

AVAILABLE
ARTWORKS

CO KOLA-LAWAL
ART



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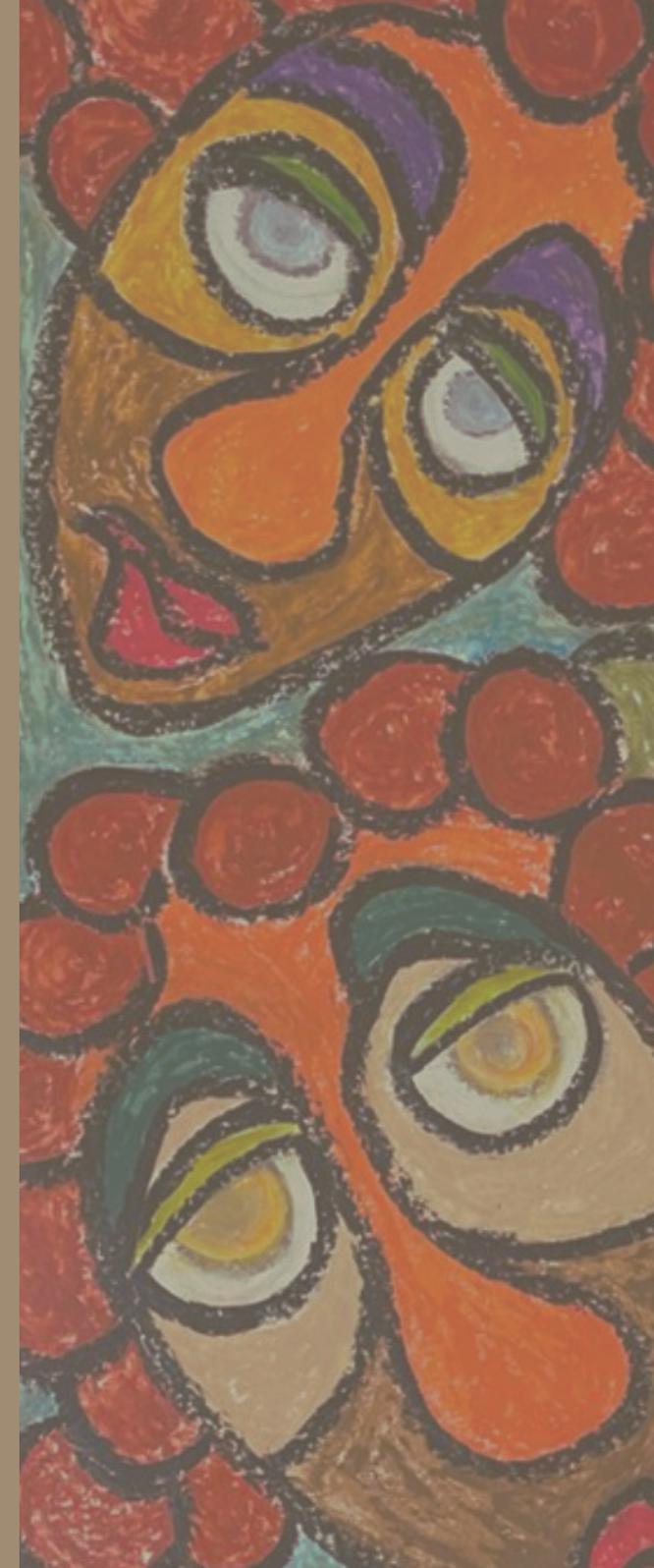
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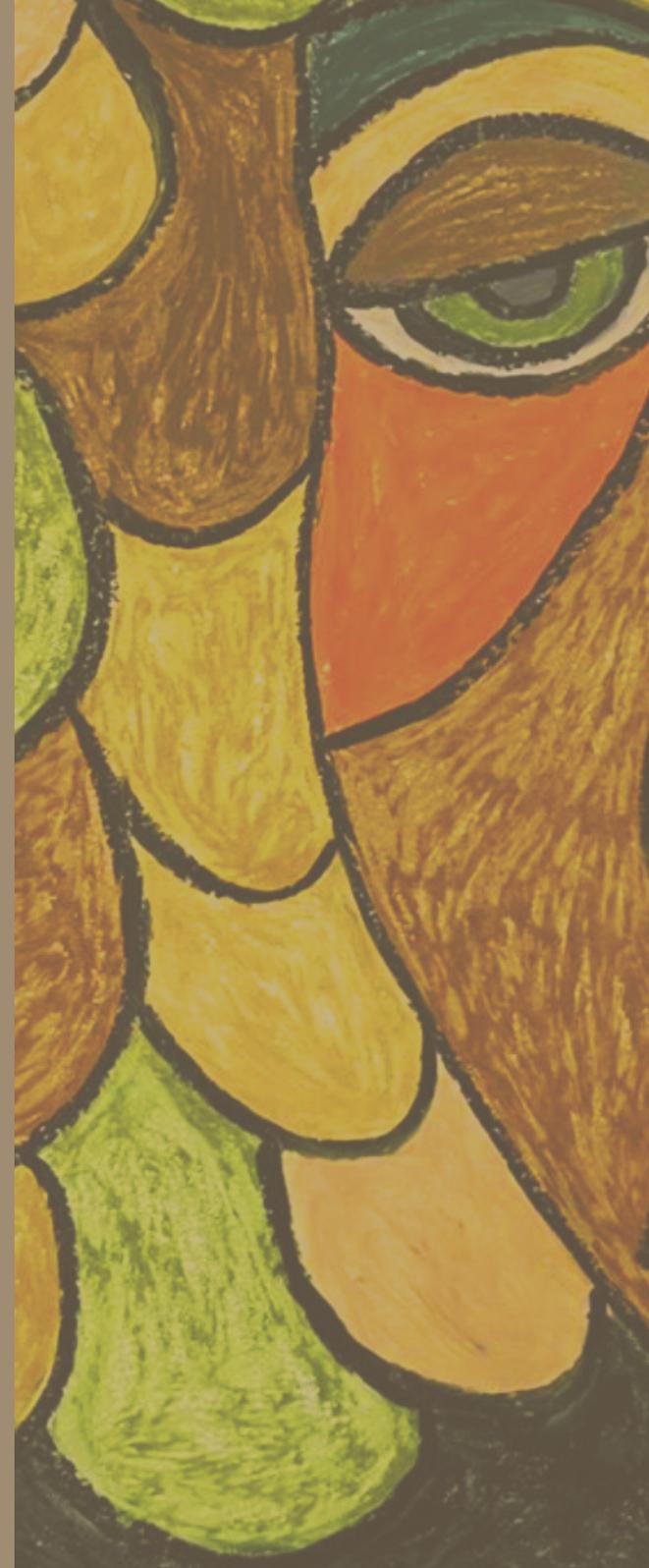
About the Artist

C O Kola-Lawal is a conceptual artist and environmental and social specialist, whose work explores the dimensions of social identities, sustainability, justice, and resilience.

