

JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

# ESCAPE MAG

## BLOXIE

Harmony in Diversity:  
Leading the Way in African  
Sustainable Fashion Brands



Masonwabe Ntloko | Tunde Onakoya | SGaWD | Keno French | Uyiosa | 12th The Creator |  
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# ESCAPE MAG

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# Editor's Letter

Dear Escape Mag Readers,

Welcome to our exciting second edition! We're excited to showcase the creative director of Bloke, a rapidly growing sustainable fashion brand in Africa, and present an exclusive interview with Masonwabe Ntloko, a talented South African artist, and many other creatives. Our goal is to amplify the voices of creatives across Africa and encourage both the creators and the audience to reflect on the motivations behind our actions.

As we grow our community, we're not just a magazine; we're a platform, a launchpad for African creatives to be recognized globally. Join us in setting a new standard for creativity and celebrating the diverse talents shaping the creative landscape across the continent.

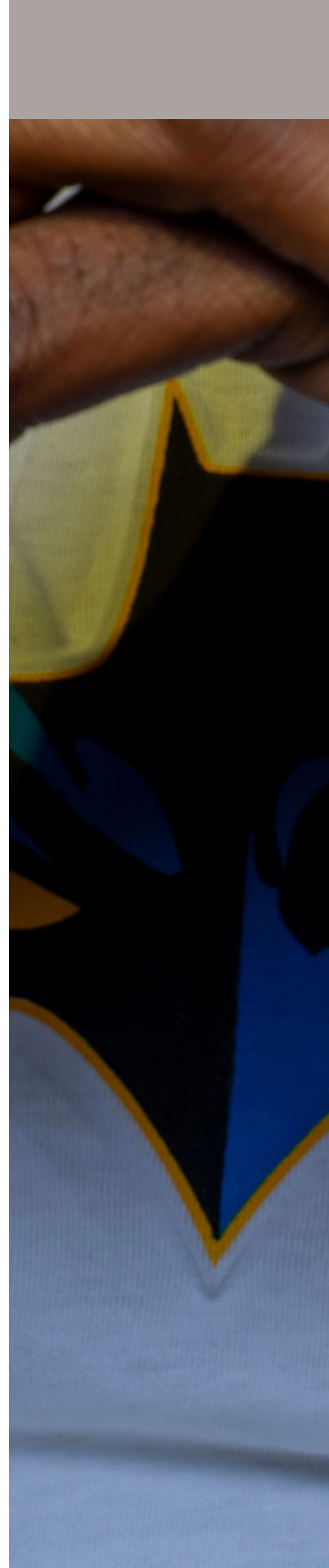
This edition also captures the essence of our Escape Mag Fashion Hangout through captivating images. It's more than a magazine; it's a movement. Together, let's elevate creativity, empower artists, and make waves that resonate far beyond our borders.

**With warmest regards,**

OKIKI LAOYE

*Editor in chief*

**Escape Mag**





# ESCAPE MAG

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# THE RISE AND RISE OF REMA

In the constantly changing world of Afrobeats, one name has emerged as a bright star, pushing the limits and elevating the genre to new levels. That name is Rema.

11

By Oluwatoni Ottunba | Feature Art by Jexways





Art by [Adene](#)



Art by [Zeek Toons](#)

From his humble beginnings to his rapid rise, Rema has mesmerized audiences with his unique sound and undeniable talent, solidifying his position as one of the biggest and brightest lights pushing the Afrobeats culture to the global audience.

Rema's journey began with a dream and a relentless pursuit of his passion. Hailing from Benin City, Nigeria, he honed his skills in the shadows, crafting his style and sound. It was in 2019 that he caught the attention of music industry insiders and listeners alike with his breakout hit, "Iron Man." The song showcased his smooth vocals, infectious melodies, and a maturity beyond his years.

Since then, Rema has been on an unstoppable ascent. His music resonates with audiences far and wide, transcending borders and language barriers. His ability to fuse Afrobeats with elements of trap, hip-hop, and R&B has garnered him a dedicated fanbase both in Nigeria and across the globe. Songs like "Dumebi," "Woman," and more recently "Calm Down" have become anthems, dominating charts and playlists worldwide.

“Rema has also used his platform to make a difference. He has been actively involved in philanthropic endeavors, supporting causes that uplift and empower the youth.”

Rema stands out not only for his undeniable talent but also for his unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of the Afrobeats genre. With his unique sound and infectious energy, he has revitalized the music scene, attracting a younger audience and introducing them to the richness of African music. His ability to blend traditional African rhythms with contemporary elements has made him a trailblazer, inspiring a new wave of artists to follow in his footsteps.

In addition to his musical prowess, Rema has also used his platform to make a difference. He has been actively involved in philanthropic endeavors, supporting causes that uplift and empower the youth. His dedication to giving back to his community and using his success for positive change is a testament to his character and values.

As Rema continues to evolve as an artist, his impact on the Afrobeats culture only grows stronger. With each new release, he pushes the boundaries, defying expectations and creating his own path. His authenticity and commitment to his craft have earned him critical acclaim and numerous accolades, including the prestigious Next Rated award at the 2019 Headies, solidifying his status as a rising star to watch.

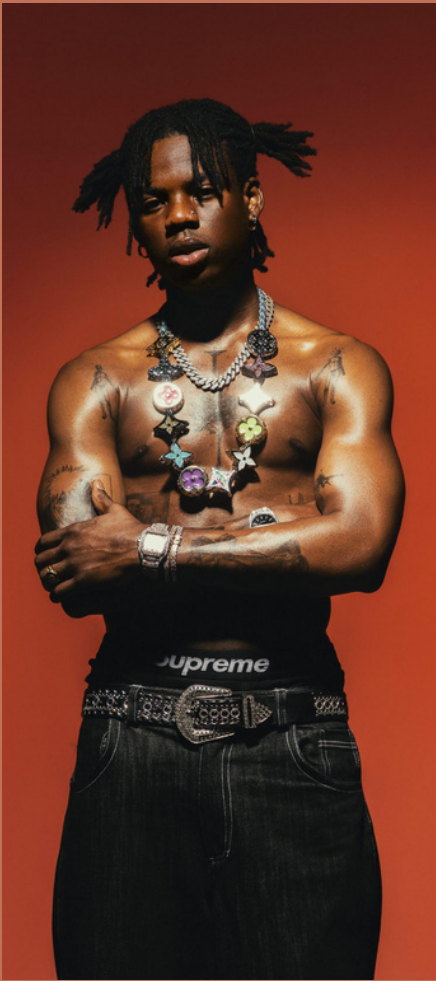


Photo: Wallpaper Access

Art by [@12ththecreator](#)

WITH EACH NEW  
RELEASE, HE  
CONTINUES TO  
CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES  
AND LEAVE THEM  
CRAVING MORE.

In a world where music is constantly evolving, Rema stands out as a true visionary. His ability to connect with listeners on a deep level, through his heartfelt lyrics and infectious melodies, is a testament to his artistry. With each new release, he continues to captivate audiences and leave them craving more.

As Rema's star continues to rise, it's clear that he is here to stay. His impact on the Afrobeats genre and the music industry as a whole is undeniable. With his talent, charisma, and unwavering dedication, there's no doubt that Rema will continue to break barriers, inspire others, and leave an indelible mark on the world of music.

So, keep an eye out for Rema as he continues to make waves and redefine the sound of Afrobeats. With his unique blend of genres, infectious energy, and undeniable talent, he is poised to become a global icon. Get ready to dance, sing along, and be a part of the Rema revolution!

Remember, this is just the beginning of Rema's journey, and we can't wait to see what he has in store for us next. Stay tuned and keep supporting this incredible artist as he takes the world by storm!



# SGAWD

SHAKING UP THE IMAGE OF NIGERIAN FEMALE ARTISTS



Meet SGaWD, aka Seddy, the game-changing rapper, singer, and songwriter breaking all the rules in Nigeria's music scene. With hits like "Pop Shit," she caught everyone's attention and refuses to be confined by traditional norms.

In her musical realm, SGaWD finds the freedom to express life's ups and downs in a way that mere conversations can't capture. Whether she's unleashing ferocious rap or melting hearts with tender vocals, her emotional honesty and artistic versatility are unmatched.

"Pop Shit" was just the beginning, setting the stage for this rising star. Songs like "Telfar," "Boytoy," and "Drop All Your Worries On The DanceFloor" showcase her razor-sharp pen and a voice that effortlessly oscillates between strength and tenderness.

SGaWD is not about comfort zones; she's ready to break barriers and redefine what it means to be a Nigerian woman in the music industry. Her mission? To make her voice heard in a way that's uniquely hers. She's not just an artist; she's a force, demanding a spot in the conversation about Nigeria's next generation of musical stars.

This young talent defies stereotypes and establishes her own rules. She embodies the spirit of a trailblazer, proving that there's no set mold for a Nigerian woman in the music industry. SGaWD is here to challenge and demonstrate why she deserves a place among Nigeria's musical elite.

In a world of conformity, SGaWD shines as a symbol of authenticity and originality. Beware, because this emerging star is on a mission, and her music is the voice that will resonate in the hearts of Gen Z and beyond. SGaWD is not just an artist; she's a revolution.





# SELFISH?



Image - The Atlantic

Aduke gazed at her six-month-old baby's sleeping form. So tiny and innocent. What would he think when he grows up and learns of her decision?

In her second year of law school, she discovered she was pregnant. With her entire future ahead of her and feeling unprepared for motherhood, she struggled with her boyfriend's lack of interest in fatherhood, as they were both students. While considering an abortion, fear prevented her from going through with the decision.

She had no option but to tell her parents. Her father reacted with immediate anger, disowning her on the spot. Her mother, filled with disappointment, questioned her decision, wondering why she had chosen to ruin her life. When her parents refused to pay her school fees, Aduke had no choice but to drop out. Subsequently, she moved to a friend's apartment on campus.

Her pregnancy was difficult as her friend and boyfriend were her only support. He had no option but to stand by her choice to keep the baby. She spent most of her time in tears and self-pity, eventually reaching a point where she no longer wanted the baby. However, at that stage, it was already too late to change her mind.

Unaware of the pain of childbirth, she quietly regretted her decision to keep the baby during that long and painful moment. When her mother visited, she brought a few things for her and the baby, giving no reassurances about her father's willingness to take her back.

