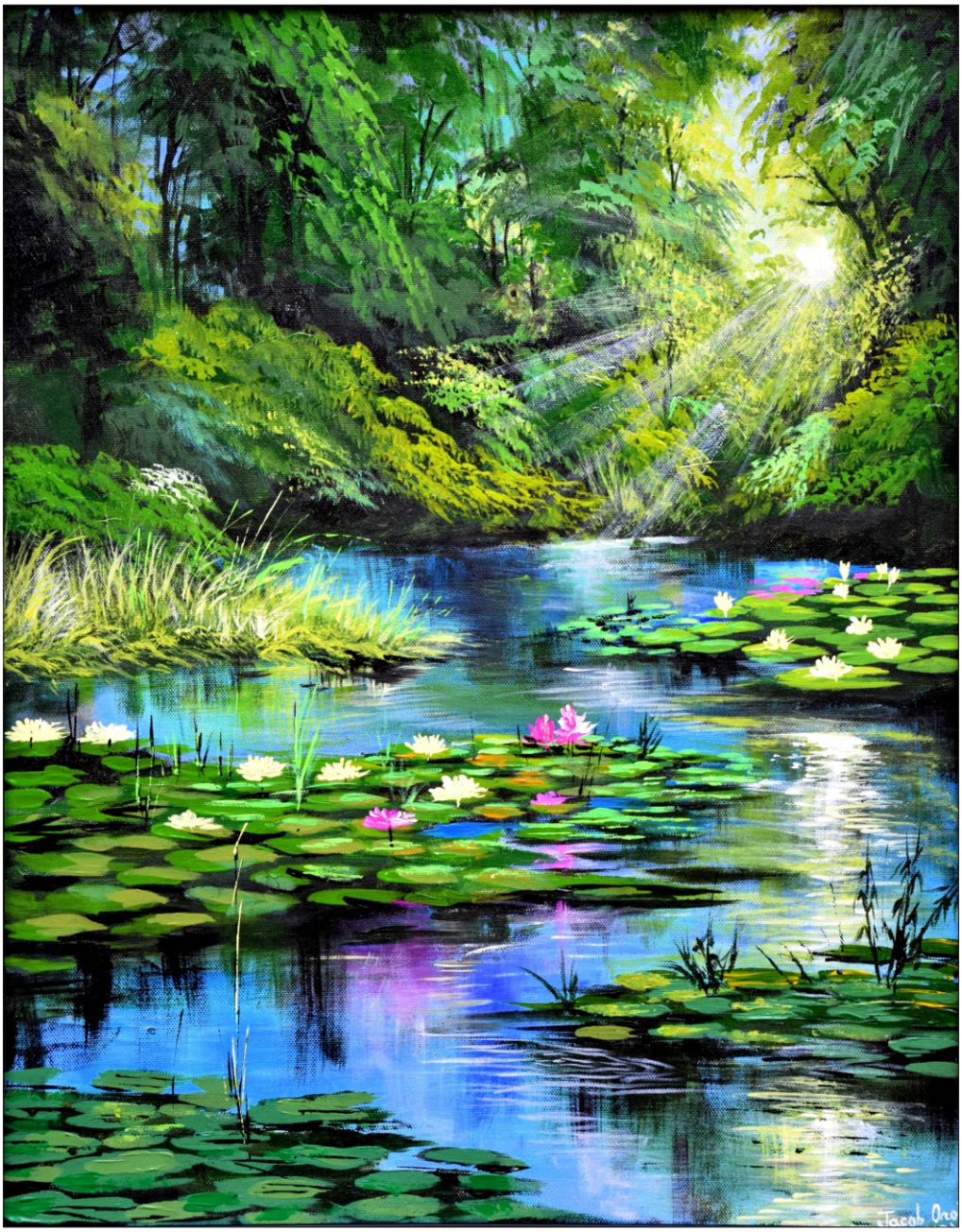


Plate I: A new dawn, Jacob Onoja, acrylic on canvas, marouflaged on board, 50×40cm, 2021.
A collection of Dr. Onoja’s studio work, Jos. Photograph: Jacob Onoja.

A new dawn (Plate I) is an expressionistic landscape painting depicting a tributary river and lilies floating on the river; the foreground is painted with various shades of blues, shades of dark green, and tints of yellow.The contrast in the array of these colours displayed, as well as differences in their perceived textures, depicts the difference between the water lilies and the water itself. The background is

accentuated with various hues of green; from light, mid-dark and almost and completely dark green, depicting a typical evergreen grove. The tints in the green are a result of the rays of light penetrating the grove. The skylines are almost impalpable as a result of the thickness of the trees.

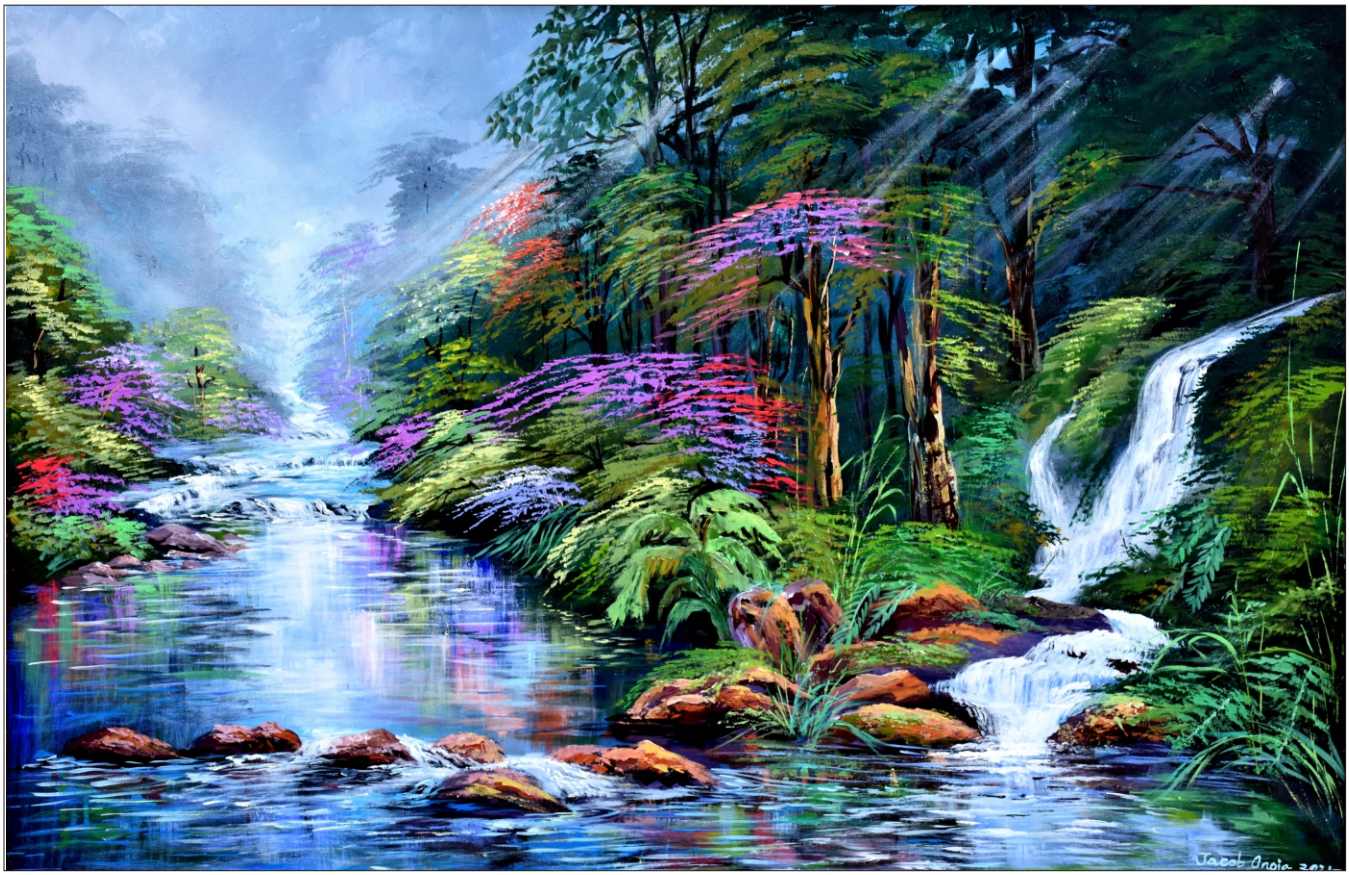
The work carries a symbolic message of hope, a rebirth, an awakening and notions of illumination which is depicted in the stillness of the water and the evergreen trees.The stillness of the water and flourishing trees are indices of newness, and hope for Nigeria as a nation; even as affirmed by the artist.

Green is the colour mostly used, commonly and universally associated with springtime, freshness, and hope. Green is often used to symbolize rebirth, renewal and immortality or life. If there is a rebirth or a renewal, it then means, there was a formal that was dead and had to be replaced, thus; the much use of green in the painting by the artist. Like the grove and the penetration of the light rays depicted in the painting, the artist seems to be conveying a message of hope and a prophetical word for Nigeria, that despite the thickness of the situation in Nigeria, there will be hope, just as the penetration of the light rays, so will hope and life penetrate in the groves of Nigeria. Furthermore, the stillness of the water has a special mental healing aura that calms the mind of anyone who dares stare into the soul of the painting. In my opinion, the artist did not just paint a good paintingbut has successfully portrayed mental therapy using “A New Dawn”.

Naomi Gbazan
Graduating Class
Department of Fine and Applied Arts
University of Jos.

MY PAINTINGS

Painting is liberating and a comprehensive process for me. The conceptualization of ideas, brooding, research, sketching and actualization of the painting using various media of choice ranging from watercolour, acrylic or oil pigments stimulates various brain waves and cognitive abilities of memories recall. I love the spontaneity of creating some paintings and the release of pent up energies on the canvas. The whole process is therapeutic in the sense that I travel to a world beyond the realm of mortals and interact with the divine. The serenity of the creation in my studio space, seeing a plain surface come alive with forms and perceived beauties is indeed liberating and a joy to behold. I paint what inspires me and brings wholeness to me in all ramifications. I enjoy landscape paintings from plein air, photographs, equestrians, colourful abstractpatterns in nature and several other allegorical works depending on my mood. I spend countless hours reading, watching documentaries of artists, listening to soothing instrumentals and hymnals and tailoring my thoughts to creating my kind of paintings. The works represented in this collection are a few of the several works created after Landscapes and More 4. The studio space is rife with ideas and constant engagements. Some works are a buildup of several years of practice while others are experimental in nature. In all, I find peace in my creative process and hope that you will enjoy the same as you view my paintings and find true therapy from the stressors in our society. Place yourself in the landscape and complete the circle of the missing puzzle.