Drawing from over 25 years of implementing environmental and social systems across Africa, she has attended the Royal Drawing School in London to refine her techniques in expressing visual art and translating real-world issues into powerful visual narratives. As an experiential artist, she is passionate about combining intuitive design with research-informed themes, using art to provoke reflection and conversation around the social and environmental challenges of our time.



Enjoy Art!!!



Witness

42 x 60cm

Coffee and paprika ink on card

Copyright 2025

She is present yet distant, silent yet unignorable. She embodies the countless women who stand as living witnesses to the inequalities and fractures of society.

Her back is to us, but her presence compels us to confront the truths she carries.

To check the availability of an artwork, please send an email to artbycokl@gmail.com or a Whatsapp message to +234 903 724 1684



Melanin Rush

Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches
Copyright 2025

Colorism, colonial continuities and media continue to distort perceptions of beauty. The extremely light-skinned figures portray the deeply rooted obsession with lighter skin tones that continues to shape ideals of beauty and self-worth among Black women. We should question how far society has drifted from embracing natural identity in pursuit of social acceptance and desirability.



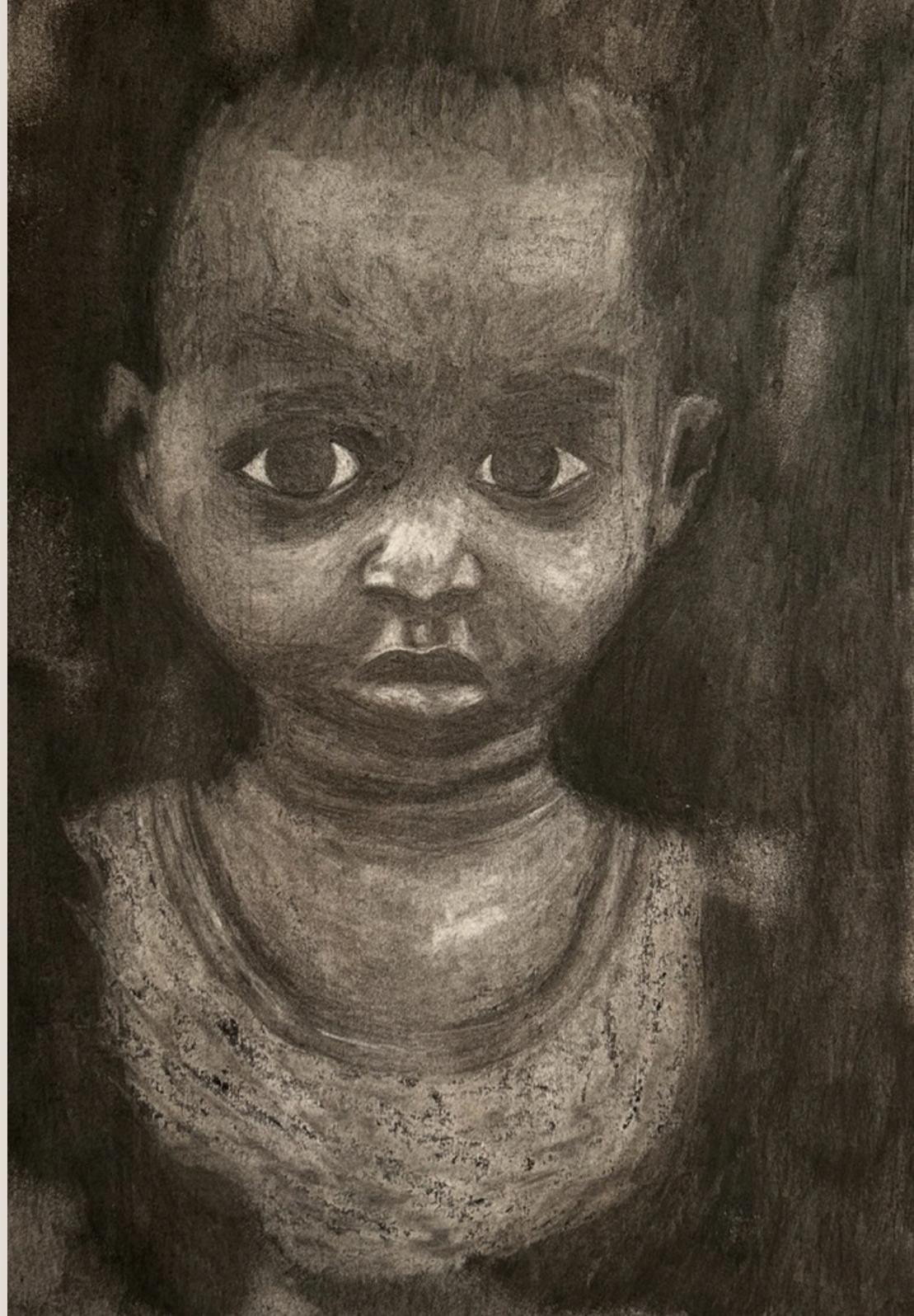
The WHO reports that ~77% of Nigerian women and over 40% of African women use skin-bleaching products.

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Too Young To Know

Charcoal on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

Wide-eyed, reflecting innocence overshadowed by ongoing challenges of child labour, poverty, and lost childhoods.