Raising their child alone while her boyfriend focused on his studies and life, she questioned why she had to sacrifice everything just because she got pregnant. She had lost everything dear to her and felt lost about her future. Living under these circumstances had become unbearable, leaving her weary and exhausted from single-handedly raising her son, worn out from daily tears, and envious of others' progress while she remained stagnant.

She gathered a few things for herself and her baby, then called her boyfriend to say she was staying at his place for the night. To hide her true intentions, she lied saying her friend had her boyfriend over at her place. That night, when she saw that her boyfriend and baby were already asleep, she quietly gathered her things and prepared to leave.

She gazed at her baby for a final moment, desperately hoping in her heart that he would find it in him to forgive her. He deserved the affection of a mother, something she hadn't been able to provide. Aware of her selfishness, she recognized that staying would only make things harder. Ultimately, she had to prioritise herself and make the difficult choice to leave.

She was only 21, longing for freedom to pursue her dreams. Silently praying she was making the right decision, she gathered her belongings and departed.

Written by [Kofoworola Agbeniga](#)





# CREATIVE MARKETPLACE


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# MASONWABE NTLOKO

## A South African Artist's Global Art Impact

BY OKIKI LAOYE

A full-page photograph of artist Masonwabe Ntloko. He is a young Black man with short hair, sitting on a white plastic chair with wooden legs. He is wearing a white zip-up hoodie, black shorts, and grey sneakers with white soles. He has intricate tattoos on both of his lower legs. His hands are clasped in his lap, and he is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Behind him are several large canvases leaning against a wall. One canvas to his right features a portrait of a man with a large, textured yellow headdress and a blue and white patterned garment. Another canvas to his left shows a blue and white geometric pattern. The floor is a light-colored concrete.

Step into the exciting world of Masonwabe Ntloko as he redefines African artistry for a new generation. In our exclusive Escape Mag interview, he breaks down stereotypes, blending tradition with modern flair. From a small town to global acclaim, Masonwabe's art tells universal stories of strength and celebration. Join us for a visual journey that transcends boundaries and celebrates the richness of South African heritage.



Step into the exciting world of Masonwabe Ntloko as he redefines African artistry for a new generation. In our exclusive Escape Mag interview, he breaks down stereotypes, blending tradition with modern flair. From a small town to global acclaim, Masonwabe's art tells universal stories of strength and celebration. Join us for a visual journey that transcends boundaries and celebrates the richness of South African heritage.

Escape Mag: Masonwabe, your art seems to beautifully encapsulate the rich heritage of South Africa, particularly the Xhosa culture. How do you see your work contributing to a broader narrative of African cultural expression and understanding?



Masonwabe working on an art piece.



AMEHLO OMOYA, 2022, ACRYLIC AND FINE LINER ON COFFEE AND SALT COATED FABRIANO PAPER 1220 X 1470 MM

Masonwabe: In my few years as a professionally practising artist I've noticed one thing, all African people share the same stories the only difference is location and language which I think is what makes our stories different. For me, the most important thing is portraying black people from a position of strength and power because a lot of the work about African people is poverty porn.

Escape Mag: The fusion of modernity with a nostalgic touch in your art style is truly captivating. How do you believe this unique blend can serve as a bridge between traditional African art and contemporary global aesthetics, fostering a sense of unity and recognition?

Masonwabe: To be honest I never think about such things but my being professionally trained as a textile designer indirectly informs and curates my traditionally inspired work to make sense in contemporary spaces.

Escape Mag: Having collaborated with international brands and being featured in museums across South Africa, how do you envision your art contributing to the broader conversation of African art on a global scale? art on a global scale?





Masonwabe: My work is a realistic representation of Africa and African people so it serves not just art alone but as a tool to educate and inform people about my people and how they fit into the world of today.

Escape Mag: How has your background influenced your artistic vision, and how do you hope to inspire artists across the African continent with your story?

Masonwabe: I pride myself on being a representative of my people through my work as my work is heavily inspired by who I am and where I come from. For me, I'd like for people to see how patriotic I am about African culture and hopefully do the same with their respective ethnicities and cultures.

For me, I'd like for people to see how patriotic I am about African culture and hopefully do the same with their respective ethnicities and cultures.

Escape Mag: Your involvement in creative direction within the music industry is noteworthy. Can you share how your experiences with artists like Cassper Nyovest and Simphiwe Dana have influenced your artistic approach, and how you bring a unique perspective to these collaborations?

**...IT PORTRAYS A MORE REALISTIC IMAGE OF WHO AND WHAT AFRICANS ARE, AND PROVIDES EDUCATION ABOUT OUR IDENTITY AS AFRICAN PEOPLE.**

Masonwabe: All those experiences were very unique in their own rights, I learnt a lot from them as they are industry legends and I was fresh out of university at the time. But I will say that the biggest lesson I learnt from those experiences was creative restraint. When working with such people there is a brief that you have to follow with obviously adding a bit of you in the project but never doing too much and that's something that I took with me and that has been my compass in how I navigate projects

Escape Mag: The initiation rituals and matriarchal celebrations depicted in your work provide a glimpse into the diverse cultures of South Africa. How do you believe showcasing these cultural nuances contributes to a more nuanced and accurate understanding of African traditions globally?

Masonwabe: I believe it portrays a more realistic image of who and what Africans are, and provides education about our identity as African people.



The Masonwabe Ntloko's Knitwear Collection

Escape Mag: What advice do you have for emerging artists aiming to make a global impact while staying true to their cultural roots?

Masonwabe: Always know that there are a lot of improvements to make and research is the answer to all problems.

Escape Mag: Hosting your first rug exhibition in 2022 received a very positive response. Can you explain the inspiration behind this unique form of artistic expression and how it complements your broader artistic portfolio?

Masonwabe: The rugs were an idea I came up with when I was trying to break into the industry and I only wanted to do it my way. I learnt and unlearned all I understood about rugs and then created what felt authentic to me and my work. The next step was to create a space for them to live for people to experience them and that's how the show was born, the natural progression of an idea

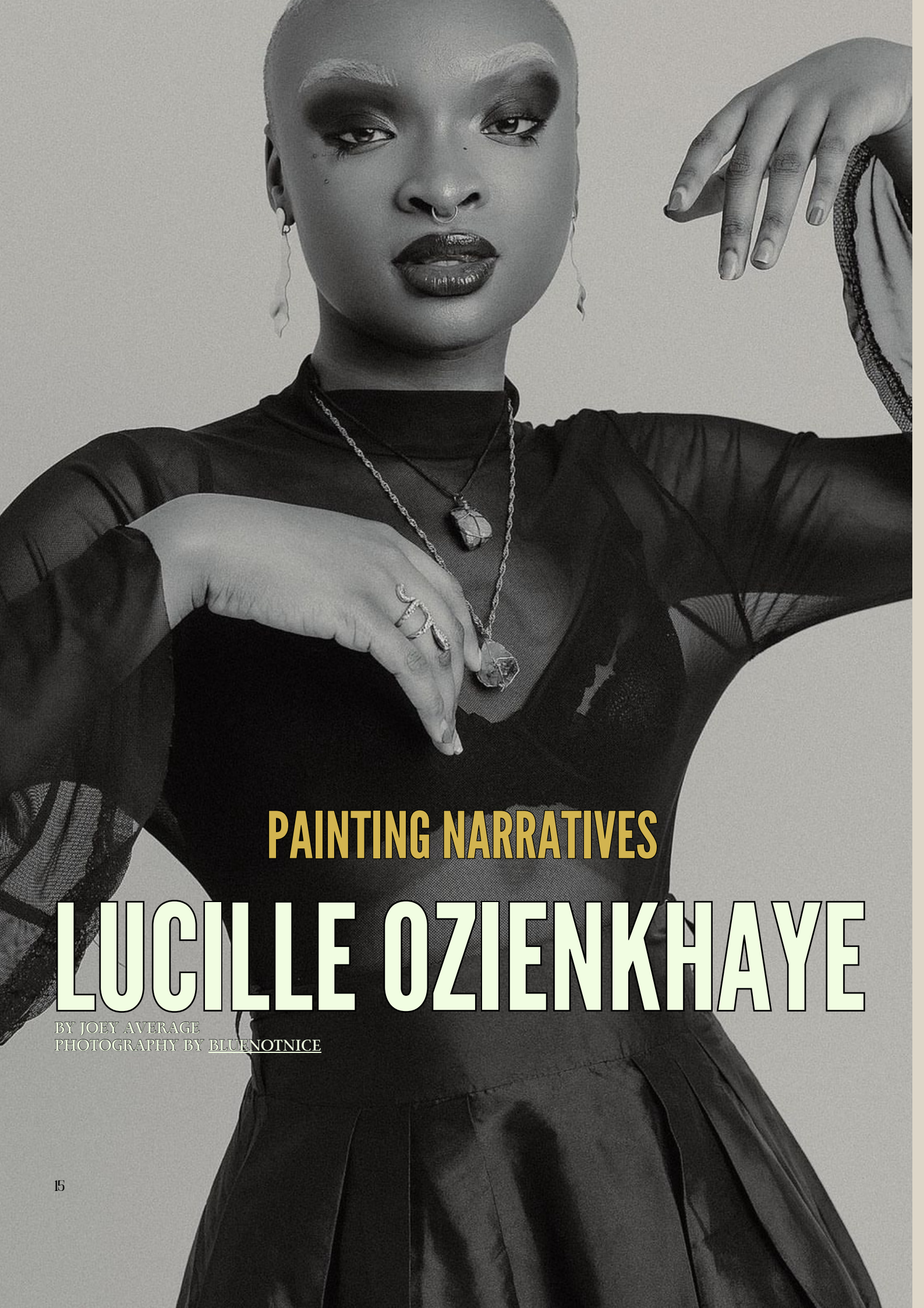
Escape Mag: Looking to 2024, Masonwabe, what are your artistic goals to make a bigger impact on the global art stage?

Masonwabe: To be honest I am where I am because it took me a lot of years to dream about what I have done. I am now at a point where I'm dreaming new dreams and relearning myself. But this year is going to be a beautiful one. I have a few things lined up.



A Masonwabe Ntloko Rug





**PAINTING NARRATIVES**

# LUCILLE OZIENKHAYE

BY JOEY AVERAGE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLUENOTNICE



In a lively iMessage chat that resonated with passion, Lucille Ozienkhaye, the 23-year-old non-binary artist, shared their journey—a tale of strength, youth, creativity, and brilliance that traverses continents and mediums.