Symphony of Nature (Garden of Heaven Series) (Commissioned).
Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 90 cm. 2021.Jacob Enemona Onoja.

Isaiah 51:3

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Relax, God is rejoicing over us with singing.



Energy Surge, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. 2021. Jacob Enemona Onoja.

The year 2021 started with equestrians' study. The energy surge is a spur to garner energy for the months ahead in 2021. Horses are beautiful creatures. Their loyalty and strength in their various services are winsome. Hence, this painting is allegorical of my dedication to painting, discipline and focus to set goals in my visual arts practice. The dynamic strokes and movement of colours, forms and tactile dexterity spur me on to action. I am just doing what I love. Romans 12:11 (NLT) Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.



The Race II, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90 cm. 2021. Jacob Enemona Onoja.



Diffused light over the Misty waterfall. Acrylic on canvas. 8 x 10 inches.



Green Revolution Resolution (Series I, II& III- Triptych). Acrylic on canvas. 20 x 25 cm.



Harmony (Exploring Beautiful Plateau). Acrylic on canvas. 40 x 50 cm.

Deuteronomy 11:11-12.

But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

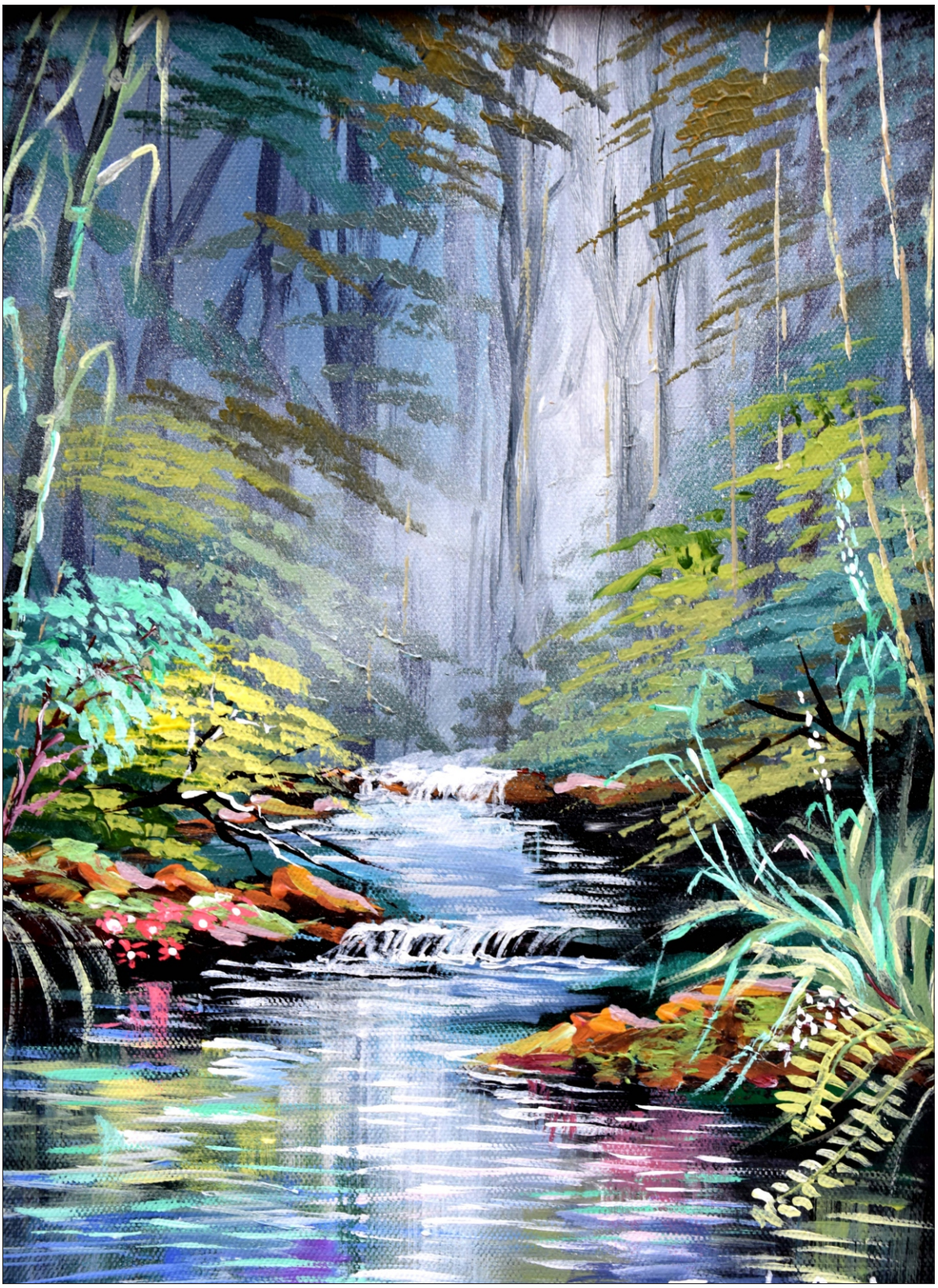
God bless Plateau State and Nigeria.



Poto poto road (Muddy path). Acrylic on canvas board, 20 x 25 cm.
Acrylic on Canvas

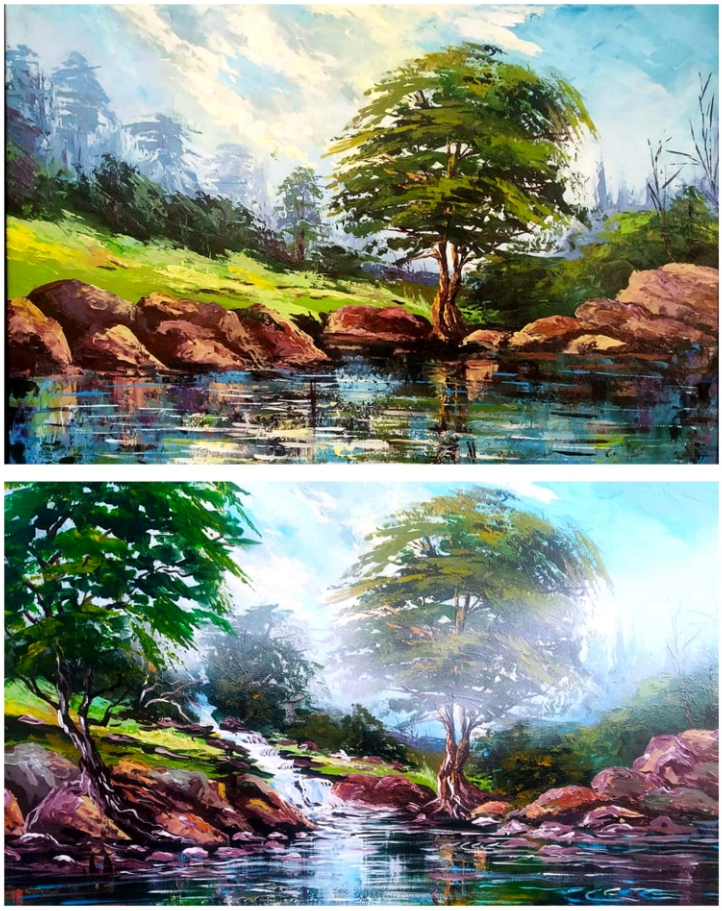
Exploring the allegory of rural settlements.

Rural settlements serve as the agricultural hub of our country Nigeria; It is however painful that the roads leading to all the agricultural mines are bad and generally not passable especially during the rainy season. This is a wakeup call to people in authority to rise up to their responsibilities and fulfill their campaign promises.



Morning Devotion. Imaginative Composition. Acrylic on canvas. 25 x 20 cm.

I wake up some days to doing my paintings. I am focused on what gives me peace and fulfilment.



Morning Glory. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 50 cm.

The story.

This "seemingly finished" (top) painting had been lying in the studio at a position where I can't ignore it. I know it needs some improvements, but I have been busy attending to other issues and creating new paintings without giving it attention. Somehow, I mounted the work on my easel and the "Eureka" moment came. I created a path for a gentle fall, added another tree and improved on the misty effect... and glory!!! A delightful finish.

God remembers us always; He is waiting for the perfect moment to give that finishing touch. Keep the faith, you are not an abandoned project.

Isaiah 43:19

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

My allegories stem from meditating on scriptural truths.





Resplendent Splendour (Garden of Heaven Series). Imaginative Composition. Acrylic on canvas. 90 x 60 cm. Jacob Enemona Onoja. May 2021

The story

As an artist, my imagination is rife with heavenly landscapes. I see landscapes, pictures/ paintings online or viewing the Television and I am immediately transported to a new place through the inspirations I get. Places in my imagination that are pristine, devoid of noise but the therapeutic sounds of soothing and gentle whispers of nature, the creative unadulterated works of God.

Cloud forms that are celestial with rays of light creating warmth and rejuvenating life which metamorphoses into sprawling array of Flora and fauna. The life giving water of the mountain springs, cooling misty effects, brilliant rainbow as a covenant allegory; meadow-like expanse, ornamental trees, well hewn rocks caressed by the gently flowing water and a kaleidoscope of colours in my buzzing mind with colours as seen in my composition. I find unmatched therapy in my art which draws me heavenward.

I know heaven will be great someday.

Numbers 24: 5 - 6 (MSG)

What beautiful tents, Jacob, oh, your homes, Israel!

Like valleys stretching out in the distance, like gardens planted by rivers, like sweet herbs planted by the gardener GOD, like red cedars by pools and springs, …



Season of Refreshing (Garden of Heaven Series) (Commissioned). Acrylic on canvas.
142 x 104 cm. Collection of Pharm. Sunny Dung.

The inspiration.