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Procedure

36 x 48 inches
Acrylic on canvas
Copyright 2025



A growing aesthetic pressure reflects how the demand for exaggerated bust and hip proportions is fueled by idealised “curves,” creating a culture where natural form is overlooked and enhancement becomes normalised.

NB: More than 70% of body-contouring procedures involve African-descent or Hispanic women.

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Ankara Seams

36 x 48 inches

Acrylic and upcycled fabric on
canvas

Copyright 2025

Fashioned from upcycled Ankara, dressing its subject in a skirt stitched from fragments of memory and culture. Each patterned piece is a declaration that West African women are not just wearers of fashion but makers, participants, and competitors.

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Eyes Wide Open

36 x 48 inches
Acrylic on canvas
Copyright 2025



A row of female masks, each with striking, enlarged eyes symbolizing growing awareness and awakening among women in emerging economies, where access to education reshapes identity and collective vision.

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Sisterhood

Acrylic on canvas
20 x 26 inches
Copyright 2025

In collective societies like those in Africa, sisterhood is of paramount importance. It embodies shared strength, empathy, and resilience – a bond that uplifts communities and weaves women's stories into a single, enduring fabric.



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Furaha

Soft pastel on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

With wide, doe-like eyes fixed in steady focus, she embodies the tension between curiosity and courage, capturing the fragile poise of youth.

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Strength From Above

Soft Pastel on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

Often, we are so caught up
and overwhelmed with life's
issues and challenges that
we can only move ahead
when we look up...

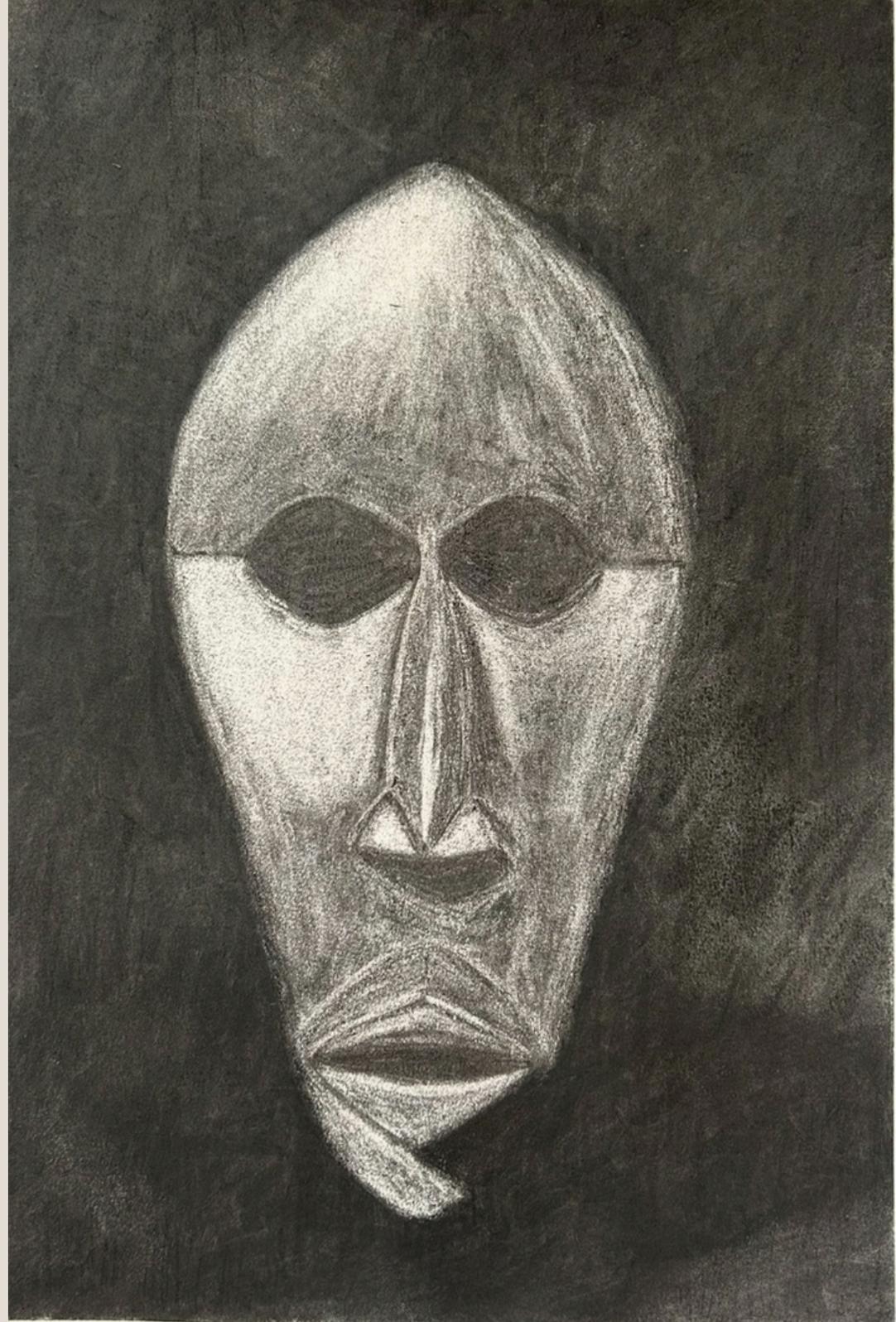
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The Strong Survive

Charcoal on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

Bold, unyielding features, symbolising the resilience and cultural pride that endure through trials of conflict, hardship, and change.

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Her Vibrancy

31 x 40cm
Gouache on canvas
Copyright 2025

She is rendered in saturated hues,
with a colour palette and
compositional choices that highlight
her presence as a central force that
radiates energy.

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Gender Heat Rising

36 x 48 inches
Gouache and acrylic on
canvas
Copyright 2025

A celebration of feminine diversity and power. Women, in fluid forms and brilliant hues, radiate both strength and vulnerability. Their presence pulses like heatwaves, capturing the rising intensity of gender discourse, identity, and solidarity.