"Painting has been my first love since I was three," Lucille began, reflecting on the early years spent in the United States. The move to Nigeria at six added layers to their artistic narrative, shaping expressions through the eyes of a black child navigating a distinct experience. "My art is a reflection of the distorted perspective of the black experience—we engage with it every day," they explained, their tone infused with a blend of conviction and introspection.

As a self-taught abstract painter, Lucille's canvas and wood creations tell a vivid story of manipulating the black form.

"I settled on stark black shades against vibrant colours to convey this distortion," they shared, drawing inspiration from contemporary artists like Adebayo Adebolaji and Kadine Lindsay.

But Lucille's creativity transcends the boundaries of a traditional canvas. "Wordsmithing became another therapy for me," they remarked, delving into a poetry series called 'Sojourner,' exploring the nonlinear nature of growth and the journey through depression.

I began affirming my gender in 2021 after cutting my hair short. I had never felt like I truly fit the expectations of African womanhood, and ultimately, gender is a social construct shaped by society. So, I chose to be seen as 'Lucille', free from any gendered expectations or implications.

**Lucille at work.**





I want people to take me as I am, without preconceptions. How I present myself each day is how I choose to express myself. As an artist, I appreciate the freedom and power this gives me.

”

“...It turned into a genuine appreciation of tattooing as a craft, especially in sustaining BIPOC and queer identities.”

In 2021, Lucille took up a tattoo apprenticeship, initially as a means to fund their endeavours. "It turned into a genuine appreciation of tattooing as a craft, especially in sustaining BIPOC and queer identities," they noted, reflecting on the unexpected turns of their artistic path.

And since 2023, Lucille has embarked on directing, adding a new chapter to their story. "Directing 'The Way It Seems' for the Ottawa Youth Infringement Festival in March 2024 is a thrilling new adventure," they exclaimed, underscoring the dynamic nature of their artistic journey.

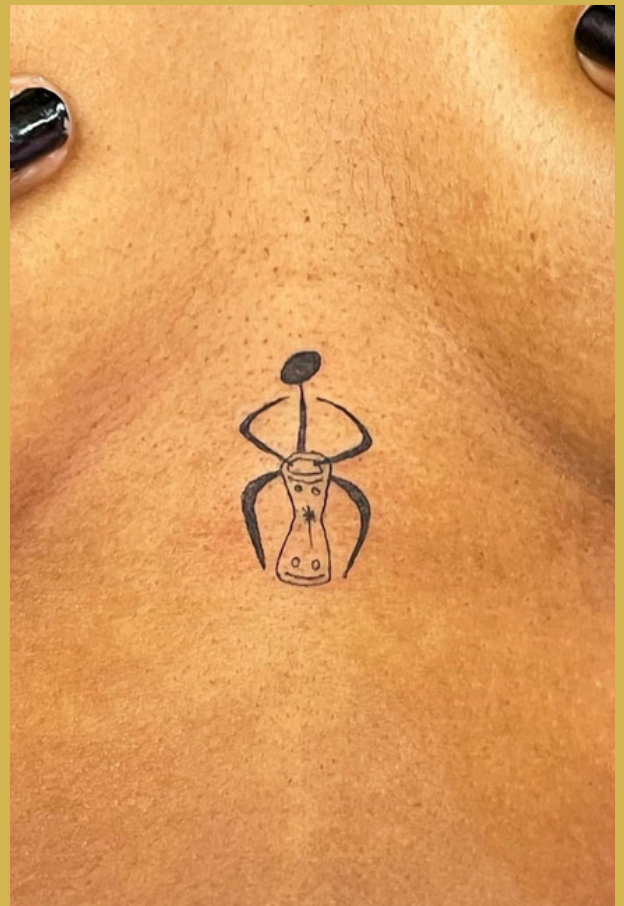
Lucille Ozienkhaye's story is a captivating narrative—a tapestry woven with bold strokes of strength, the vibrancy of youth, the ingenuity of creativity, and the brilliance that emanates from a soul deeply connected to the pulse of Nigerian feminism.



Painting by Lucille.



Tattoo by Lucille.



Tattoo by Lucille.



# Widemouth Art

Burning Flame 2024  
3ft x 3ft Acrylic on canvas



## Burning Flame:

“A Deep Dive into the Challenges of Love

In this project, I delve into the personal lives of those I encounter, and those whose stories I come across in my research. I aim to explore and comprehend the difficulties of sustaining affection, particularly from a romantic relationship perspective.

“Examining how romantic partners in any relationship often turn a blind eye or make compromises for the sake of mutual growth and to preserve their love, overlooking and accommodating each other's flaws to keep the flame alive”. - Widemouth Art





# DISRUPTIVE ARTISTRY

DIVE INTO MOMOH  
DIVINE PAUL'S CREATIVE  
JOURNEY.

Written by Joey Average

Photography by Ijeh Williams





12thTheCreator with the crew at the TVC Morning Show

Hailing proudly from Etsako West in Auchi, Edo State, Momoh's journey into the captivating realm of art is nothing short of a modern-day masterpiece.

Born on the 12th of August 1996 to Pastor and Mrs. Momoh, Momoh found his artistic calling after navigating the halls of Business Administration at the University of Benin. In 2018, he took a leap of creative faith, birthing Studio Trybe –a brand seamlessly fusing fashion, art, design, and a medley of creative expressions.

Momoh's creations are a stunning tapestry woven from African heritage, symbols, intricate patterns, and a kaleidoscope of vivid colours—an expressive journey narrating stories through art. Drawing inspiration from the splendour of nature, the rhythm of music, his unwavering faith, and an innate love for creation, his art serves as a profound conduit for expressing the depth of his emotions.



12thTheCreator on a commission for Johnnie Walker





**12thTheCreator with Sunday Are**



**12thTheCreator with the General Manager  
of Persianas Retail & Puma Nigeria**

Having left an indelible mark on numerous exhibitions, including mind-blowing collaborations with Afrikrown and Edo Global Art Foundation, and turning heads at events like Felabration 2021, Momoh's artistic ventures have become a visual spectacle. Notably, his "Years of 12th" exhibition in Lagos showcased his artistic prowess, while collaborations with renowned brands like PUMA Nigeria added an extra layer of cool.

For 12th, art is more than a choice; it's a calling that acted as his sanctuary during dark times. In his own words, "Art chose me, art saved me. During moments of despair, art became my sanctuary, my confidant." This profound connection to his craft infuses every stroke with authenticity, making his creations not just visually striking but emotionally resonant.

As his artistic vibes echo through the digital age, 12th's ambitions extend beyond personal success. He dreams of establishing an art institution, a hub to nurture and empower fellow gifted artists and creators like himself. It's not just about his genius; it's about ushering in a new era where African creativity, embodied by 12thTheCreator, takes centre stage on the global cultural scene.

"My plans for 2024 are ambitious. I aim to improve my art, revive my fashion and design brand - Studio Trybe, and work on various undisclosed projects. 2024 will be a year of disruption and world domination. Get ready to witness an artistic revolution that promises to disrupt norms and dominate the global creative landscape." - 12th the Creator.



# BLOXIE

Harmony in Diversity: Leading the Way in  
African Sustainable Fashion Brands

Written By Laoye O | Photography by Theodore Lewis | Styling by Marie-Ange BIYICK  
Creative Direction by 12th the Creator, Precious Felix, FraimD | Video by Kenny OLO  
Models - Toluwalope Oladele (F) & ZEROU (M)  
Production Management by ZERO, Tammie & Justina Nnamani  
Studio - Digital Escape Africa





Migrant Boat Ring | Airplane Ring | Asymmetric Denim Vest | Airplane Batil Print T-Shirt

Meet Faith Oluwajimi, the creative director of BLOKE, an artisanal label based in Lagos, Nigeria, that also produces garments in Nigeria. They have been running as a label for nine years now, and last year, BLOKE was the only African label nominated for the Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy prize as well. They work with artisanal communities around Nigeria and outside Nigeria as well to make garments. Let's delve into the exclusive interview to discover what BLOKE is really about.

**Escape Mag:** What inspired you to embark on your self-exploration journey, and how has it influenced the design philosophy of Bloke?

Faith O: I found inspiration in a much younger version of myself. I've always had a desire to express myself creatively. There's this constant urge to create. I had the opportunity to spend time with a family friend who knew how to use a knitting machine, and I learned from her.





I saw it as an interesting medium to manipulate textiles, to create a form at the same time all starting with a single thread, and I kept on exploring ways to work around that, and that is what it is.

ONE OF THE SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS  
THAT WE TAKE WHEN CREATING  
OUR GARMENTS, IS THAT WE USE A  
LOT OF RENEWABLE FABRICS.

Escape Mag: In the world of fashion, inclusivity is often discussed, but your label actively champions it. Could you share the specific values and ideas that drive the inclusivity behind Bloke?

Faith O: I believe that one of the key concepts driving inclusivity within BLOKE is our approach to creating and curating the clothing. The conscious effort to involve diverse communities in working towards a common goal is something truly beautiful.

Sunglasses - Thrift | Marl Knit Asymmetric Jacket with Bronze Migrant Boat Cast Brooch | Migrant Boat Ring | Airplane Necklace | Green Patch Pocket T-Shirt | Marl Knit Trousers with Coconut Shell Buttons | White Socks | Black Leather Migrant Mule



Escape Mag: Sustainability is at the core of Bloke's business model. Can you elaborate on the green initiatives and ethical practices implemented in the production processes of your garments?

Faith O: When creating our garments, we prioritize the use of renewable fabrics and organic textiles such as cotton and linen. This sustainable approach extends to our attention to fabrication techniques, including the use of Batik to repurpose textile fabrics and old garments, creating new patterns and improving overall textile quality. In addition, we utilize coconut shells as a biodegradable alternative to plastic buttons. Collaborating with local artisans helps us reduce carbon emissions in our logistics and operations. These are just a few examples of the sustainable practices we implement daily to run our brand.

Magazine: The launch of BLOKE PLUS seems exciting. How do you ensure that the diffusion label maintains the essence of Bloke while being more accessible in terms of both design and price?



Female Model: Marl Knit Asymmetric Dress with Hand-Crafted Wood Detail | Migrant Boat Earring made in Bronze Metal | Migrant Boat Ring



We've never been that brand that cares so much about trends, what we do as a label is that we tell stories.



Airplane Bronze Necklace | Green Tones Marl Knit Top | Migrant Boat Earrings | Pink and Green Tones Marl Knit Skirt

Faith O: BLOKE's core audience comprises two key demographics: the early bloomers and the established professionals. These groups are most drawn to our brand.