Like the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people now and forever more. We have a covenant-keeping God (The rainbow covenant, Genesis 9:13), who showers upon us His mercies and causes everything around us to flourish. The

garden of the LORD is a visual delight. Like the Cedar of Lebanon, we are planted by God and we will keep thriving and extending our roots by the River of life. The refreshing feel of the water falls, a kaleidoscope of floral forms and trees, flowing River breaking through the resistance of stately rocks is symbolic of the flow we enjoy in God's presence. No barrier can stop us because we are refreshed daily by God. God's resources are unquantifiable.Connect to the God of all grace and abundance.



Allegory of Marriage, Acrylic on canvas, 45 x 106 cm. 2020.

Exploring the interrelationship of warm and cool colours. This painting is an intriguing piece of the marriage relationship. There is always a give and take. With time in the marriage, both parties would have affected each other positively or negatively thereby creating a visual fusion.

I posted this work on my Facebook wall as I do with several paintings and I find the responses interesting. The online virtual gallery space generates a lot of data for my engagements and I am indeed happy that several people are responding to issues which my paintings stir. Some of the responses are as follows:

Godwin Ohwokevwo: Absolutely beautiful!!! Nice flow

Imogie Shehu Maryam Nafit: It starts with the fire of love and lives in the coolness of trust."Intertwined"

Lami Garba Temine: Tumultuous at first, synergy following understanding.Deep. You should get an award

Bwatyum Gyang: Thematic apperception test is what you are asking us to do in psychology fa!

Donatus C Kabruk: A flow of warm melodies of love and cool ending of blues melodies of love, I see.

Sunday Makama: Feisty Cool!

Helen Oteh Eduno: I see music note(melody), it started with red painting signifying challenges & learning, then as it progresses it becomes as cool ... It gets better...

Daniel Gobgab: "Blending". This usually takes a while in marriage!

Annas Bello Dawop: This is a transition

Uwe Leon: Art and music are intricately bonded in this "allegory of marriage". The fire of love and the coolness of passion fan each other into this surreal piece which blurs the boundaries of opposites. This is postmodernist art at its best. Truly a masterpiece.

Emily Miri-Dashe : Very beautiful

Jau Ganjang: The fusion of two different people with different ideologies, characters, personalities, to become one inseparable, united people.The picture shows two different entities with two different colours that merge at the middle to become one.My thoughts.…

Kim Choji: There's seeming to be the desire to be one and united entity but the spin of skepticism sees each part holding still tight to their peculiarities. Coming together at some point but holding back the blend. It's just a Skeptical spin after all. Great piece. (https://web.facebook.com/onoja.jacob.9).

These responses give a peek into how various people respond to a given painting on my social media Facebook wall. The central thought is however captured by most of the respondents. Marriage is a beautiful union with several phases of learning. Like the abstract piece, the understanding of the basics brings a better understanding to deciphering the allegories embedded in the painting. The personalities involved symbolised by the warm and cool colours, spontaneity of the lines, movements and visual interplay all add up to postulate the pivotal place of marriage in every society.



Floral Ecstasies VII & VIII. Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 25 cm per panel

Proverbs 8:12

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

I sometimes wake up to some creative ideas and until I see it find expression, I'm restless with excitement. Some years back in a visit to the Basilica in Cote d'ivoire, (The

Basilica of Our Lady of Peace is a Catholic minor basilica dedicated to Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, the administrative capital of Côte d'Ivoire) I saw some extraordinary stained glass window paintings. The play of light through the paintings was celestial and the colours that reflected on the various surfaces was simply heavenly. I have created series of floral ecstasies and still inventing more. Every addition to the series is a liberating therapy and I am eternally grateful to God for using my creative skills to add beauty to various homes.

In this series, the use of wrought iron gives each painting its uniqueness and the desired finishing (Painting / sculpture synergy).



A Glimpse of the City. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40 cm.
Acrylic on Canvas
20 x 16 inches.
Contemplating the colours of the pearls of heaven.
Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a

single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.



Inspiration. Acrylic on canvas. 30 x 127 cm.

Job 32:8

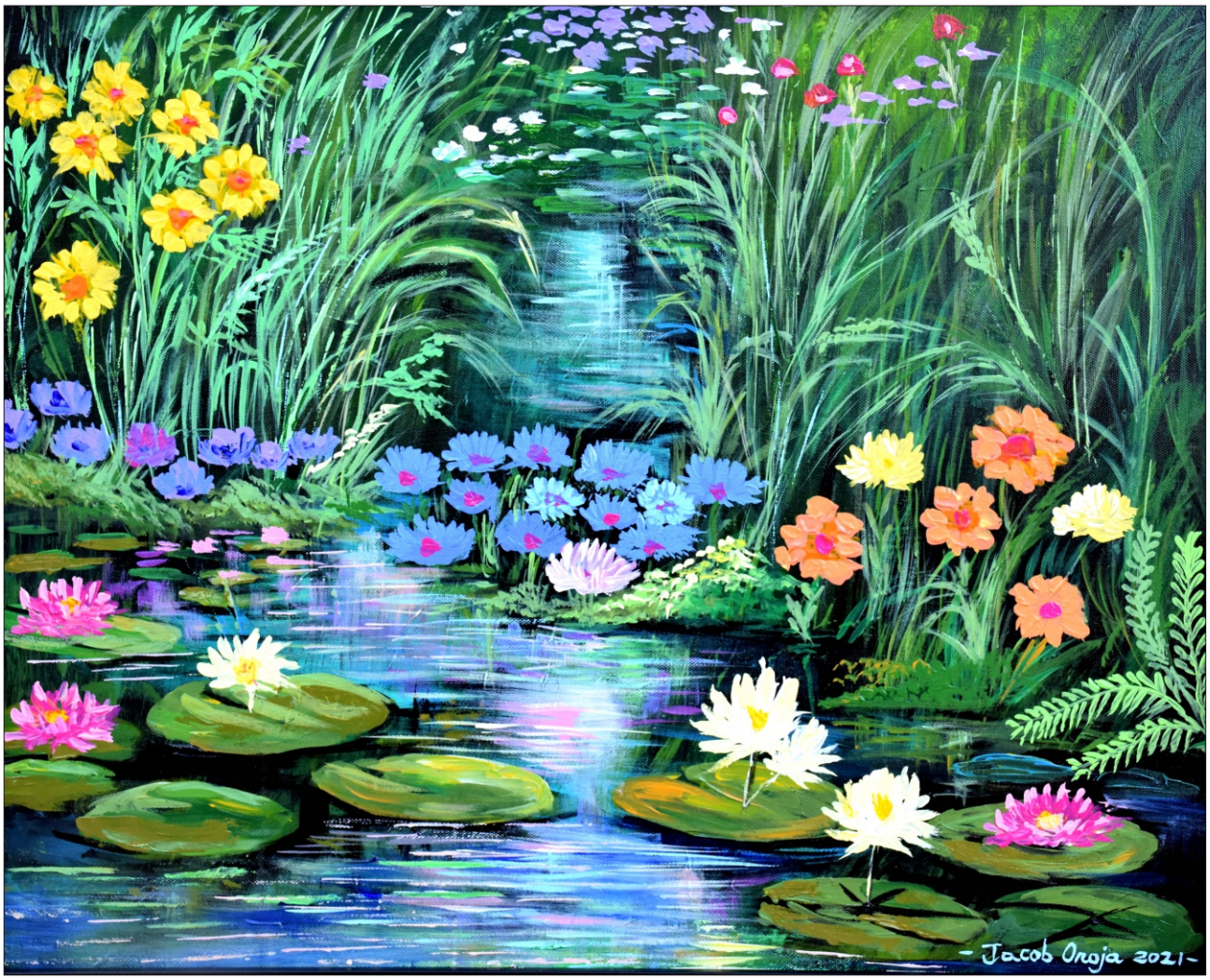
But there is [a vital force] a spirit [of intelligence] in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives men understanding.

I'm just enjoying Lyricism and colours.



Flamboyant Statement retouch(cubist rendition). Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 90cm.

The purity and the exhilarating joy of exploring the colours of the rainbow.



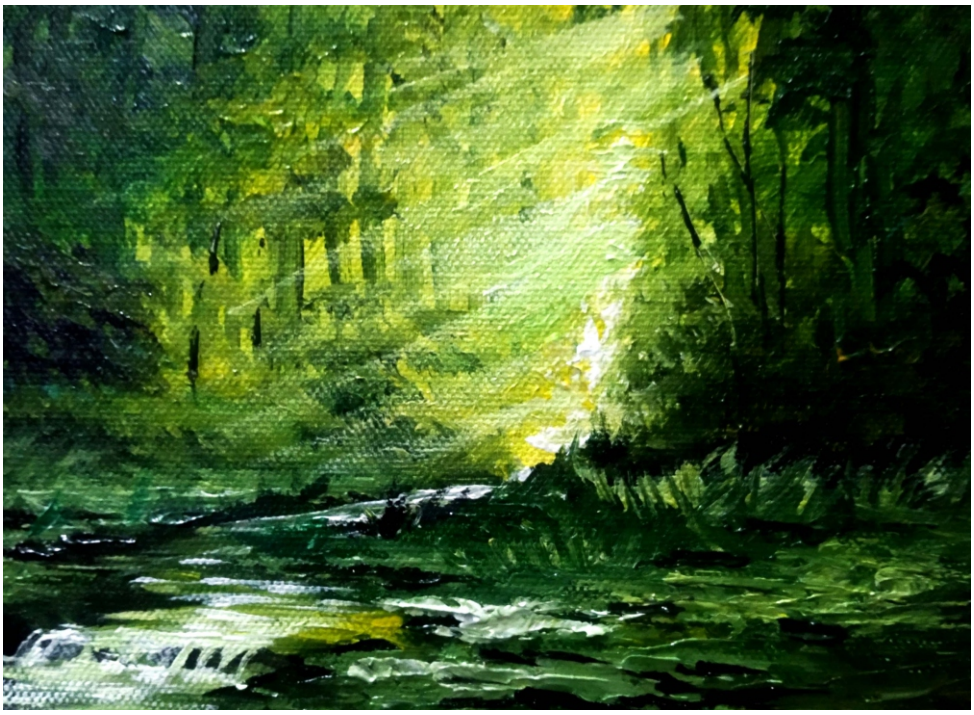
Bouquet of Heaven (Rainbow floral series). Acrylic on Canvas. 40 x 50 cm.