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Aqua (She Wears The Agbada Series)

30 x 42cm

Oil pastel on card

Copyright 2025

Reimagining the agbada – a flowing robe long reserved for men – as a symbol of women stepping into roles once denied them. Just as the garment reshapes her presence, women today are reshaping power, finance, and community. By wearing the agbada, she embodies tradition and transformation: a reminder that when women lead, they do not only inherit spaces; they expand them.

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Sjiro (No Food For Lazy Man Series)

36 x 48 inches
Charcoal on canvas
Copyright 2025

Drawing from a proverb that echoes through many African homes, this series reinvents the phrase 'No Food For Lazy Man'. These young Black women, with their afros worn like crowns, carry attitude, resilience and the refusal to be overlooked. Each figure challenges the world's stereotypes with unbent pride and unapologetic power.

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Laughing At Life

31 x 40cm

Gouache on canvas

Copyright 2025

A woman in a moment of unrestrained laughter. Loose, expressive strokes around her face and shoulders heighten the sense of spontaneity and release.

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Ibinabo

(Kalabari name meaning 'A Girl Is Born')

Graphite on card

30 x 42cm

Copyright 2025

She pauses... a breath taken
before the world resumes.

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Proud Stance

Charcoal on card
30 x 42cm
Copyright 2025

A study in posture and presence, this work celebrates the quiet power of pride – the moment a woman claims her space with grace and certainty.

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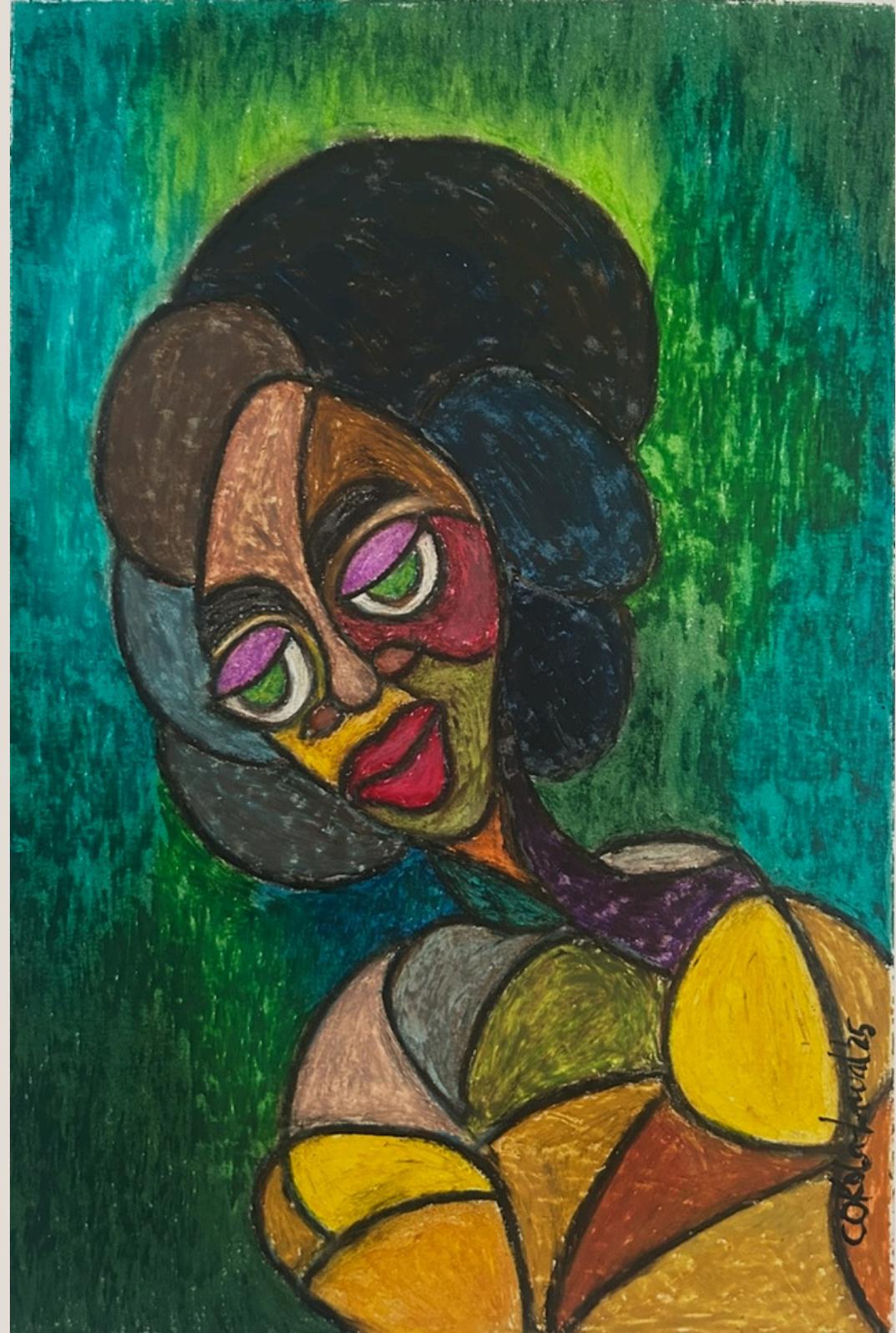