Over the years, we've primarily focused on established professionals, which I attribute to my aspirational upbringing. I tailored our offerings for individuals like me. Now, I recognize the need to also engage with the early bloomers and establish a connecting platform, leading to the launch of the Plus label.

I don't anticipate any issues with connecting the aesthetics because the plus label is intended to mirror the main label, BLOKE. The pricing will be different. The emphasis on inclusivity is important because we want to make good design accessible. These are the key points we discussed when considering launching the idea.

Escape Mag: From your Milan Fashion Week debut to collaborations with international labels, could you reflect on key milestones in your career that have shaped Bloke into what it is today?

Faith O: I don't believe there is a single milestone. To me, it has just been one step after another. I am more enthusiastic about what I do because I know that the journey is not a straight line, there are curves and bumps and whatnot, but that's what makes the story interesting in the end.

Escape Mag: The fashion industry is ever-evolving. How do you stay true to your creative ethos while navigating the dynamic landscape of trends and consumer expectations?





Marl Knit Asymmetric Jacket with Bronze Migrant Boat Cast Brooch | Migrant Boat Ring | Airplane Necklace | Green Patch Pocket T-Shirt

Faith O: We've never been that brand that cares so much about trends, what we do as a label is that we tell stories.

We tell stories about the African experience from different perspectives and different issues that are connected to the African experience in modern times. Going through that knowledge and wealth of understanding that there's so much embedded into that alone has been a driving force to constantly say something and also keep it fresh because we also need to tell our stories, you know.

Escape Mag: Collaboration seems to be a recurring theme in your journey. How do these partnerships contribute to the uniqueness of Bloke, and what do you look for in collaborators?







Faith O: One of the things I look for when collaborating is a way to say something louder and also to explore new techniques and new ways of telling the same story. And I find that process very rewarding and interesting. And also it's a way to rub minds together. As humans, we need a community and collaboration is a very effective way of doing that.

Escape Mag: As a self-taught designer, what advice would you give to aspiring creatives looking to break into the fashion industry?

Faith O: My advice to anyone is not to be swayed by current feelings. You need to ask yourself, what am I trying to say? With so many brands, why should anyone listen to you? You must have a purpose behind it. Have a conviction and a concise story to tell, and the rest will follow.

Escape Mag: Bloke has garnered acclaim both nationally and internationally. How do these awards influence your creative process and the overall vision for the brand?

Faith O: how it impacted the progression of the label would just be serving as a reminder that there are both high points and considerably low points.

Escape Mag: Lastly, how do you envision the future of Bloke, considering the fashion industry's continuous evolution and the growing importance of ethical and inclusive practices?

Faith O: BLOKE will become more refined and focused on the core of our operations, which is creating sustainable and ethical garments. It will always revolve around that.

Escape Mag: Any final comments?

Faith O: I believe discussions like this are crucial as they enable both the creator and the audience to pause and comprehend the reasoning behind our actions. It serves as a constant reminder for us to not just keep going in circles, but to slow down and reflect on our thoughts.

# TUNDE ONAKOYA

## Chess Champ Changing Lives

By Justina Nnamani

In the busy streets of Lagos, Tunde Onakoya is making waves by combining street smarts with the brainy game of chess. Starting in Ikorodu's slums, Tunde, now the 13th best chess player in Nigeria, is on a mission to help African kids get an education through chess.

Tunde's story began in the tough Ikorodu slums, where he learned chess and faced challenges. Now, as a chess master and coach, he's the brains behind Chess In Slums Africa, giving a leg up to underprivileged kids. His sessions in places like Majidun and Makoko not only teach chess but also help kids read and write.

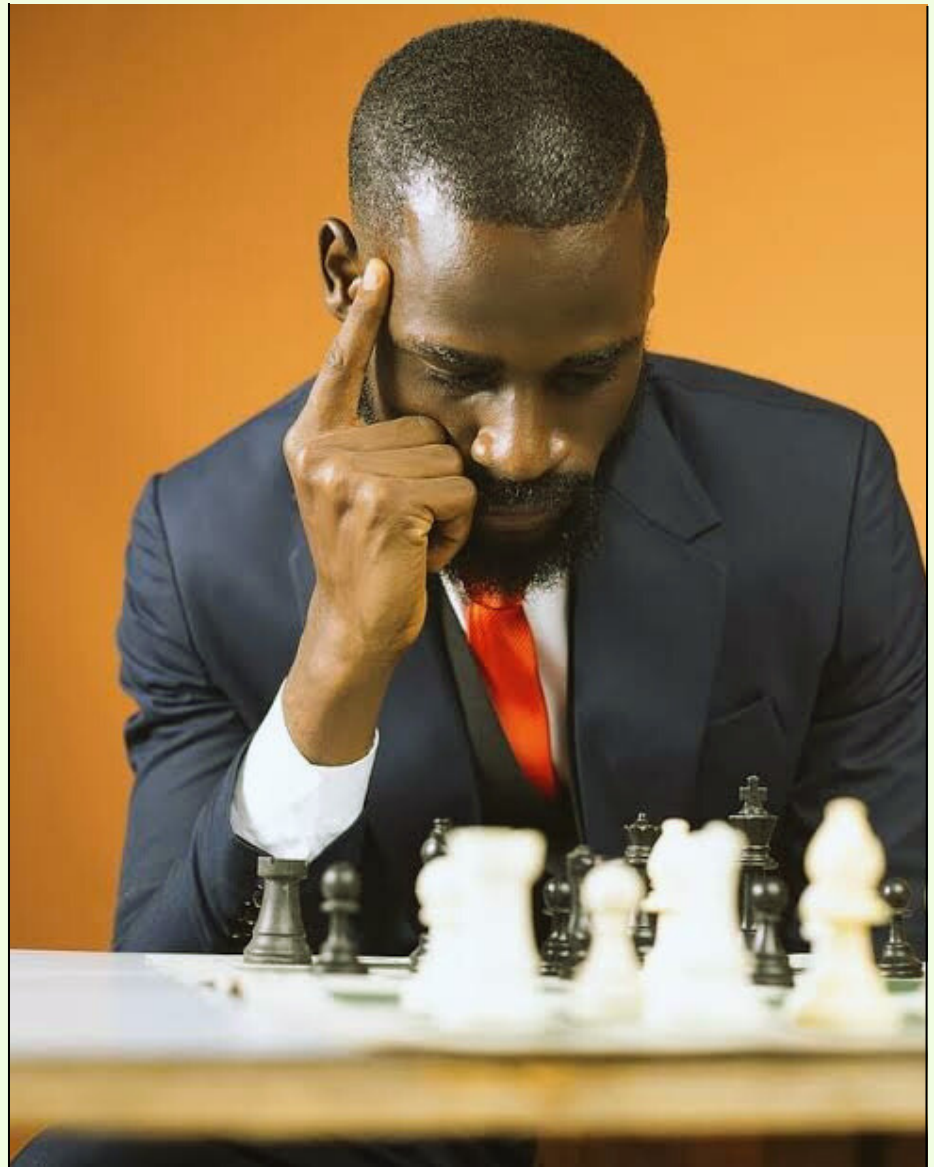


Photo Source Bella Naija

Tunde is ranked the 13th best Chess player in Nigeria





Photo Source CNN



Photo Source X

In 2018, Tunde kickstarted Chess In Slums Africa, a volunteer-driven project aiming to empower kids through chess. By teaming up with chess.com in 2020, he brought the game to classrooms and clubs.

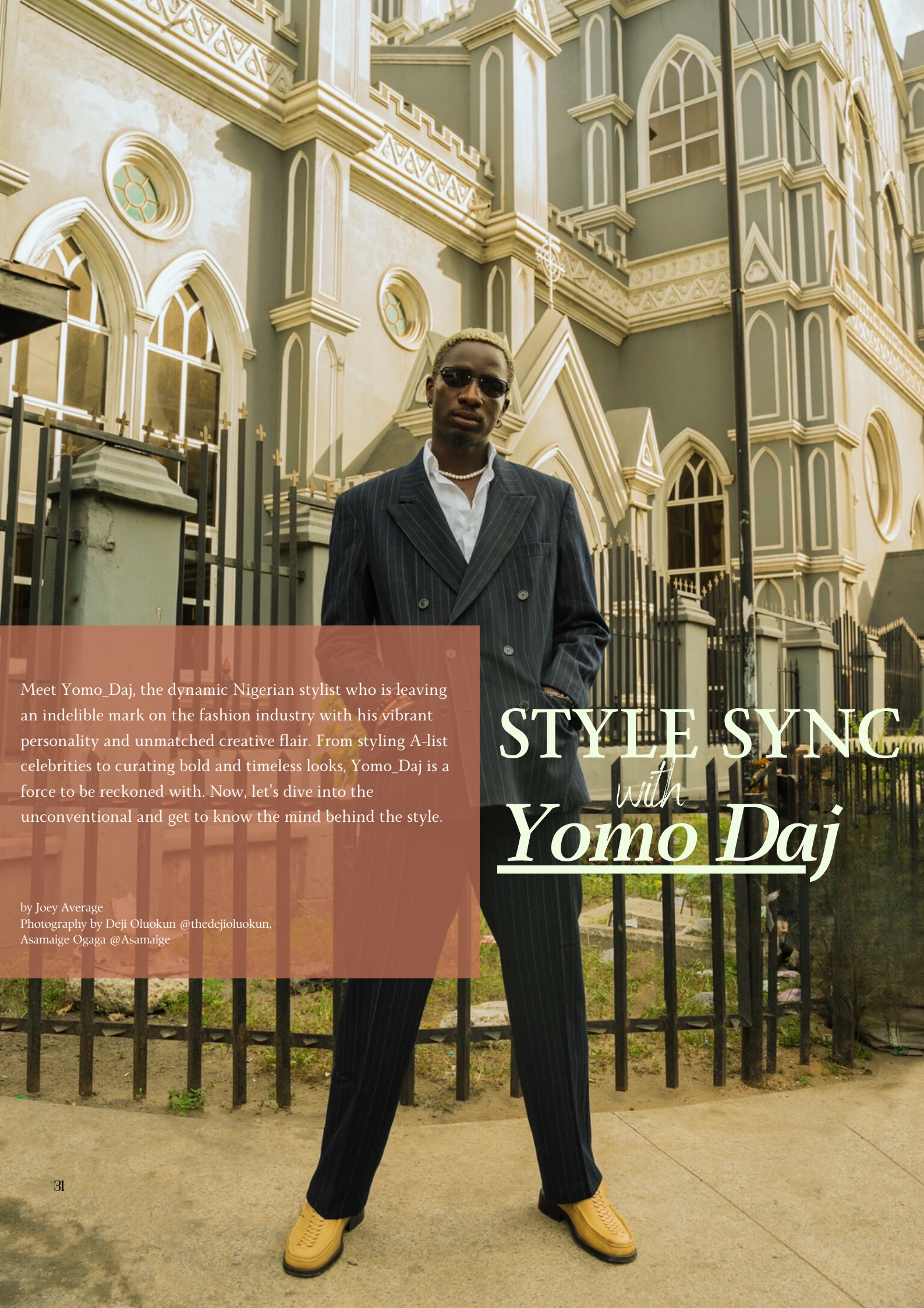
In 2021, a 10-year-old boy with cerebral palsy named Ferdinand won a chess tournament in Makoko, showing that everyone can join in. Tunde even took on Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Governor of Lagos State, proving chess isn't just a game but a way to connect.