Keep working towards the goal.

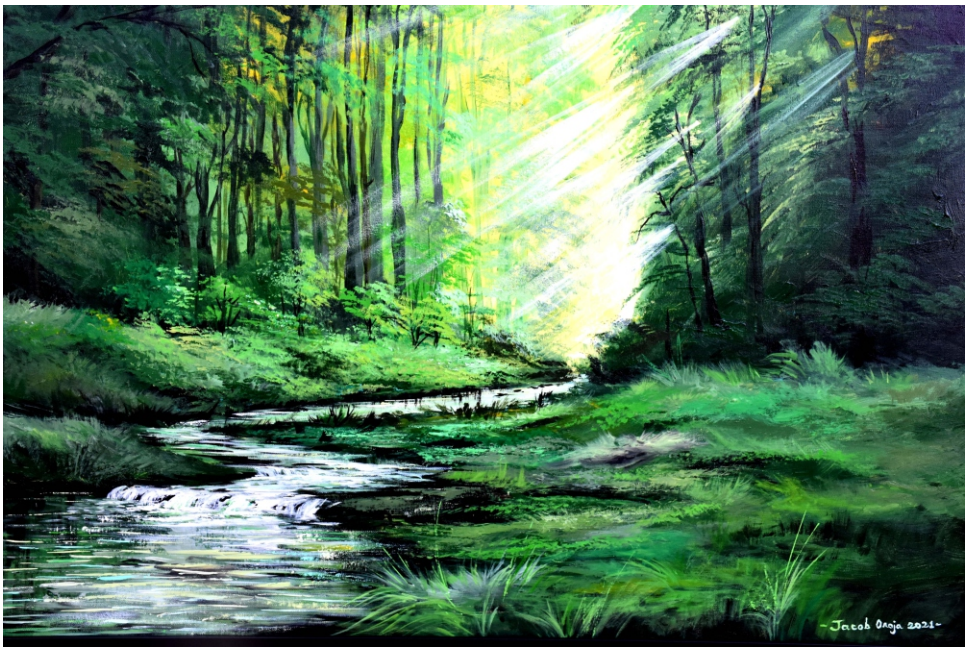
Philippians 3:12,14 (Good News)

I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself.

So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above.



Rejuvenating Grace (Alla prima). Acrylic on canvas board. Miniature study.



Rejuvenating Grace (Alla prima). Acrylic on canvas.
Spontaneous creation using green. As inspirations come, I set to work.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

The main painting is 60 x 90 cm. The initial work was a miniature study. Colours are slightly altered to capture the essence of the colour scheme. Everything around me is rejuvenating with the warmth of the sunrays and various shades and tints of green.



Contemplation. Acrylic on Canvas, 50 x 40 cm (working with restricted palette)
God rejoices over me with singing... Just contemplating this hymn... please sing along.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
   In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
   Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

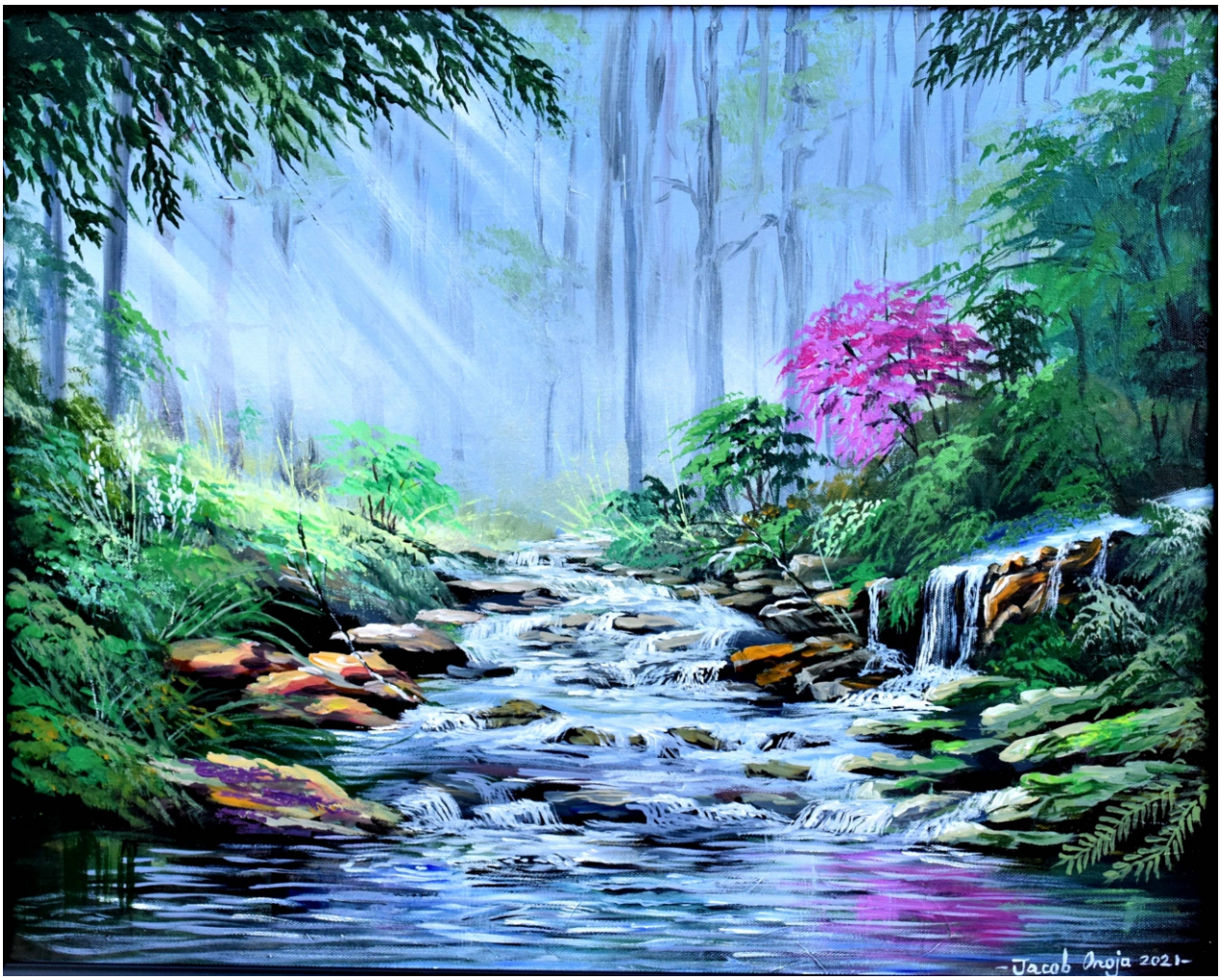
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
   Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
   Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
   Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;

In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

4. Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

5. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.



Peace, Acrylic on Canvas. 40 x 55 cm. August 25, 2021. Jacob Enemona Onoja.

A song in my spirit from Vine song

Peace like a river,

love like a mountain

The wind of your Spirit

Is blowing everywhere

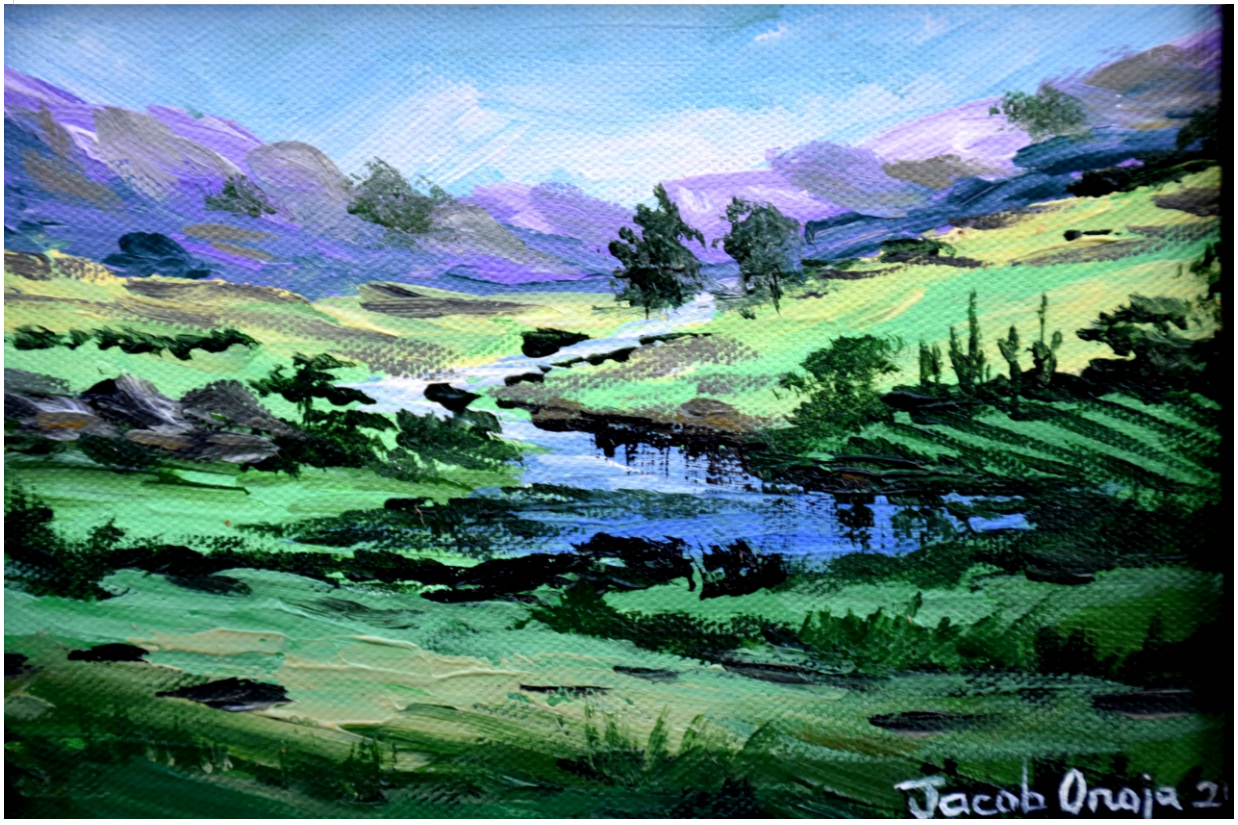
Joy like a fountain

Healing spring of life

Come, Holy Spirit

Let Your fire fall.