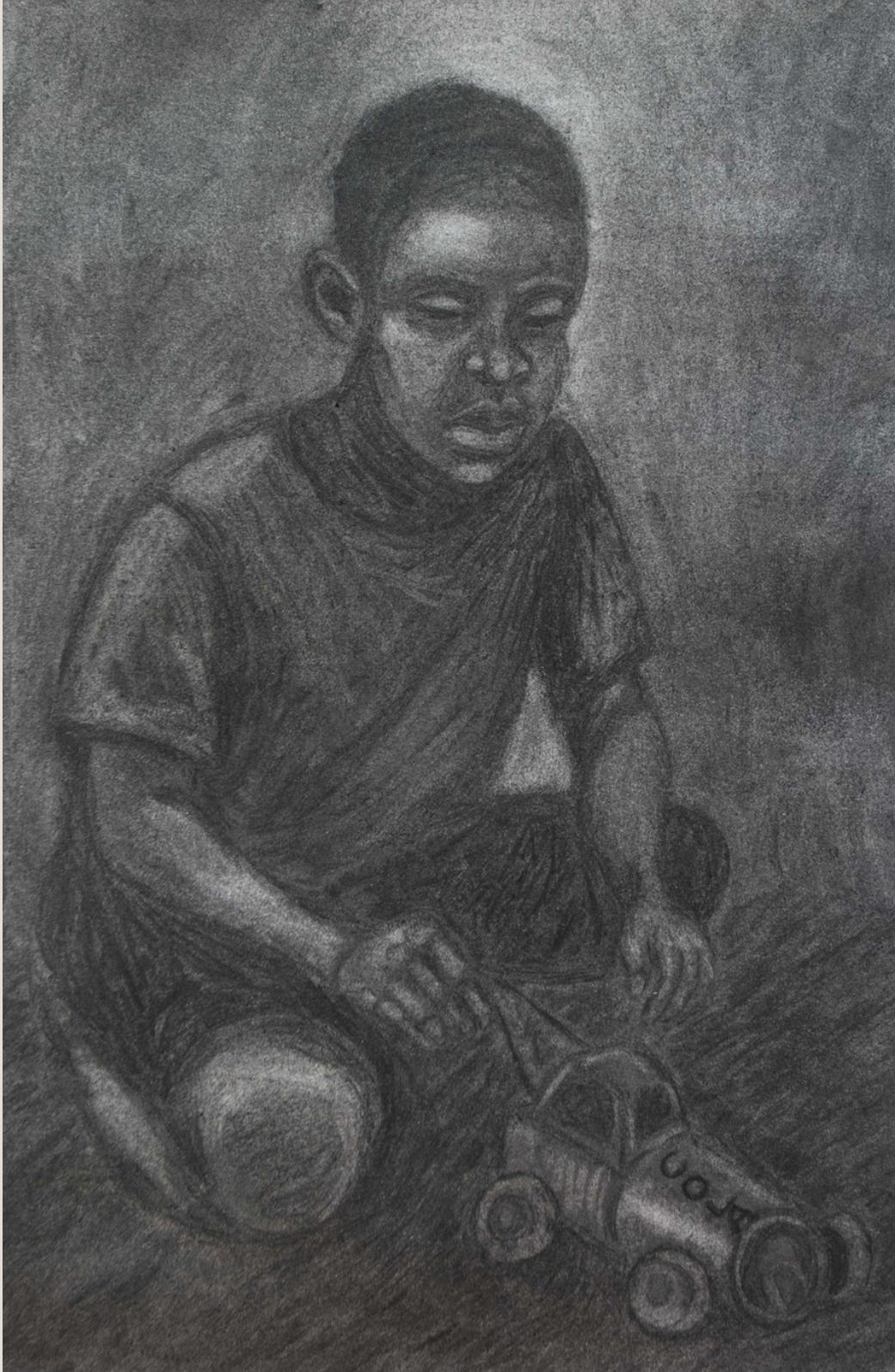
Woman Of Substance

Oil pastel on card
31 x 40cm
Copyright 2025

This piece celebrates the essence of womanhood – not defined by adornment, but by courage, wisdom, and the unspoken stories that shape identity.

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What They Left Behind

Charcoal on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

Playing with discarded waste, highlighting intertwined challenges of poverty, environmental neglect, and resourcefulness born from necessity.

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Adanna

Oil pastel on card
31 x 40cm
Copyright 2025

Striking beauty, celebrating the strength and grace of girls whose potential shines despite the shadows of limited opportunities and systemic bias.

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Weight Of Her Mind

Oil pastel on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

The imbalance of her head and body is a metaphor for the realities of many African women - their intellect, thoughts, and burdens magnified, while their physical presence and agency are often minimized or constrained. The oversized head suggests the weight of expectation and unspoken responsibility, while the shrunken hands hint at limited power to shape their own destinies.