Tunde's journey is like a chess game in the streets, where each move tells a story. From the forgotten street kids to the kings of the chessboard, Tunde and his fellow chess warriors redefine what it means to have street credibility. In the heart of Lagos, where streets demand survival and strategy, Tunde's moves are a symphony of intelligence, proving that no matter where you come from, the chessboard can be your path to success.



Photo Source Instagram





Meet Yomo\_Daj, the dynamic Nigerian stylist who is leaving an indelible mark on the fashion industry with his vibrant personality and unmatched creative flair. From styling A-list celebrities to curating bold and timeless looks, Yomo\_Daj is a force to be reckoned with. Now, let's dive into the unconventional and get to know the mind behind the style.

by Joey Average  
Photography by Deji Oluokun @thedejioluokun,  
Asamaige Ogaga @Asamaige

# STYLE SYNC

*with*  
Yomo Daj



**EM:** If your styling were a dance move, what move would it be, and which celebrity would you challenge to a dance-off?

**YOMO DAJ:** It would be a combination of the moonwalk and the robot dance. And I would love to challenge Chris Hemsworth to a dance-off. I think seeing his moves on the dance floor just promises so much fun!

**EM:** If each of your styling projects had a scent, what aromas would define your editorial looks, runway creations, and bridal masterpieces?

**YOMO DAJ:** For my editorial looks, I would go for a bold and energetic fragrance, like a mix of spicy cinnamon and fresh mint. For my runway creations, I would choose a sophisticated and glamorous scent, a blend of rich vanilla and exotic orchids. And for my bridal masterpieces, I would aim for a soft and romantic aroma, like a combination of delicate roses and warm sandalwood.

**EM:** Imagine your fashion journey as a movie – who would play the lead role, and what would be the film's tagline?

**YOMO DAJ:** If my fashion journey were a movie, I would love to have Zendaya play the lead role! She's not only a talented actress, but she also has an incredible sense of style. As for the film's tagline, it could be something like "From Threads to Runways (A Fashion Adventure Like No Other!)"

**EM:** If your styling could be translated into a piece of music, which instrument would represent your boldness, and what genre would capture the elegance you bring to bridal looks?



**YOMO DAJ:** I would say that the saxophone would represent my boldness. Its smooth and soulful sound would accurately capture the confidence and daring nature of my designs. And the genre that would capture the elegance I bring to bridal looks would be classical music. The graceful melodies and refined compositions would perfectly reflect the timeless and sophisticated essence of my bridal creations.



**EM:** If your wardrobe could only consist of one colour palette for the rest of your life, what colours would it include, and how would you convince others to join "Team Yomo\_Daj Palette"?

**YOMO DAJ:** The Yomo\_Daj Palette will feature calming blue and green shades, symbolizing nature and freshness. These versatile colors can be combined to create different looks, complemented by elegant black, representing wealth and power. Join "Team Yomo\_Daj Palette" to explore the beauty and versatility of these colors, creating various outfits for different occasions and enjoying their calming effect on mood and well-being. Embrace this palette to reflect your personality and style while appreciating its timeless appeal.

**EM:** If you had the power to teleport to any fashion era for a day, which one would it be, and what iconic outfit would you rock during your time-travel adventure?

**YOMO DAJ:** I'd love to teleport back to the groovy 1970s era, rocking a dazzling disco outfit with wide bell-bottom pants, platform shoes, oversized sunglasses, a headscarf, and a blazer. Dancing to disco hits and the funky fashion would be a blast!

**EM:** If your styling process were a magical potion, what ingredients would go into it, and what enchanting spell would it cast on anyone who wears the final creation?

**YOMO DAJ:** A stylish potion would blend creativity, confidence, and self-expression with imagination, color, individuality, and passion. Wearing it would boost self-confidence and empowerment, making one feel like the best version of themselves, exuding style and charisma.



The potion would instill confidence, a sense of conquering the world, and authentic self-expression through fashion. That's the enchanting spell of my styling potion!

**EM:** If you could collaborate with a fictional character to create a groundbreaking fashion collection, who would it be, and what theme would dominate the runway?

**YOMO DAJ:** I'd be thrilled to team up with the enchanting and mysterious character of Maleficent from Disney's "Sleeping Beauty". Our runway theme would be "Dark Elegance." A collection that captures the essence of Maleficent's powerful presence and iconic style.

The runway would be a gothic-inspired set, complete with twisted branches, thorny vines, and an air of enchantment.

The collection would feature dramatic silhouettes, rich fabrics, and intricate details. We would incorporate Maleficent's signature horns into headpieces, and the color palette would be dominated by deep purples, blacks, and metallic accents. Each outfit would exude a sense of dark allure and sophistication, with flowing capes, structured bodices, and unexpected elements like feathers or lace. The collection would celebrate the beauty of embracing one's inner strength and embracing the shadows.

Together with Maleficent, we would create a fashion show that is both captivating and empowering, showcasing the beauty of embracing individuality and embracing the power within.

**EM:** In a parallel universe where fashion accessories are sentient beings, describe your sidekick and what adventures will you embark on together?

**YOMO DAJ:** My loyal sidekick would definitely be a mischievous and adventurous pair of sunglasses! We would embark on all sorts of exciting escapades together. We would explore the world, from bustling cities to exotic beaches. We would chase sunsets, go on spontaneous road trips, and attend glamorous fashion events. My sunglasses would have a knack for finding the coolest hidden spots and capturing all the memorable moments.

Together, we would bring a touch of style and fun to every adventure. Whether it's strutting down the streets of fashion capitals or simply enjoying a sunny day at the park, my sunglasses sidekick would always keep me looking cool and feeling confident.





Photo source Pinterest

Wavy The Creator

# ALTÉ

## The breath of modern African fashion

by Caroline Otuneye

Alté, pronounced 'ahl-teh' is a fusion genre of music that combines elements of Afrobeats, dancehall, reggae, hip hop, and alternative R&B. This sprinkle of sonic ecstasy, birthed in the 2010s by the Nigerian music group DRB LasGidi, has engraved an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of Nigerians and is set to take over the global airwaves.

While this movement began as a rebellious response to traditional and societal norms, providing space for youths to embrace their quirks and remain resolute in their beliefs, a new sense of style and identity emerged.

In Nigeria's dynamic cultural landscape, fashion serves as a journey of self-discovery and a platform for wholehearted self-expression. The abstract concept of uniqueness, particularly in the context of existence and living holds significant importance for every individual, especially within the world of modern fashion.





Photo source Pinrest

## ALTÉ FASHION ICONS

Here are some Alté figures, constantly exuding creativity and rocking that edgy style!

### 1. ASHLEY OKOLI

This 25-year-old stylist, designer, and creative director has been making waves in the Alté scene since her emergence. Ashley's style can be described with two words: Irresistibly seductive.



Ashley Okoli

Photo source @ashh.ok

### 2. SANTI

Osayaba Andrew Ize-Iyamu, renowned by his stage name Cruel Santino, has emerged as a trailblazer in shaping the distinctive Alté aesthetic and contemporary fashion. He is a 31-year-old singer-songwriter, rapper, creative director, filmmaker, and music video director. In other words, Santi is a beacon of artistic brilliance and musical innovation.



Santi

Photo source Pinetrest

### 3. LADY DONLI

Zainab Elizabeth Donli effortlessly blends creativity with a keen sense of fashion, with every appearance becoming an eye-catching masterpiece. The Pan African rockstar curates outfits that resonate with both elegance and boldness, leaving us with mouthwatering fashion inspiration to always admire.



Lady Donli

Photo source Pinterest

## BE YOUR OWN ALTÉ

With many other Alté figures to look up to in modern fashion, you can also be your own Alté muse, switching up your basic fits and turning them into your voice. To embrace the freedom of expression in fashion so that every time you look in the mirror and see yourself, you reflect your true self, and not who you are expected to be, you can incorporate these fashion items into your everyday fits.

1. Stylish vintage scarves for the Alté journey, exuding confidence without being attention-grabbing.

2. Variety of accessories including neckpieces, nose rings, knuckle rings, and hair jewelry make a statement with every outfit. Selecting the right one will leave you feeling like an Alté icon.



# DECODING STREETWEAR

A Comprehensive Guide from Roots to Future Trends

## 01 Skateboarding and Surf Culture

Streetwear finds its earliest influences in the rebellious spirit of skateboarding and surf culture. Brands like Supreme, Vans and Stüssy emerged as pioneers, creating apparel that reflected the laid-back, anti-establishment ethos of these subcultures.

Designers like Virgil Abloh, Vera Wang were influenced by extreme sports in their design principles.

*Streetwear fashion, born from the sidewalks and urban landscapes, has evolved from a subculture expression to a global phenomenon.*

*This guide takes you on a journey through the roots, growth, and future trends of streetwear, offering insights into its cultural significance and the key elements that define this influential style.*

## Origins and Roots



Photo source Pinetrest



Photo source Pinetrest



## 02 Hip-Hop Influence

The 1980s saw the rise of hip-hop, influencing both music and fashion. Icons like Slick Rick, Run-DMC, and Beastie Boys brought a fresh, urban aesthetic to streetwear, incorporating oversized silhouettes, graphic prints, and bold accessories.



Photo source Pinetrest



To Be Contd. in Next Edition.

## 03 DIY Mentality

A crucial aspect of streetwear's roots is the do-it-yourself (DIY) mentality. Streetwear enthusiasts often customized their clothing, using spray paint, patches, and unconventional materials, giving birth to unique and personalized styles.