Dear God of Peace, restore peace on the Plateau and the world. Shalom.



Plateau is Blessed (Miniature study). Acrylic on canvas. 12 x 17 cm.



In memory of 9/11.

Created in September, 2021, twenty years after the gory effects in America at the twin towers. The painting captures the chilling image of the devastation of man. We sometimes live with very unpleasant memories of events. In the process of time, most of such events become springboards for rejuvenation and healing. Conflicts and peace is cyclical.

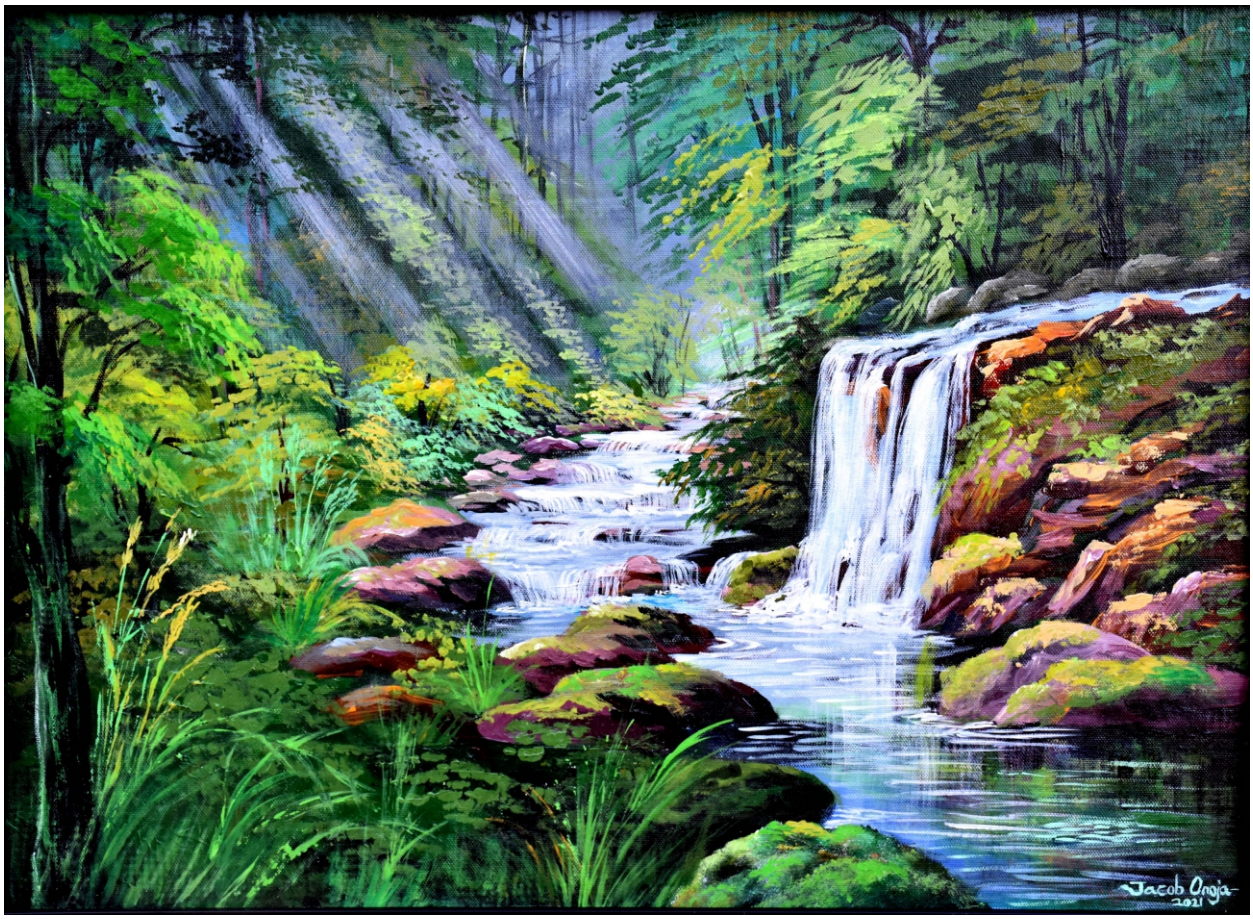


Lightology. Acrylic on Canvas. 50 x 40 cm. Shine the light.

Psalms 108:5
Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.



Lightology II (We Thank Thee). Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 90 cm. 2021.

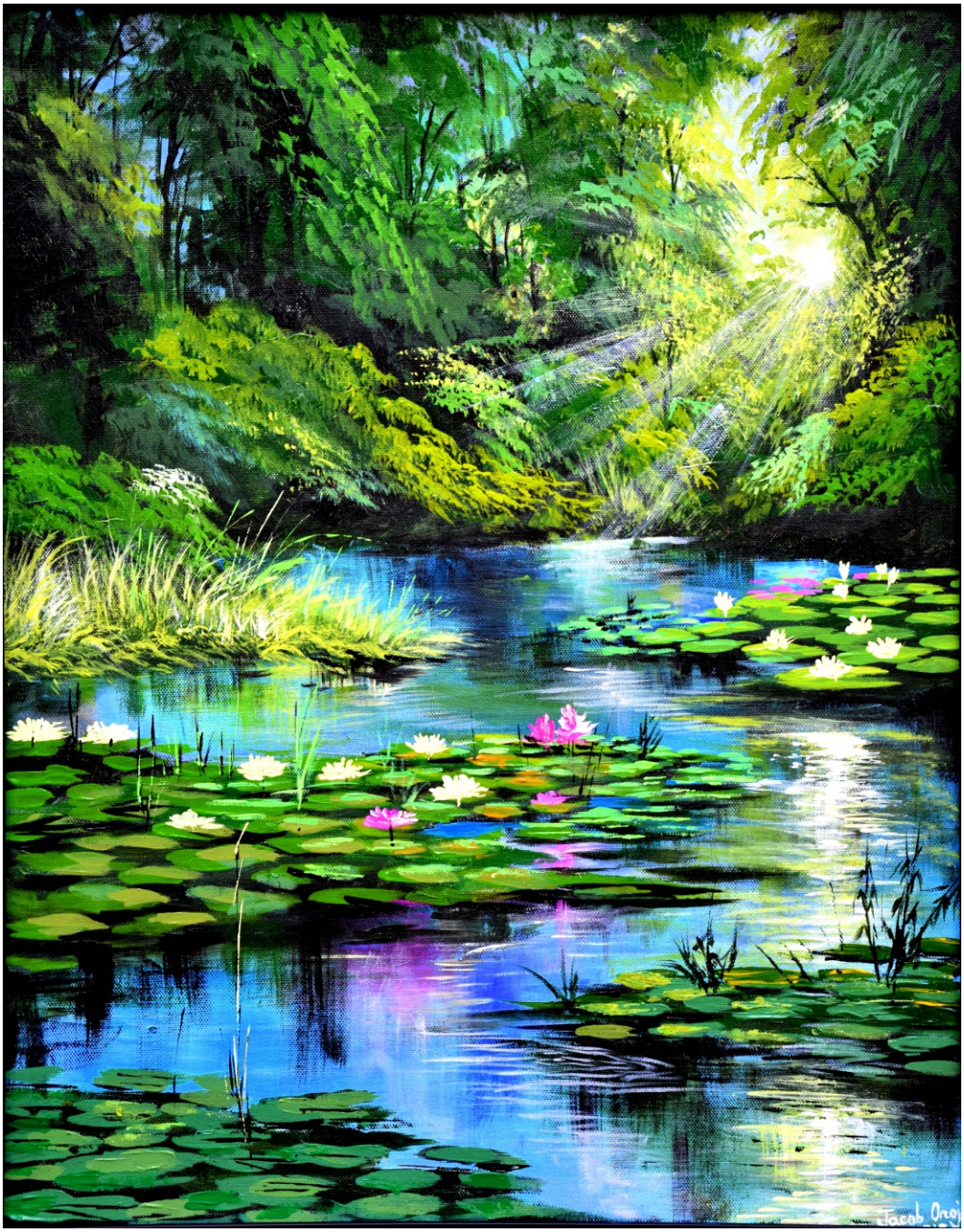


Morning Radiance. Acrylic on canvas. 40 x 50 cm. Jacob Onoja.
Enjoy the coolness of the day and happy International Day of Peace.

James 3:18

And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

A New Dawn



Acrylic on canvas marouflaged on board. 50 x 40 cm.

A prophecy for my beloved country Nigeria.

Psalms 46:5

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Happy independence good people, great Nation - Nigeria.



This Season. Acrylic on Canvas. 40 x 50cm.

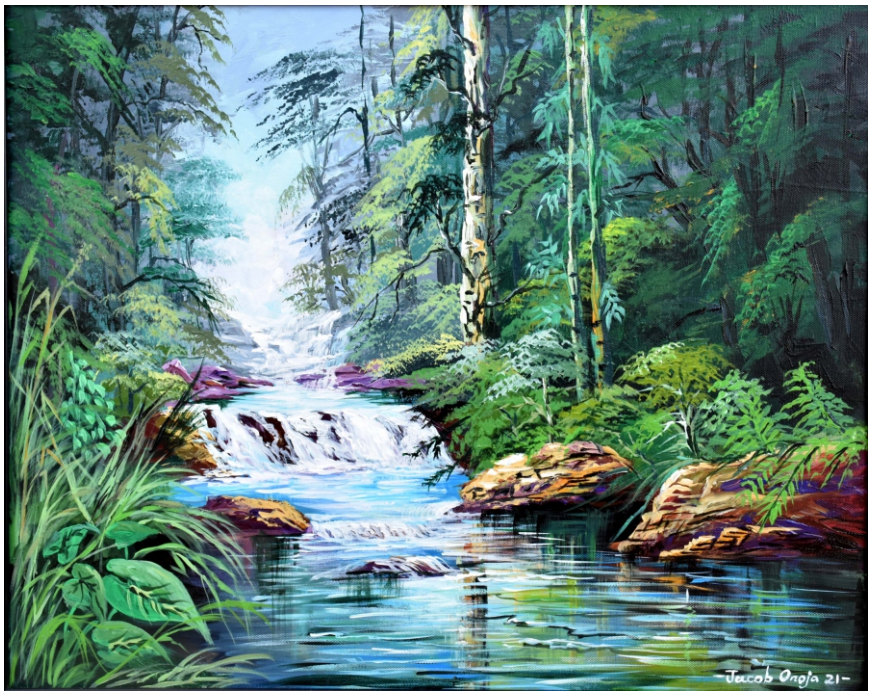
Plateau State is blessed with lovely landscapes and a kaleidoscope of colours with unique yellow flowers as the rainy season is coming to an end. Harvest time is beautiful.