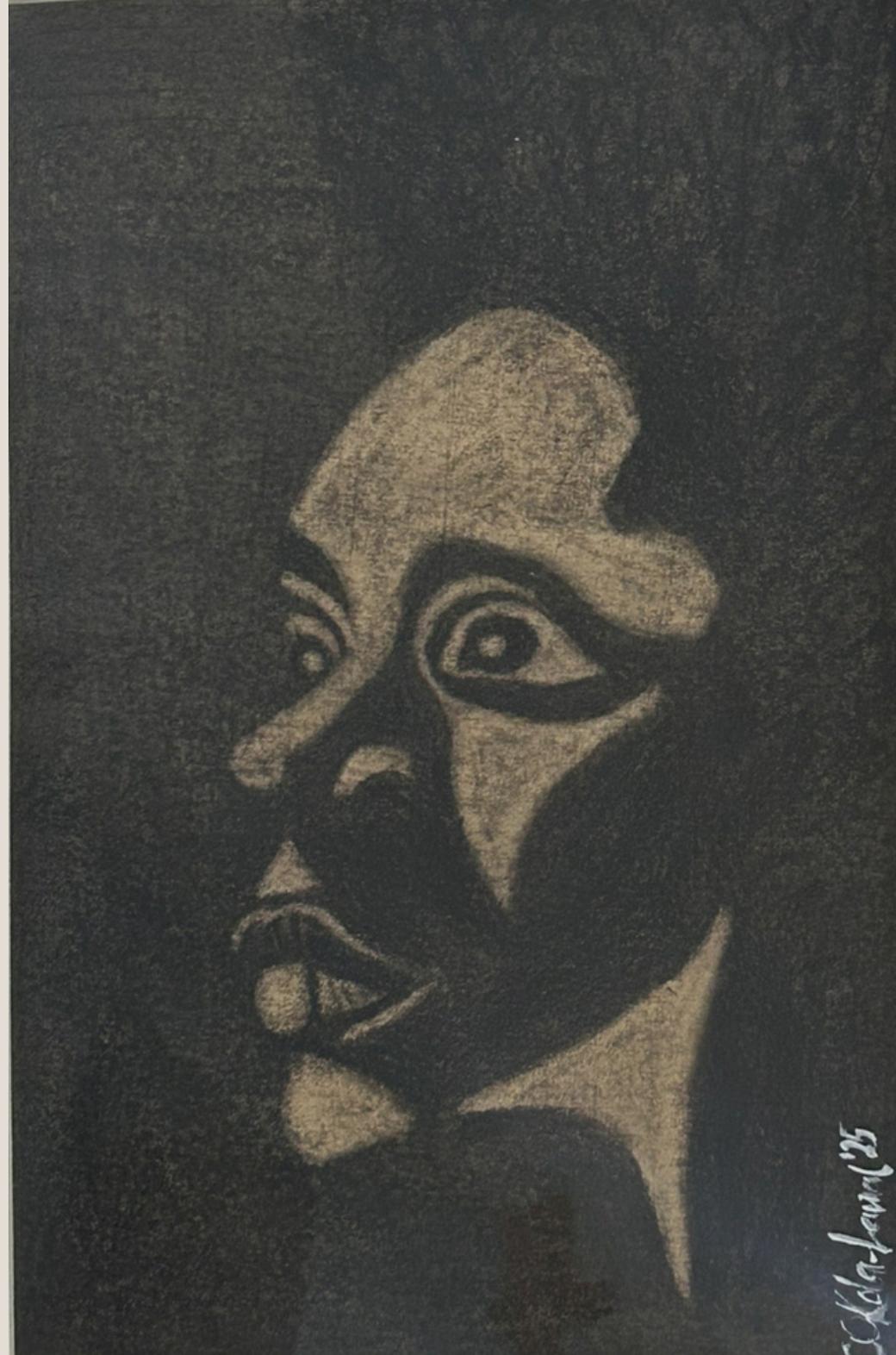


Prospect

Charcoal on card
30 x 42cm
Copyright 2025

A shadowed profile lifted upward—a silent study of hope, vision, and the will to rise beyond the present.

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Srere

(Urhobo name meaning 'Blessing')

Graphite on card

30 x 42cm

Copyright 2025

Her expression says it all: Yes,
this is enough....

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Social Condition

Gouache on canvas
60 x 80cm
Copyright 2025

Hopeful eyes look to the future, ignoring layered scars of inequality, poverty, and systemic injustice.

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Health Is Mental

Gouache on canvas
30 x 42cm
Copyright 2025

A multi-hued gaze with mismatched eyes, symbolising the often-overlooked mental health struggles in Africa, where stigma and limited support leave many unseen.

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Hanatu (Beehive Series)

Charcoal on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

The hair is a symbol of the many roles and responsibilities women juggle—family, work, community, and self—each color reflecting a different aspect of her life.” Like a hive alive with activity, her crown reflects creativity, resilience, and the vibrant multiplicity of womanhood.

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Thoughts

Soft pastel on card
42 x 60cm
Copyright 2025

A gaze drifts beyond the frame, mirroring the quiet thoughts of those navigating inequality, uncertainty, and dreams deferred.

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Basirat

(Yoruba Muslim name meaning
'Insightful')

Graphite and charcoal on card

30 x 42cm

Copyright 2025

Alone, but not lonely. The kind of
solitude that feels like sunlight.

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artbycokl@gmail.com or a Whatsapp message to +234 903 724 1684



The Eye Of The Beholder

Soft pastel on card

42 x 60cm

Copyright 2025

An undeniable glow, celebrating beauty beyond convention while confronting struggles with colourism, stigma, and exclusion.

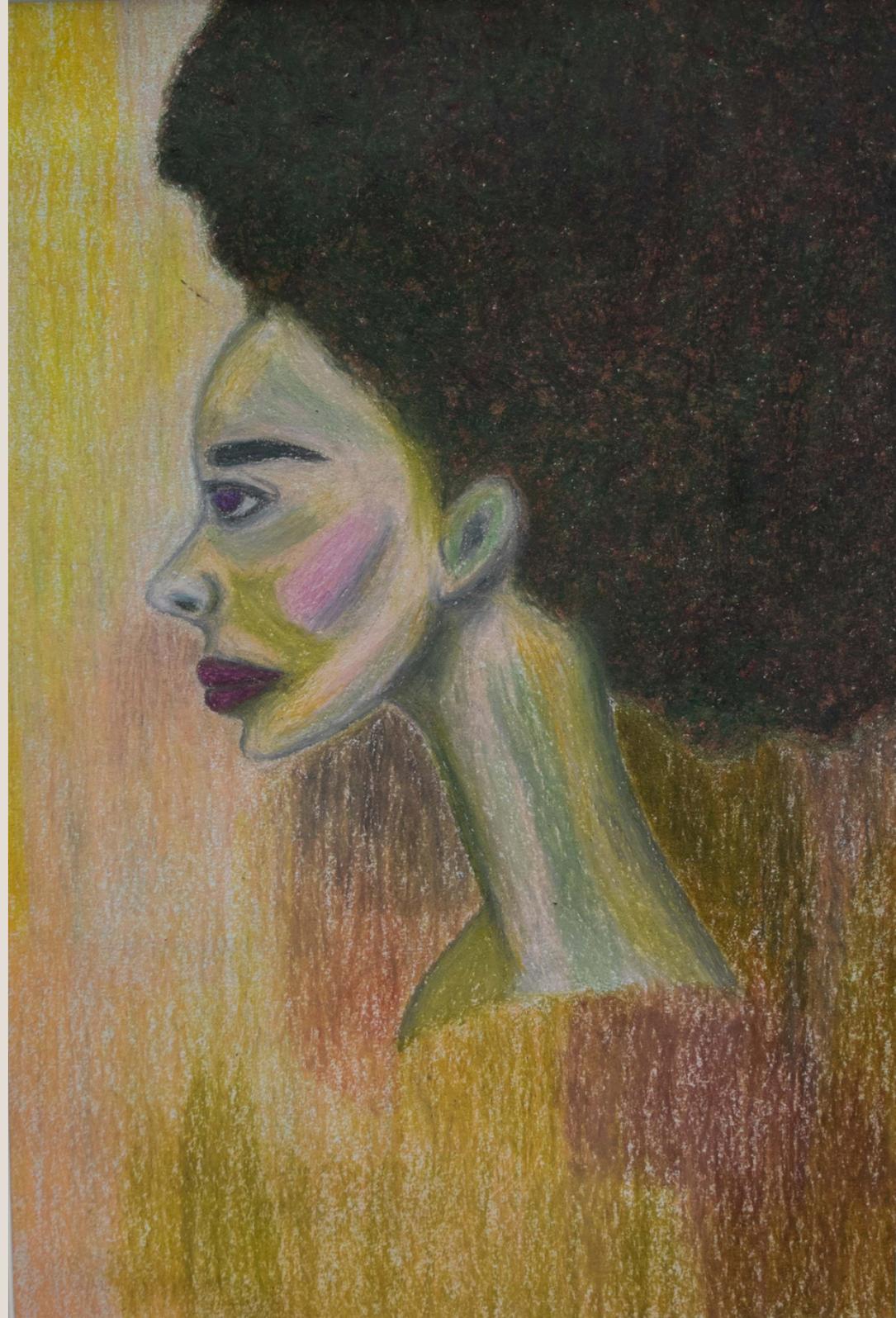
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Atinuke 'Glow'