# ESCAPE MAG

Digital Escape Africa

By Joey Average

Studio - [Digital Escape Africa](#)

Photography by [Amazing Will](#),

Styling by [Pamela Windmind](#)

Hair by [Ope Smade](#)

Fits by [Garbe](#)

Makeup by [Glock Express](#)

Project Managers - Tomi O, [Justina](#)

[Nnamani](#), [Lion Ikechukwu](#) & Sam

Models - [Fife](#), [Dess Sie](#), [Daniel Wilson](#)

Hair Supplied by [Ace Beauty Bar](#)

## Fashion Hangout

31 We hosted our first creative fashion gathering at our Digital Escape Africa hub on December 16, 2023. Diverse creatives including models, photographers, makeup artists, videographers, and stylists converged to exchange garments and capture moments. Take a glimpse and experience what we crafted.













Photography by [Ijeh Williamson](#),  
Jewelry Styling by [Pamela Windmind](#)  
Makeup by [Glock Express](#)  
Model - [Daniel Wilson \(Stefan\)](#)  
Fit by [Garbe](#)





Hair By Ope Smade  
Makeup By Glock Express  
Model - Dess Sie  
Fits and Styling by Pamela Windmind

The Escape Mag Fashion Hangout was a success, thanks to all the amazing creatives who joined to celebrate fashion and collaborate with others.



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# MEET UYIOSA: A TALENTED YOUNG MODEL MAKING INCREDIBLE STRIDES.



BY [SHARON IKECHUKWU](#)  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY [@ANIEKANWILLIAMS](#)  
BEADS BY [@ADDYS\\_THAIRAPY](#)  
STYLED BY [@THE.BAMIDELE DAVIS](#)

Uyiosa's aunty cheered as 5-year-old Uyi strutted the makeshift runway. Remembering fondly, she tells us how her aunty would play background music during the 'fashion shows' Uyi's family members organized; while making her sisters and her catwalk. 16 years later, Uyiosa has appeared on *VOGUE*, in music videos like '[Kilometer](#)', '[Ruger](#)', and '[ELO](#)', and modelled for many fashion brands including Tia Adeola.

Meet [Uyiosa](#), a 22-year-old model who's been storming creative spaces, in less than 4 years she started her journey. We talk about the reality of being a queer model, navigating a country like Nigeria; taking a peek into Uyiosa's little corner of the world.

EM: How would you introduce yourself?

UYI: I feel like there are so many things I'm doing or I want to do but I introduce myself with the work I'm currently doing. My name is Uyiosa Theresa Ajayi, a 21-year-old model, turning 22 in November. I also work in an advertising and marketing agency as a community manager and digital strategist. That's how I'd introduce myself for now. I'm also a casting director, helping other models get jobs.

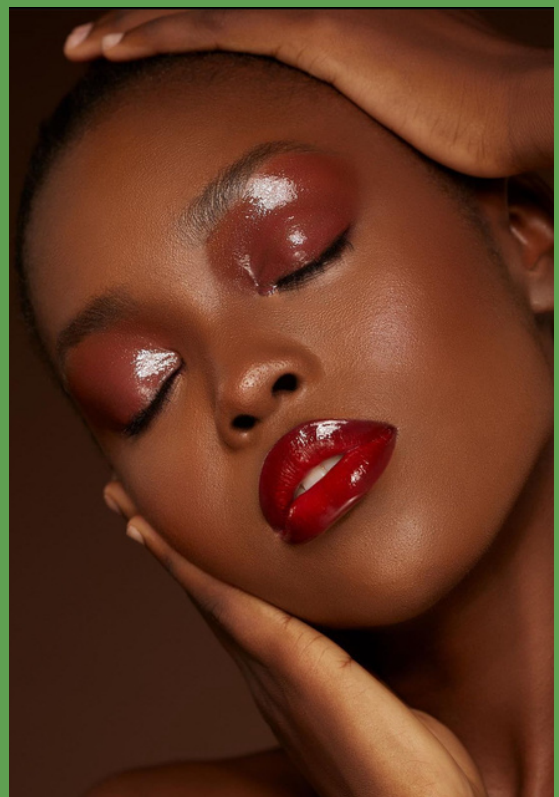
EM: What was the genesis of your modelling journey?

UYI: I've wanted to do modelling for as long as I can remember, which I'm passionate about. I wanted to start as early as possible, but my dad wanted me to finish secondary school first. I started modelling right after high school at 17. I remember getting my Polaroid taken in 2018 and sending it to agencies. It wasn't till 2019 that I got signed but even then, it was a series of trial and error; a lot more errors. They didn't do anything tangible and I had to figure things out myself, I didn't have anyone to guide me.

*Following Uyi's work on Instagram, particularly from 2019, it was evident that Uyi was consistently dedicated. The following response showcases her humility, so don't be misled, folks!*

EM: Your work rate and consistency are commendable, talk about that, please.

UYI: Haha, I wouldn't say so. I think I'm amazing at what I do and I think I do it well but I don't think I've achieved a certain level of consistency and that's partly because of school. I go to school in Edo state so it's hard to book jobs and collaborations with other artists and creatives when you're not in a central place. There aren't a lot of modelling opportunities in Edo but I do want to work more. The work rate is definitely doubling this year, I'm planning to collaborate more now I'm in Lagos to make up for lost time.



Photographed by [@kingmartins\\_](#)  
Makeup by [@ella\\_donatella](#)  
Hair by [@hairbyidara bella](#)





**EM:** What's your experience being a Nigerian queer creative? How do you navigate your little corner of the world?

**UYI:** Being queer and Nigerian hasn't come into play for me because it isn't something I offer up as information a lot of the time. The niggas who know, know and the ones who don't... If you're on my social media, it's easy to take a wild guess but if we aren't tight I come off straight passing so it's easy to navigate my world. I don't get a lot of "Are you gay?" questions and I'd like for it to remain that way. Another reason I don't offer up this part of myself as information, aside from the fact that well Nigeria is Nigeria; I'd hate to deal with people's bullshit and opinions, I've had enough of that. You figure out that people don't want to hear that. I'm also thankful that the modelling spaces I find myself in are very progressive, so that helps.

I navigate the world in general, in a very "keep your head down, do this thing and get it over with" way.

¶5

I also don't make too much of a fuss over things and I find that funny because I'm very loud when it comes to social justice and human rights issues. It's been really hard knowing what battles to pick and choose when people talk about your life in a degrading way, like you don't have the right to exist. People are way too homophobic, I have to decide a lot of the time if I want to take up an argument and lead them into knowing I'm queer or shut up instead.

I was on the set of a music video one time and a conversation erupted about how there were gay men on set. I found that really disgusting and spoke up. I can't remember the exact statement I made but I think I used "we" while defending, which of course gave an inkling I was gay. Someone then asked "Oh are you gay?" I'm like "Are we friends? Why do you think you deserve an answer?"

EM: Has modelling impacted your personal life in any way?

UYI: Meeting casting agents and others toughened me, and improved my delivery, punctuality, and creativity. I'm more involved in the creative process, kinder, and outgoing. It's made me better at handling stress and has connected me with great people and a community.

EM: Any highlights of your journey so far?

UYI: The only highlight that comes to mind that I think is a huge profile, is VOGUE. Being published in 2023 was amazing. Another highlight is the community and family I've found in this business. The photographers, makeup artists, everyone's been wonderful and sweet.

EM: If you weren't modelling, what would you do?

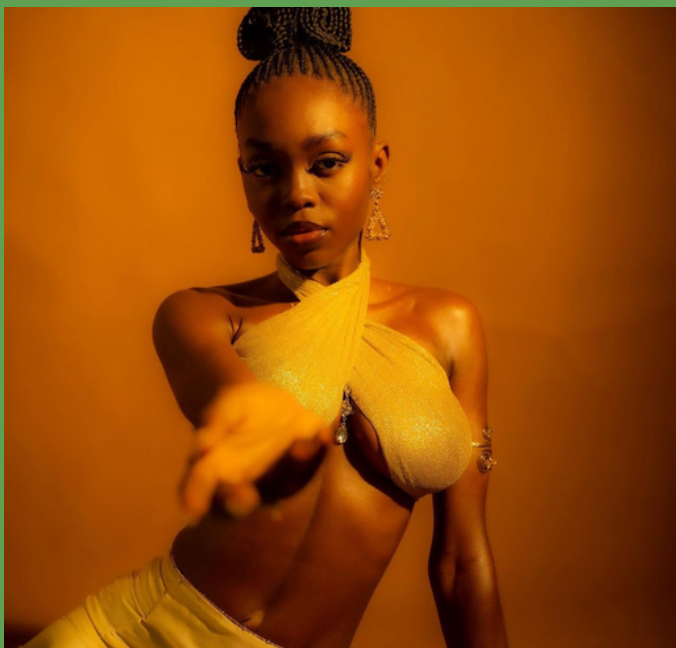
I'm really happy about this question. There are many other things I've been doing aside from modelling because gigs don't come as frequently as I'd like. If I wasn't modelling, I'd be doing what I'm doing right now which is Marketing and Advertising. It isn't my first pick but I'm a Communications student. I'm also into video production (mostly music videos and ads), and I'd like to get into that.

I also want to be a producer and event manager; managing concerts and shows. Be a project manager for entertainment stuff. Besides all that and I already am, I want to be an SJW (Social Justice Warrior) because I'm very passionate about human beings and the way they should be treated.

Everyone deserves to be treated respectfully no matter what their choices are or their differences. I also hope I'm able to be a philanthropist very soon because these causes require more than speaking on them but also putting your money where your mouth is or in this case, actions. I've also wanted to be on the radio as well. So many different things, also content creation in beauty, fashion, lifestyle, and things that appeal to me.

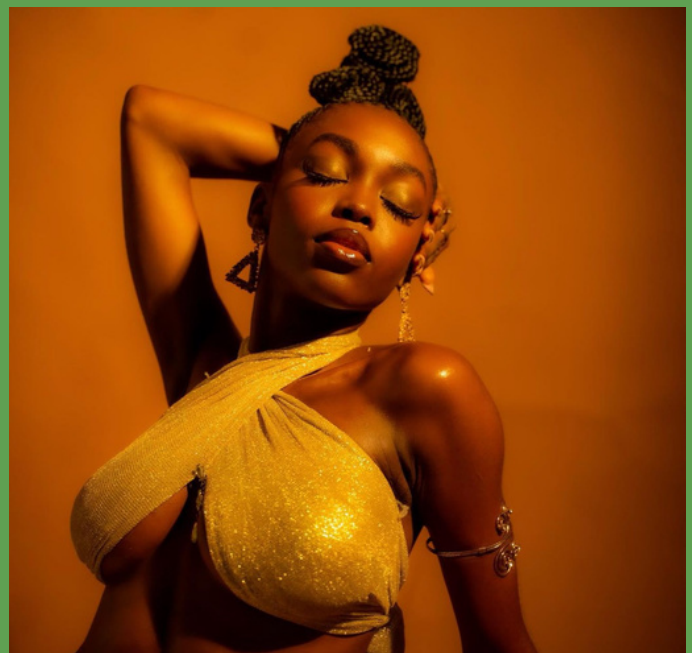
EM: What's an African favourite on your playlist right now?