Deuteronomy 28:12

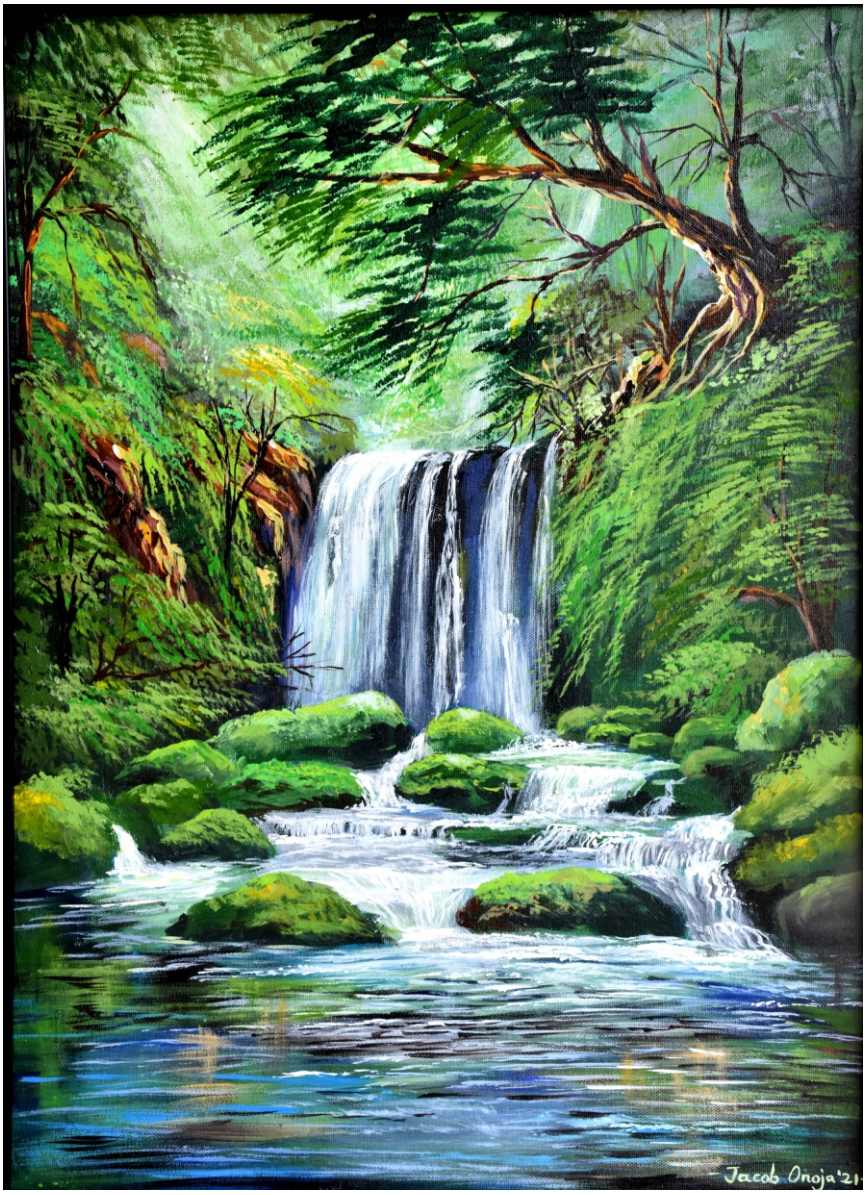
The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.



Free Flow. Acrylic on Canvas. 50 x 40cm.



Free Flow II. Acrylic on Canvas. 40 x 50cm.



Cool Down. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40 cm. 2021.



Blissful Mist. Acrylic on Canvas, 60 x 90 cm.



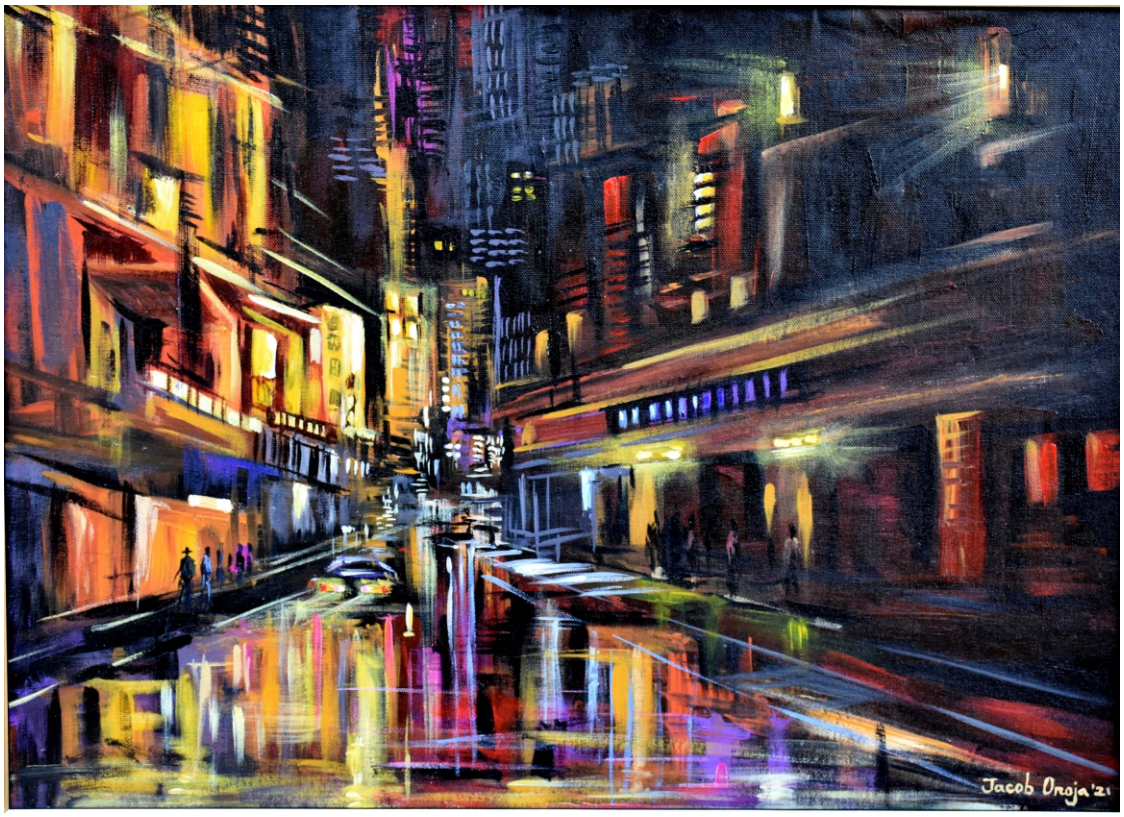
Twilight. Acrylic on canvas board. 20 x 25 cm. 2021.
...As a phase is ending another will surely start

, .

Genesis 8:22

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter,

day and night will never cease."



Nocturne Light and the City Street Acrylic on Canvas 40 x 50 cm



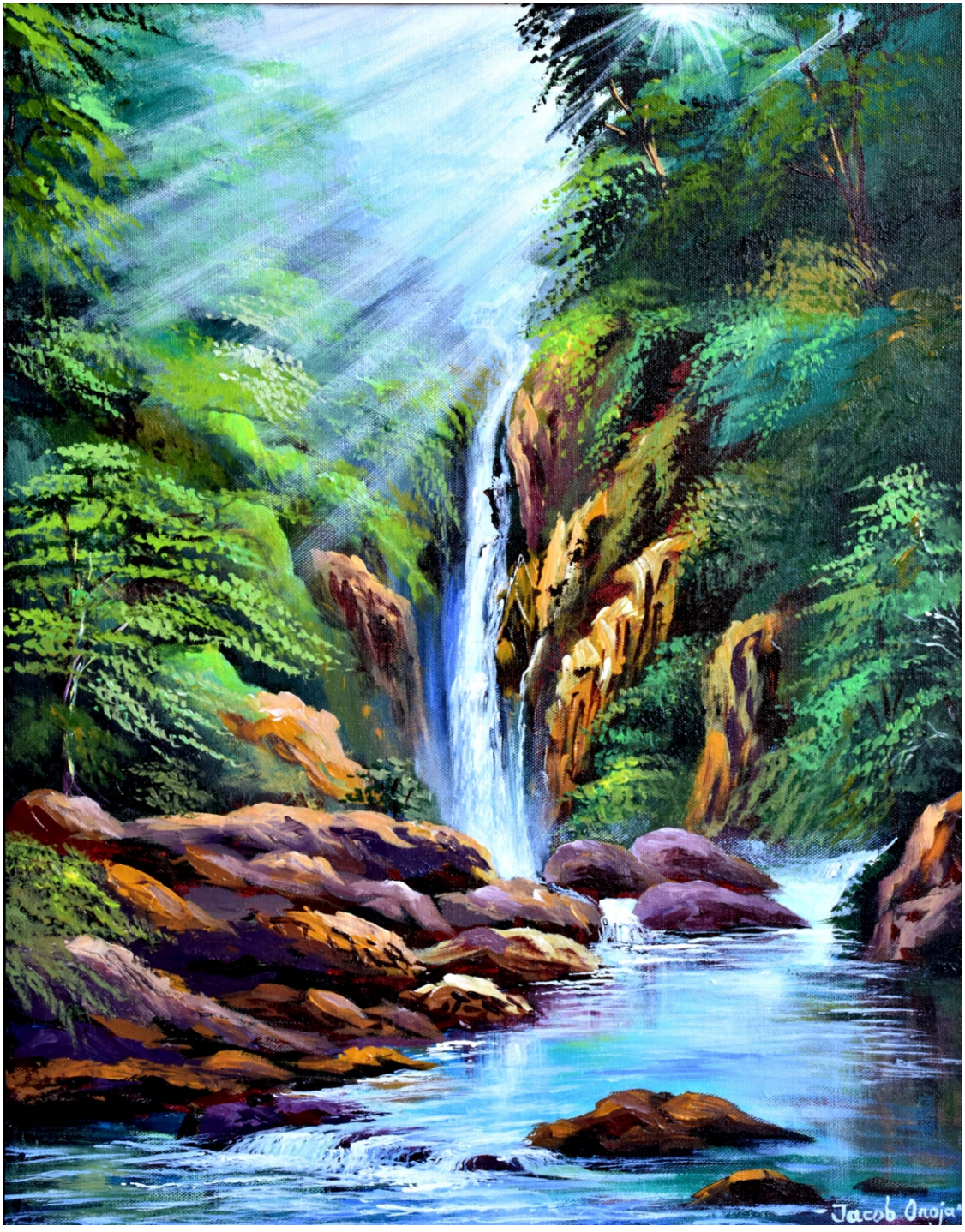
Expanse, Acrylic on canvas board, 40 x 50 cm. 2021.