Oil pastel on card
31 x 40cm
Copyright 2025

In muted tones, her gaze reflects the quiet perseverance of women navigating traditions, expectations, and the pursuit of self-determination.

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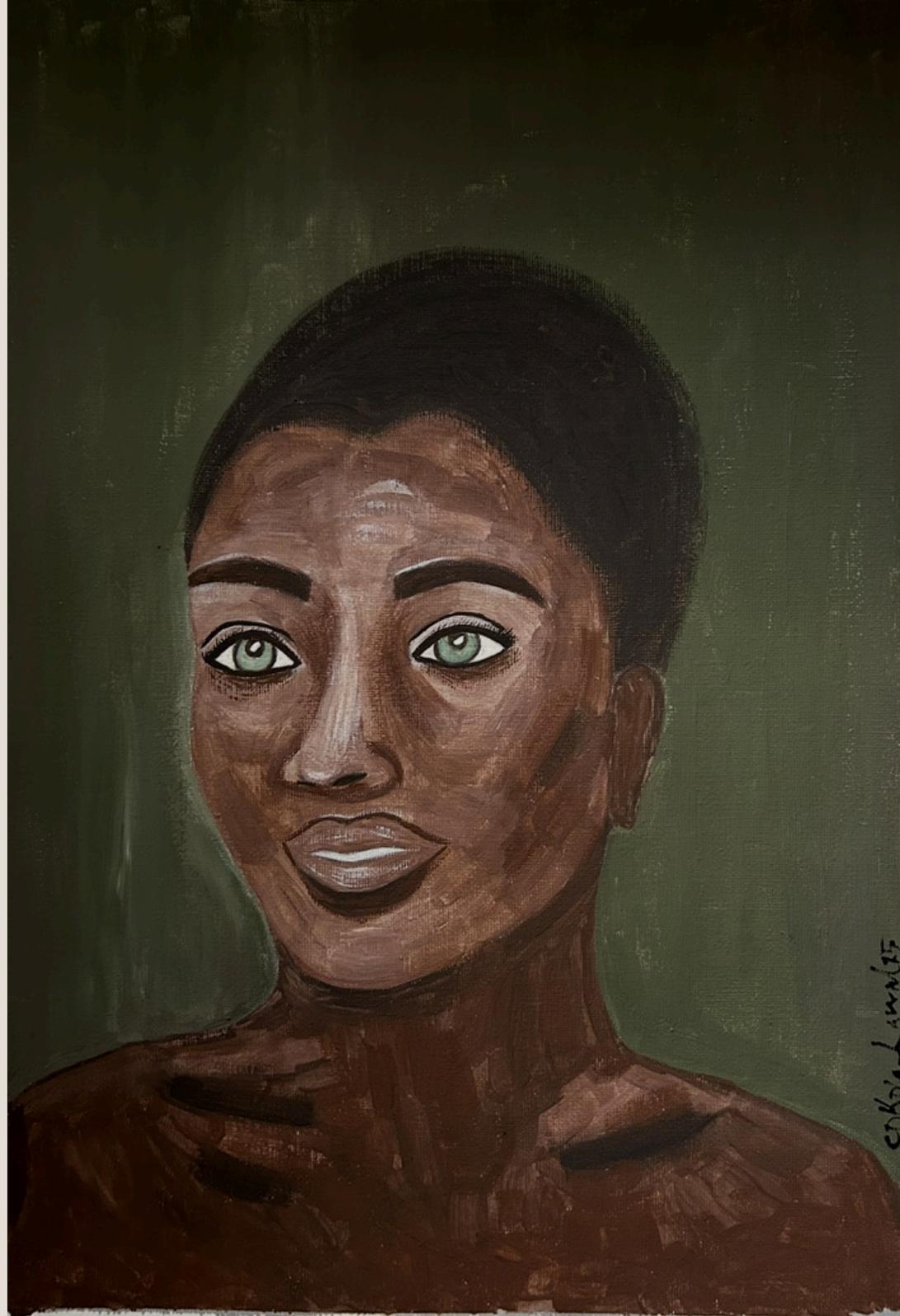


Her Bare Self

Gouache on canvas
31 x 40cm
Copyright 2025

She is pared-down with minimal adornment. The muted background draws attention to the open, unguarded quality of her expression.

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Tamara

(Ijaw name meaning 'Gods Will')

Graphite on card
30 x 42cm
Copyright 2025

The light loves her, soft and
honest, it tells the truth. No
embellishment, just her.