Immediately I saw this question, I was super gassed. My African favourite has to be Ruger's 'Girlfriend'. I love that song and if you know Ruger, tell him to put me in the video. I've been in one of his videos before so he needs to hit me up, I NEED to be on that song!



Photography by [@thexinsomniac](#)

Hair by [@beautyby\\_beke](#)







# BREAKING BOUNDARIES WITH KENO FRENCH.

A Journey of Art, Advocacy, and Infinite Expression.

By Joey Average

EDEGWARE OGHENEKENO PEACE, also known as “girlwithdsigns”, a versatile African creative, brings a wealth of experience as a creative director for prominent projects like Electro Africa and Digital Escape Africa. With a passion for dancing, painting, and creating, she aspires to continually evolve and achieve more in the world of creativity. Explore the limitless possibilities with Keno French, the girlwithdsigns, as she seamlessly blends artistry and innovation.



Keno at Street Souk Lagos 2023

The distinctive quality I bring to every endeavour is Curiosity. Through curiosity, I am very open-minded, I tend to ask the right questions, and that aids me in connecting the dots. In my world of creation, I feel like a player in a video game; at times it's game over, but I get to play again and again until I reach the final objective.

Escape Mag: How do dancing, painting, and creating intersect in your creative process and contribute to your overall message?

Keno French: They may not intersect, or maybe they do and I haven't figured it out yet. Essentially, for me, these forms of expression are distinct ways I enjoy expressing myself. I enjoy dancing in my room whenever I can, especially when I'm very stressed or excited; it's my go-to when emotions are intense. Occasionally, I dabble in painting to awaken my inner muse, to give my creativity a little push and see what magical surprises might appear on the canvas.

Escape Mag: Your alias, "girlwithdsigns," suggests a strong connection to visual communication. Can you share a bit about how your journey with placard art began, and how it has evolved?

Keno French: When I started I wouldn't say I saw it as art or any big deal. I was inspired by a picture of Gary Vee I saw on Instagram, holding a placard that said "Stop Giving a fuck what other people think". Immediately I saw that, it lit a bulb in my head and I went out with my friends to shoot my first sign and posted it immediately, I didn't even have a second thought. Surprisingly, It got a lot of traction and since then I've been consistent with it, using it as a form of expressing myself, starting meaningful conversations and fostering positive change.

Escape Mag: You've been involved in diverse projects, from Electro Africa to Digital Escape Africa. How do you navigate the different creative landscapes, and what unique elements do you bring to each venture?

Keno French: I like to think of myself as a problem solver, not necessarily someone with all the solutions but someone bold enough to delve into the problem and find a solution regardless of the odds.







Dremo & Ola of Lagos Holding Up Keno's Sign

**Escape Mag:** As the human billboard, you've used public spaces to communicate agendas and protest against issues. How do you choose the locations for your displays, and what impact do you hope to achieve through this unconventional form of expression?

**Keno French:** At the beginning, I didn't really care much about the locations for my sign. I held my first sign at Ring Road, Benin City; The centre of Benin. If you've been to Benin City, you'd know that everyone passes there to get anywhere. All I thought was, this is a busy place and I wanted people to see me and hear me. Over time, I got more intentional with the signs and paid closer attention to the locations to give more meaning to the message I was passing across or sometimes to add some humour to the content. Like I said, when I started this there wasn't any deep thinking. I just did it out of creative impulse and looking back now I've held different signs at different significant places, speaking on important societal issues, like during the end SARS protest, and during the long ASUU strike that affected a lot of students including myself at the time. I'm not sure the exact effect my signs will have, but I'm confident they're propelling me forward, and I believe they'll make a meaningful contribution to society.

**Escape Mag:** Your goal is to encourage freedom of expression in any form. How do you see art as a catalyst for social change, and what role do you envision for yourself in this movement?

**Keno French:** Well, the thing is society is like a painting on a canvas and each colour and brushstroke are different individuals expressing themselves in whatever unique form they can. Could be through dancing, writing, fashion and designing, or anything at all.

I see myself as a part of that diversity of expression, hoping to affect the overall design, style or look of the painting on the canvas.

**Escape Mag:** In a world that sometimes restricts creative expression, how do you navigate challenges and setbacks, and what advice do you have for aspiring artists looking to break free from conventional norms?

The distinctive quality I bring to every endeavour is Curiosity.



Keno French: I always keep it going, keep it rolling, and even when I stop, I recharge and pick up where I left off. It's never easy, nothing is actually. I don't think I'm in a position to advise anyone because I'm mostly learning on the go. But I'd say, just keep looking, keep searching, don't stop trying. Have the courage to follow your intuitions. Stay willing, staying hungry and stay foolish. It's a life long journey, be a life long student.

Escape Mag: You're a creative director with a passion for innovation. Can you share a project that challenged you the most and how you overcame it, pushing the boundaries of both artistry and innovation?

Keno French: I've faced some thrilling challenges in several projects. One memorable experience was working with Electro Africa for the first time in 2021. It was a thrilling yet demanding experience because it was my first time curating an event.

Another significant challenge came with "The B-side Album", a collaborative project by different creatives in Benin City. Everyone had their different perspectives and ideas, It wasn't an easy one managing the different artistic voices while staying true to the project's essence.

To overcome these challenges, I had to wear many hats – a listener, a mediator, and a visionary. In the end, both projects were more than just tough nuts to crack. They were more like rocket fuel for my creative journey.

Escape Mag: "Escape" means breaking free. How do you want your audience to feel and what do you hope they take away from your creativity?

Keno French: When I reflect on my journey, I've realized that some of the most incredible things that happened weren't part of the plan. They just sprouted from the freedom and joy of creating.

I want people who come across my art to feel the freedom and liberation that comes from creating. Because, honestly, the more you create, the more you're hooked on that feeling of freedom.



# BLVCK NINJV ART

## FROM DOODLES TO DIGITAL DOMINANCE

By Joey Average



The Priest by BLVCK NINJV Art

MEET JIMMY OWEN, THE DIGITAL ARTIST WHO'S BEEN CRAFTING HIS OWN VISUAL SAGA, KNOWN IN THE CREATIVE REALM AS BLVCK NINJV ART (BLACK NINJA ART).

This Gen Z creator's journey from scribbling on school notebooks to becoming a digital maestro is nothing short of an epic evolution.

Starting off with the humble canvas of his school books, Jimmy's artistic journey took a high-tech turn when he embraced the world of digital art on his trusty iPhone 6. Armed with the Autodesk Sketchbook app, he ventured into the realm of creating on-the-go, turning random sketches into captivating pieces.

During the chaotic time of 2019-2020, Jimmy started creating digital art and got his first job. He had to quickly learn how to use Photoshop, a complex digital image editing app.

The storyline takes a turn as Jimmy becomes a part of the dynamic Vortex team in late 2020, stationed in the vibrant creative hub of Lagos, Nigeria, on Planet Earth. However, every narrative has its twists, and Jimmy's journey with Vortex comes to a close, leading him to embark on a freelance adventure.



Mid-June 2022 marks a new chapter as Jimmy joins the Kuda Micro-finance tribe, where his artistic prowess finds a new home. Reflecting on his artistic roots, Jimmy shares, "My earliest form of art came from drawing on my school notebooks."

His artistic evolution unfolds further as he reveals, "I tried digital art in 2017 and started making artworks with my iPhone (6) three years later, during that time I got my first gig." The timeline of accomplishments doesn't stop there; Jimmy got deeply involved in his first long-term project, 'Ijaya,' in 2019.

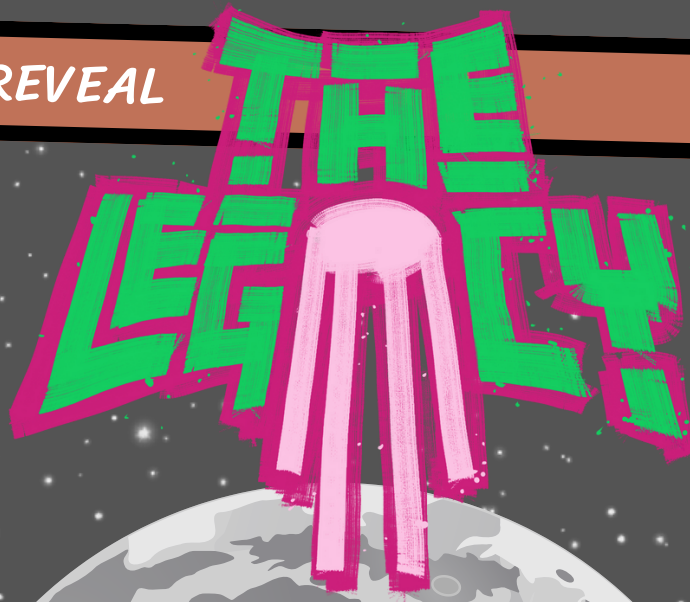
The Vortex Studios era from 2020 to 2021 became a crucial chapter where Jimmy refined his skills and added Photoshop mastery to his artistic arsenal. The freelancer in him emerged from 2021 to mid-2022, showcasing the adaptability and creativity that defines BLVCK NINJV ART.

As of mid-June 2022, Jimmy's artistry has found a home with the Kuda tribe, and the journey continues. BLVCK NINJV ART is more than just a tag; it's a visual narrative of a digital ninja who started from doodles and now dominates the digital canvas, leaving an indelible mark on the contemporary creative landscape.