Radiance. Acrylic on canvas board. 40 x 50 cm. 2021.



Water Lilies (Cubist Rendition). Acrylic on canvas board. 50 x 40cm. 2021.



Sun rays over the fall. Acrylic on canvas board. 50 x 40 cm. 2021.



Miniature studies. Acrylic on canvas board. 12 x 17 cm per piece.



Miniature studies Acrylic on canvas 20 x 25 cm per piece



Miniature studies. Acrylic on canvas Board, 12 x 17 cm per piece.



CD SERIES. Acrylic on Compact Disc and finished with Epoxy.12 cm diameter

GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER



Pantong Mark Davwar
Consultant Physician
Nature enthusiast
Hobbies: Bird watching, Photography and camping.
My goal is to capture the beauty of the Plateau in picture and make it available for the world to see a different narrative about the Plateau.

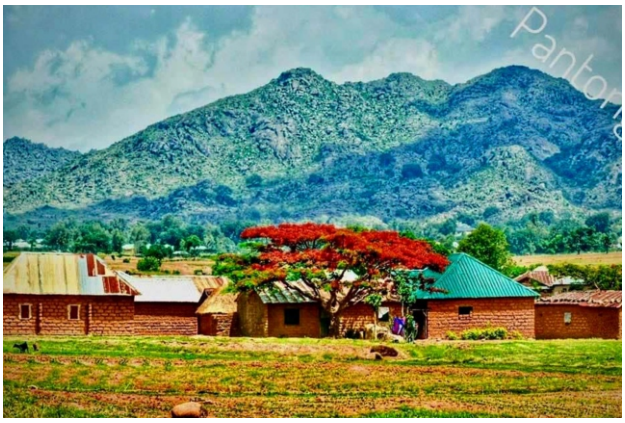








PHOTO GALLERY
LANDSCAPES AND MORE 4.




Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the
LORD JEHOVAH
is everlasting
strength
Isaiah 26:4




GEORGIA
NEW YORK
Reason












LORD JEHOVAH
is everlasting strength.












JOS





















PLEASE DO
NOT TOUCH
EXHIBITS





















COMMENTS AND FEEDBACKS FROM LANDSCAPE AND MORE 4

Highly interesting exhibition. – Prof. Jacob Jari 28/11/2020

This exhibition is amazing. The place I've always wanted to be. Thanks for this! - Chindaba Mathew Chindaba 28/11/2020

Proud of you Onoja. – Shonibare Oladele

Nice work Sir, very impressive. May God give you strength to do more. – Onyinye Nnoli

Sir I am highly inspired by your artworks, I pray for more grace and favour in your endeavours. Thank you for giving us a platform to learn more about art. – Oluwatobi Steven

When God, the best designer was sending you into your mother's womb, He put into or releases his DNA into you. What an awesome design, may the Lord bless you. – Evang David Denwa

Very fantastic works, well-done sir. – Gideon Shindai

Very excellent works. Keep it up – Y. Markus Sale

I really admire the lockdown city pieces because they captured the serenity/ beauty of the city at night. Everything we saw was also so beautiful, they felt like a breath of fresh air (almost too good for the city of Jos!). I also love the collage of the little paintings on the canvas. It made me think of a colourful festival.

Keep up the good work. – Keziah Dantong, Chinkinaan Manaseh Muftwang and Nanbam Muftwang (From your students with love).

I personally really like the *Kaleidoscopic City* pieces, there's a way they resemble actual cities, that is pictures of actual cities. I also really like *Metamorphosis*, I think that's what it's called over all, great art. Please keep it

up sir. - Verse

Landscapes and more IV is another revelation of who the artist is. His peaceful nature is revealed in his colours. He depicts nature in its natural and realistic form. Keep doing what you love best. - Dr. Ezra Samuila

Your paintings have further revealed the beauty of nature, the wonders, majesty, supremacy and gift of God to mankind. Keep it up – Bukar Abraham Sharwa, Curator, National Gallery of Art, Jos.

What an inspirational exhibition, this will help educate the artists on the Jos Plateau. Keep it up. - Prof Gukas H.Joel

Exceptional!! Great artist! Great mind. – Awazi Onoja

Unique and inspirational paintings, with so much confidence and deep meanings. Sir you are an inspiration to me and other young Artists on the Plateau. Thank You. – Nentawe Gokwat

I congratulate Mr. Jacob Onoja for another interesting exhibition like it has always been, his paintings are a display of colourful strokes brought together to create fantastic forms. I really admire his use of colours and the way he harmonizes them. Congratulations once again, and more grease to your joints. – Mr. Tisloh David Dung

Another library building up. Well done my brother- Jerry Dalung

Great works of art my brother, we'll be there someday God's willing. Bravo! – Ameh A.

Truly impressive. I particularly loved the nature paintings. Welldone. - Dr. Grace Pam

Beautiful works of art- Dr. C.A. Meseko

Well done sir, always impressed – Dare Omoniwa

You are so talented sir.I enjoyed the exhibition. Every piece of art is well done, colourful and beautiful. More grace sir! – Huntullo Ngbale

The paintings are really nice, inspirational and amazing. We are all motivated, excited and inspired by all the paintings. We are encouraged to put in all our best in every single Painting and Decoration (P & D) work we are given and to keep trying even when we don't get it so well. God bless you Sir. More grace more strength and more wisdom. –BCA SS2 P & D students.

Am speechless. Awesome is all I can say, I see new strokes, unique techniques, you have really improved from where you were sir, you are doing great. – Phoebe Nacho Addas

I am delighted by these works of art. They are awesome and depict the glory of God in the artist. I wish I met you on ground to explain the painting on *Metamorphosis*. It is really thrilling. I am sure these paintings will go places in a more civilized clime. May God grant you more grace and more wisdom to do more. – Prof C.O. Akueshi 30/11/2020

The paintings have simple strokes that create exquisite art. Love the reflections. These works are absolutely amazing, much love. – Joshua Okpanachi 01/12/2020

This actually wowed me, so impressed by the works. "A master is always a master". – Aremu Rotimi.S. 01/12/2020.

Chairman, charge less make we buy abeg. Nice contrast and electrifying – Tuyens

Oboy you do well. – Dankyes Ephraim 2/12/2020

I guess it's true that "imagination is actually intelligence having fun with itself". Only a mind filled with divine madness can bring forth creative evidence of this sort. - Raheed The Wisdomist 2/12/2020

Truly red is a primary colour and it runs in your veins, amazing and inspiring work and am blessed that this is happening in my time. – Sarki Abdul 2/12/2020

Overwhelmingly beautiful works of nature resonate more with me every time. You are truly quite gifted sir. Your work speaks peace.

I love the fact that you love nature and also thankful for what God has made through your work. Inspiring and wonderful. 2/12//2020

I love your lockdown inspiration, truly beautiful. And your nature paintings are awesome. – Shalom. 2/12/2020

Your artworks are inspiring and beautiful. – Naomi 2/12/2020

The paintings are well coordinated and splendid. Keep up the good work. – Mosunmola

Your artworks, the paintings, the drawings and the photography are inspiring and excessively beautiful. And the CD paintings are awesome! 2/12/2020

The works are so beautiful, I'm impressed. – Jemimah 2/12/2020

Your art is beautiful, I would love to come and learn one day. – Precious Okafor

For me I feel inspired by your work, it has a lot of meaning and feeling behind it, and for me that's what art is about (expression of feeling) its's a really nice work. –Muplang. J. Gimba 2/12/2020

The types of mediums used in the exhibition are astonishing. – Osange Wisdom

I am inspired. – Anony

Exceptional!!! – Abigail Saratu Magaji

Personally, I'm impressed with the painting sir, may God continue to bless your hand work. – Alex Vera.

They are really nice works, God Bless. – Adeyemi Adewale

Magnificent expression! Great works!! I'm truly inspired!!! – Gomerep V.

Sir you're the best I have ever seen. I wish to be like you. God bless your hands. – Diamond 3/12/2020

With every edition of "Landscapes and More..." exhibition, you have established yourself as an authority when it comes to landscape paintings. Your expressions are engaging and breath-taking to say the least. - Mangai Joel Dawang

Amazing and beautiful works, making me rethink, how so much can be done even in tough times of the pandemic period. Well-done - Victor

Wonderful creativity, not surprised seeing this though, the joy to view your works makes it hard to select a favourite. - Geo Quence.

Going through these mind blowing canvases, we just but can't help to admire the wonderful creator who bestowed gifts and talent to his sons. Great work my Bishop! More grace! Keep it up - The Daniels – Solomon P, Grace, Sean, Sam and Salem. 5/12/2020

Creativity at its peak. An exceptional and wonderful works - Jack Timothy

Good creativity with more graphics. Wish to have it more natural, the touch of green's too much. All in all, I like your creativity in it. –Arc Pam Tok

Such fantastic exhibits! I especially loved the portrait with the horses and the nature ones as well. Simply idyllic! With so much creativity I can almost feel nature coming through.