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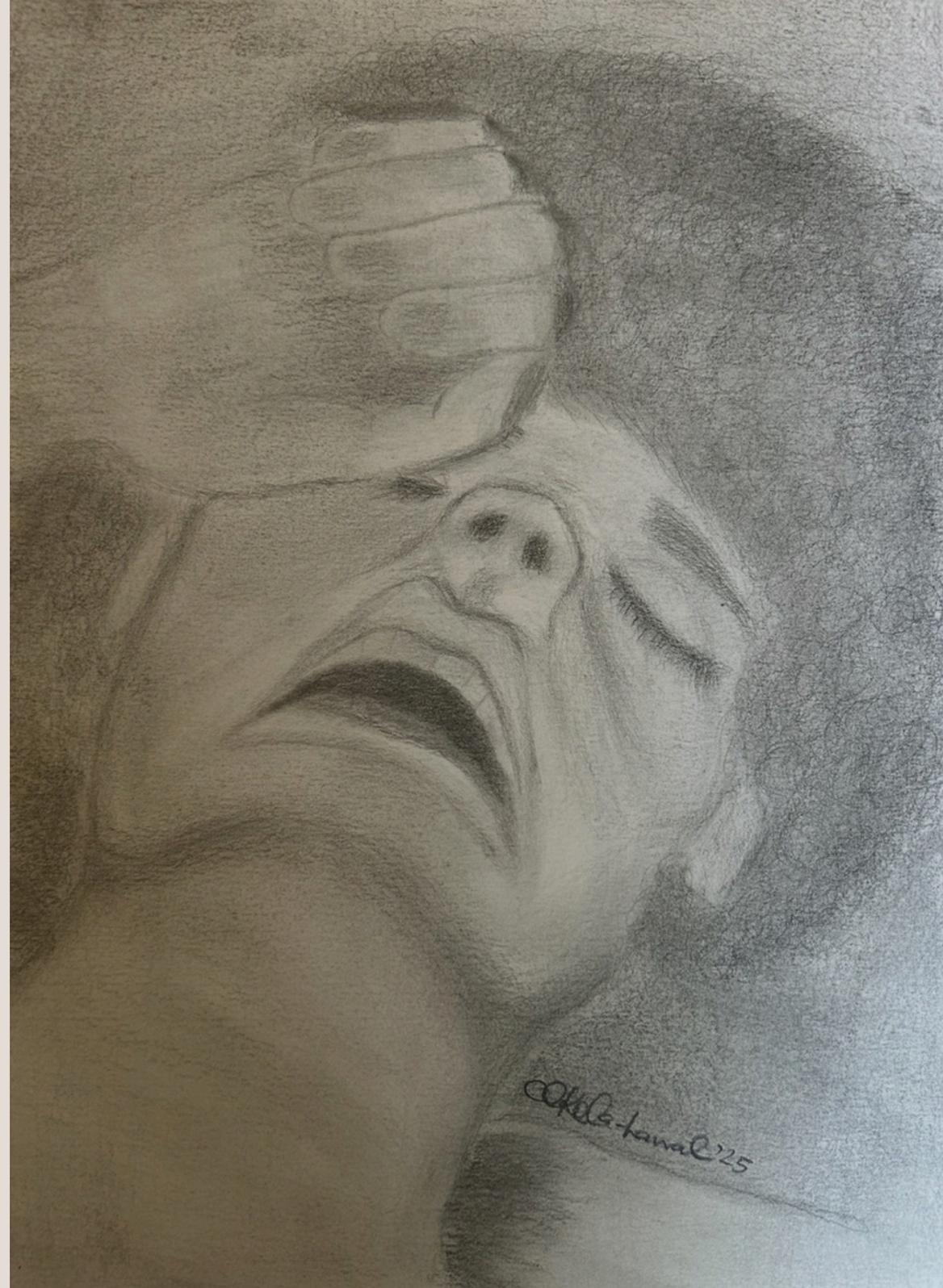
Amarachi

(Ibo name meaning 'The Grace of God')

Graphite on card (a rendition of Henry Moore's Sleeping Head and Hand, 1941)
30 x 42cm
Done 2025

She is wrapped in the stillness of sleep; her breath slows in complete trust.

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Oil Fall

Oil on canvas
36 x 48 inches
Copyright 2025

Oil Fall – black crude cascading like a dark waterfall over a kaleidoscope of iridescent colours (the rainbow sheen oil makes on water). Two men stand at the edge, witnesses to the spill, part-observers, part-culprits. The piece contrasts the seductive beauty of the spill's colours with their toxic reality. Oil Fall is a meditation on beauty that betrays; on spectacle and silence – what we're drawn to and what we ignore. The silhouettes mark human complicity and powerless watching. NB - Official records and studies report thousands of oil-spill incidents in the Niger Delta over recent decades – for example, government and historical estimates count thousands of separate spills between the 1970s and early 2000s.

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Coker Olanrewaju '25

Her Majesty

(No Food For Lazy Woman Series)

Charcoal on plywood
36 x 48 inches
Copyright 2025

Drawing from a proverb that echoes through many African homes, this series reinvents the phrase 'No Food For Lazy Man'. These young Black women, with their afros worn like crowns, carry attitude, resilience, and the refusal to be overlooked. Each figure challenges the world's stereotypes with unbent pride and unapologetic power.

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Oh Migration

36 x 48 inches
Oil on canvas
Copyright 2025



All Migration traces the shifting map of Nigeria as abstract figures drift from north to south, driven by environmental pressures such as desertification and erosion. Blending literal and symbolic journeys, the work reflects climate-induced movement in search of greener pastures, anchored by the image of a cattle rearer whose southward passage embodies survival, displacement, and adaptation.

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Orobo

(She Wears The Agbada Series)

36 x 48 inches
Acrylic on canvas
Copyright 2025

Reimagining the agbada — a flowing robe long reserved for men — as a symbol of women stepping into roles once denied them. Just as the garment reshapes her presence, women today are reshaping power, finance, and community. By wearing the agbada, she embodies tradition and transformation: a reminder that when women lead, they do not only inherit spaces; they expand them

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Aristo

Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches
Copyright 2025

Aristo is a commentary on the phenomenon among young women who seek financial sustenance through relationships with older, wealthy men. Rendered in shades of purples (associated with royalty) the figures symbolize a troubling redefinition of status, survival, and power—while exposing the quiet social degradation and economic pressures shaping modern femininity.

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C. Oko-Lawal '25



Tomato

(She Wears The Agbada Series)

36 x 48 inches
Acrylic on canvas
Copyright 2025

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Avocado

(She Wears The Agbada Series)

Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches
Copyright 2025

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Pepper

(She Wears The Agbada Series)

24 x 36 inches
Acrylic on canvas
Copyright 2025



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