Your paintings make me feel warm within my heart as many of your scenes emanate nostalgia. They take me to a place and a peace I will always long for. I can't wait to decorate my room with your familiar but always impressive art and painting techniques! God bless you sir! – Nentapmu

I love how they remind me of joy, happiness, God, his creation. Actually thought I'd see one of those verses that say God looked at all he made and said it was beautiful. I saw all of it. The detail in life. Simplicity of all that was given. Your technique is amazing thank you. – Nanimen Isaac Kwashi Jnr

This is awesome. I love the work it is completely amazing, looking forward to seeing more of the great artwork. - Israel Kim.

Wow! I really love your great use of colours sir, the works are just so amazing, very bright and beautiful works looking more like digital paintings with great finish. – Abel Joseph

Dr, Great accomplishment AGAIN…thank you for inspiring us to believe in the therapeutic essence of art.They all speak to/of humanity. More grace and flourishing ideas. – Dr. Nancy King, Theatre and Film Arts – Unijos.

Great job Sir - Nyam Abok.

Lovely art great Job! – Tochukwu Onubogu

Nice and beautiful pieces…well done – Jolayemi Chris

Good work, keep fire burning. More grace –Danjuma Emmanuel

Exceptionally nice works, so clean nice works. I love the works. God is the greatest artist. – Magama Hendrix, 9/12/2020

Always inspiring displays! Consistent in his style and technique of rendition in his landscape paintings; they are exceptional. Dr. Onoja is indeed a source of inspiration to many established and upcoming artists in Nigeria and abroad. Kudos to you, Sir I pray for more strength and fulfilment exploits –Kayode Sosan

My all-time great Artist. You have done it again very interesting landscape painting. Inspirational to onlookers and students as well. I wish you more creative output and endless energy to do more. Remain blessed, more power. – Babajide Lambo 9/12/2020

Great works –Precious 9/12/2020

Dr. good work you have here, keep it up. Will surely come for my stuff. Regards to madam –Isaac Dunka Gideon

Very captivating!!! Really says a lot about specific times, titles and so on. Keep up the good work. – Ochepa David. 9/12/2020

Such beautiful artworks! I got emotional looking at them. They depict the beauty of God's creation so well. – Zoe Darlington 10/12/2021

Job well-done sir. Benjamin Dankyes

Great works form a great artist, whose line of thoughts seem unique, different and captivating. Thank you for allowing expression to flow through you. – Plangkat Moses 11/12/2020

Alluring!! My first time at an exhibition(Art), but I really enjoyed myself. The paintings are tranquil and speak a lot of quietness and self-reflection. They also tell about the glory of God. Keep up the good work sir. – Ibrahim Fkyafa 11/12/2020

Captivating and unique. Lockdown city was wow. Can't wait for next year. – Andy.A. Oditi 11/12/ 2020

My first at any of your exhibitions. Takes my breath away. Rally Lovely. – Emmanuel Bajeh 11/12/2020

I got lost in most of the paintings. Was a really inspiring journey through the landscapes, more so captivating that I could feel the emotions of the expressions carried in each work. Thanks for the inspirational chat sir. God bless you sir. – Jeremiah Ochayi.A. 12/12/2020

Very impressed with the variety and quality of finishing. Keep on the good artistic contributions! – Prof. J. Dung Gwom

Works, paints on all media are exquisite!!! I love your strokes. The exhibition is well decorated as it is natural. Artist loves what you've done. – Okopi Daniel

Superb, creative and good outcome. Your work is inspiring and motivating. – Samuel Dakwak 13/12/2020

Beautiful, vibrant colours. Well done sir the works are amazing. -Judith Dyeme Daduut. 13/12/2020

Very Impressive. Keep it up. 14/12/2020

Very calm and peaceful works. They are amazing and bring peace of mind! – Mariya Mamman 14/12/2020

These are very good paintings. – Rahama Mamman 14/12/2020

Peaceful. – Ali Mamman 14/12/2020

Mind blowing, gives a sense of joy and gladness. My heart bobbles seeing God's creation in paintings. Well done sir and thank you for the opportunity to benefit from the exhibition. – Jespher Mamman 14/12/2020

The works are exceptionally beautiful and inspiring as well. I wish him more grace and inspiration. – Samaila Hosea 15/12/2020

All works are impressive, extremely detailed and relatable. I am inspired and I have been ministered to. More power to your elbow sir, keep doing the good work! – Panmun Silas. 15/12/2020

The works are beautiful, lovely and very inspiring. More grace sir. 15/12/2020

I've had an amazing experience looking through the various works, each with its unique story. Very good job indeed! Looking forward to other exhibitions. Keep It up! – Dr. Adama Salaam 15/12/2020

Your paintings are so amazing sir, the uniqueness is what I can't explain. I always look up to you for inspiration. – Gabriel Davou. 16/12/2020

Beyond the brilliant landscapes I viewed, I am deeply inspired by your source of inspiration which is the scriptures. It reminded me of my childhood days when I used to draw from the children bible stories and the rest. Your works are nothing less of an Avant garde. I look forward to doing scriptural paintings with you someday. I am grateful to have known an artist like you and for witnessing this exhibition. – Dachin Gershon Paul

Always a pleasure and an inspiration to be in your exhibitions. The intricacy and complexity of the beauty conceived in the heart of a man displayed so poignantly and passionately on canvas, can only show a glimpse of the indescribable mastery of the maker of the universe! - Dr. Makama Sunday. 16/12/2020.

Always an exhilarating experience. Unique works of art expressing creativity at its best – Dachin Nora and Isaac 17/12/2020

Great works, skills put into useful use. Talents are not wasted at all. This is a multiplication of what God had given. An obedience to God's command – Dr. Patkat A. Iduh 16/12/2020

This is indeed a great work demonstration of the handy work of God in the life of men. May the good God increase, enlarge your territory in the markets place in Jesus name. Highly commendable -Dr. Iduh A. A 16/12/2020

A very imaginative, creative exhibition from a colleague who has remained consistent and committed to his calling. To me, ART is a calling: whether in the Fine and Applied or the Literary. If you have the calling and you refuse to heed it, your CREATOR, who blessed you with the talent in the first place will make a DEMAND of you on the last day. Some of the artworks are inspired by the scriptures; from meditative in-depth understandings of Jacob E. Onoja Ph.D. I salute your courage to put up this 4th edition in the face of the global PANDEMIC. It is quite refreshing and rejuvenating. – MASK Diran ADEMIJU – BEPO Ph.D. 17/12/2020.

Every single one of these paintings is beautiful, I don't think there is one finer than the other, but I do have favourite and will hopefully get some in the nearest future (I'm aiming for the big ones lol) Congratulation Sir – Chalya Dul Johnson

Every piece tells a unique story; very compelling and vibrant. Merely looking at them, there's almost a sense of personal attachment. Amazing! -Ugochukwu Ogbonna

Impressive works!!! The works also tell the story and dedication and passion of a man! Dr. Onoja Jacob is exceptional, disciplined and wonderful personality. The LORD bless the works of your hands - Dr. Felix Wina and Danils Wina 18/12/2020

As I watched your exhibits, I experienced peace. Each piece ministered to me in a spectacular way, the creativity, colour play, neatness and professionalism is just amazing. May the LORD continue to bless the works of your hands Sir. I'm blessed - Pam Samuel 18/12/2020

From my own personal point of view after seeing your piece of artwork, I got to understand that with such a great skill, one can be artistic in all ramifications of life as I saw some of your works on Compact Disc plates. I wish I could see more of your works in future and may you be blessed in Jesus mighty name. Amen. – Kim Carrington 18/12/2020

Amazing art display. The experience is rich and the use of old Compact Disc plates is simply amazing. Creativity is top notch. – Eric Marilyus

This is really good. There is an energy that comes from this that gives an amazing feeling. Great work sir. - Y.S Gyang.

Quite amazing exhibition displaying nature and its beauty, what a beauty to behold. - Mr and Mrs Loveday Okorafor

Wow! Amazing! Breath taking pieces of work! I'm truly fascinated by the commitment to consistency, the attention to detail, the patience. I'm just blown away totally – Joshua A.

This is something else, I always tell people: that education is not all about knowing how to read and write, but education is all about knowing the way to interact with people, community and society. This is absolute "EDUCATION". I am so highly overwhelmed with this. It is so "REAL" am not exhausted feeling the taste of what I am seeing. Kudos Bros. ONE LUV. – El Joe Dimension.

I accidentally stumbled across Mr. Onoja's art and seeing them in person happened to be one of the highlights of 2020 for me. His paintings made me feel a new level of excitement I haven't felt in a long time. Also a wonderful individual with the unique ability to stir a desire for paintings in people. Anyone that encounters Mr. Onoja will come in contact with the purest form of artistic expression here in the city of Jos. Keep up with the good work and may your paint brush keep bringing light to the lives of everyone who sees your work. God bless you real good sir. – Jerry Irieguna 18/12/2020

Painted and Drawn passionately, the paintings draw you in. WELL DONE SIR!!! – Batarmwa Gobum.

Wow! Astonished.., good work…short of words to express these great works. May God renew your strength. - The Adedejis 19/12/2020 11:15am

Amazing works. Pictorial recreation of nature via high intelligence and skillfulness. There's a lot to behold in your artistic integrity. The precisions that characterized most of your works are amazing, wonderful and unique. (Indicate Prices). My God bless the work of your hands – Dr. OjekaEbibi and family, The Chapel of Faith – Unijos

Great work. Inspired and blessed to see and experience your art. – Doogam Hiikyaa Ralph

APPRECIATION

My appreciation is summed up in the hymn of Folliot S. Pierpoint (1835 - 1917). The hymn was written when he was 29 because he was mesmerised by the beauty of the countryside that surrounded him. Like Pierpoint, I am completely overwhelmed by the beauties that surround me; family, friends, people of Faith, the members of academia and ultimately, the beauties of the creation of God which I have tried to capture in my creative works through paintings.

1 For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain: Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light.(Refrain)

3 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.(Refrain)

4 For the church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love.(Refrain)

5 For Thyself, best Gift Divine.
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in Heaven.(Refrain)

Take time to contemplate nature and the works of God in all its resplendent splendours. You are greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas. Jesus is KING!



Jacob Enemona Onoja Ph.D.

Exhibiting Artist.