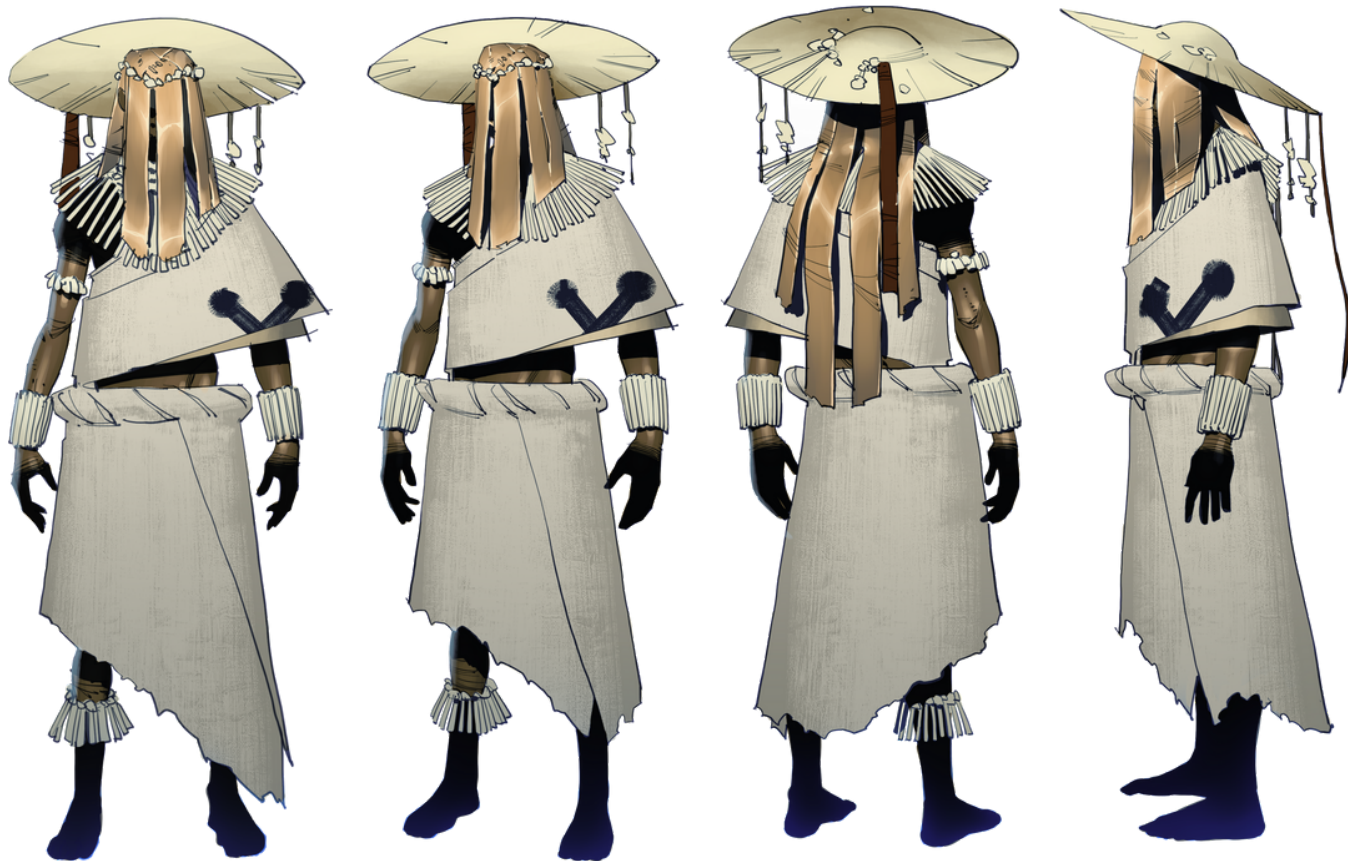
CHARACTER REVEAL



BY

THE DEA ART GANG

Story Writer – Jesse James | Co-writer – Amuche  
Illustrator – OJ (BLVCK NINJV) | Co-Illustrator – Zeek  
Contributor – Hyvetoons  
Coordinator – Precious Felix

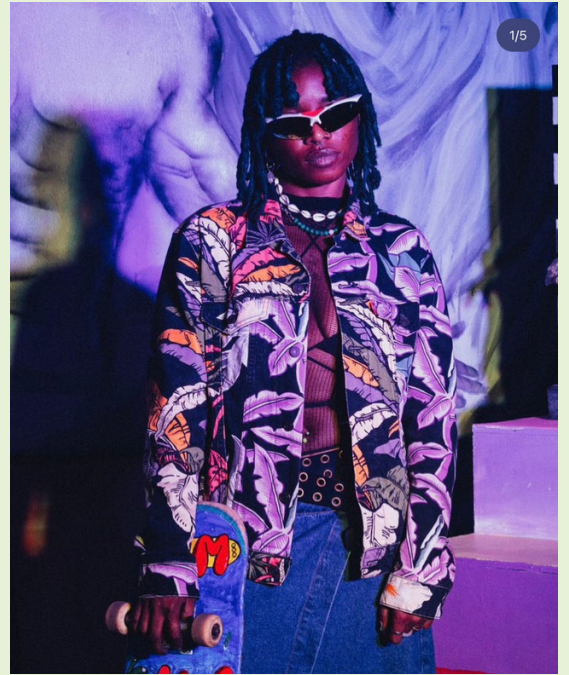
**CHARACTER**  
PROFILE**DABA**

Daba is a protagonist in The Legacy who believes that everything has a sign. He plays a crucial role in fulfilling both evil and good prophecies. Despite being powerful and vicious, love ultimately conquers him.





Olutekunbi Pamela Damilola



**Her works draw inspiration  
from the experiences of being  
an outcast...**

In the heart of Kogi State, Nigeria, the captivating life of Olutekunbi Pamela Damilola unfolds like a mesmerizing cinematic masterpiece. A gender non-conforming creative soul, Damilola's story is a celebration of rebellion and the pursuit of freedom.

From the lush landscapes of her origins, Damilola emerges as a symbol of breaking away from societal norms. A graduate in computer science, she effortlessly blends analytical thinking with an artistic spirit that knows no bounds.

Damilola's artistic tapestry is a rich blend of modeling, fashion design, storytelling, movie acting, and the exhilarating world of skateboarding. Her works draw inspiration from the experiences of being an outcast and the nomadic life she embraced as a tourist, exploring the depths of human existence and evolution.



"The Government Knows" by Pamela Windmind. 2023.

MORE THAN A CREATOR, SHE IS A STATEMENT-MAKER, ASPIRING TO BE REMEMBERED NOT JUST FOR HER ARTISTIC PROWESS BUT FOR THE PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE SHE IMPARTS THROUGH HER ART.

Her creative footprint extends far and wide, gracing galleries within and beyond Nigeria. Notably, she has left an indelible mark with her collaboration with Adidas Nigeria and as a prominent female skateboarder in the vibrant Dencity community. The Dencity Pushing P sweatshirt, a testament to her unique design sensibilities, stands as a bold statement.

Engaged in the groundbreaking project OSUNWEMIMO, Damilola's artistic process is a spiritual journey, flourishing in an environment where authenticity reigns supreme. Damilola's artistic journey is a roller coaster of self-discovery, grounding herself in the essence of Earth.

More than a creator, she is a statement-maker, aspiring to be remembered not just for her artistic prowess but for the profound knowledge she imparts through her art.

Dreaming of an island life, Damilola envisions a legacy beyond currency—a life filled with smiles and artistic triumphs. In her world, each stroke of creativity is an act of rebellion, a celebration of freedom, and an invitation to embrace the extraordinary. The extraordinary world of Olutekunbi Pamela Damilola beckons, promising a narrative that transcends the boundaries of ordinary existence.







Fan Art by ADE\_NE from the Anime/Manga Jujutsu Kaisen

# ADE NE

ADE\_NE, an innovative digital artist from Nigeria, is leaving a strong mark on the art scene. Specializing in character design, concept art, cover illustration, and vibrant colour schemes, ADE\_NE draws inspiration from the captivating realms of Anime and Manga, influenced by iconic series like BLEACH, FIRE FORCE, and BLUE LOCK.

This talented artist has contributed to many significant projects, showcasing a unique blend of innovation and cultural expression. Explore the dynamic world of ADE\_NE as we discover his digital masterpieces and the vibrant impact he brings to the Nigerian artistic landscape.



## Amini.ai Secures \$4 Million in Seed Funding to Revolutionize Climate Tech in Africa



Nairobi-based climate-tech startup Amini.ai has successfully raised \$4 million in seed funding, led by Salesforce Ventures and supported by Female Founders Fund, Pale Blue Dot, Superorganism, and Satgana. Amini.ai is committed to leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and satellite technology to bridge Africa's environmental data gap, addressing critical challenges and fostering natural capital regeneration. Founded by AI innovation and technology expert Kate Kallot, Amini aims to propel an economic transformation for Africa's one billion people by addressing environmental data challenges. The recent funding round marks a significant step forward in expanding Amini's reach into new markets.

Kallot highlighted the company's dedication to reducing risks in the early stages of the global agricultural value chain.

Amini's focus on enhancing transparency, facilitating data access, and promoting economic inclusion for farmers presents a unique opportunity to reshape global food systems through positive feedback loops.

"We are committed to innovation benefiting both our people and the planet. With new regulations in the US and Europe mandating climate risk disclosure in supply chains, the investment from Salesforce Ventures and Female Founders Fund will expedite the expansion of our business and data infrastructure platform," said Kallot.

By 2030, Amini.ai aims to empower the resilience of one billion people by establishing a single, dependable source of environmental data across Africa. The startup's comprehensive solution utilizes large-scale AI and space technologies to promote systemic change, enhance supply chain resilience throughout Africa, and foster economic inclusiveness for farmers. The recent seed funding will play a crucial role in accelerating Amini's mission to revolutionize climate tech in Africa and beyond.

[Source: Technafrica](#)

## SLOW?



### Enhance Your iPhone Browsing Speed: A Guide to Clearing Cache and Cookies

Over time, your iPhone's browser accumulates digital clutter in the form of cache and cookies, impacting web surfing speed. Whether you prefer Chrome, Safari, or another browser, giving your browser a fresh start by clearing these elements can significantly improve your browsing experience, even on the latest iOS 17. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to clear your cache based on the browser you use.

Kallot highlighted the company's dedication to reducing risks in the early stages of the global agricultural value chain.

#### FOR SAFARI:

1. Open the Settings app on your iPhone.
2. Select Safari from the list of apps.
3. Navigate to Clear History and Website Data.
4. Choose Clear History and Data in the pop-up box.

#### FOR CHROME

1. Open the Chrome app.
2. Select the three dots in the bottom right to access more options.

3. Choose Clear Browsing Data to open a new menu.
4. Select the desired time range at the top (ranging from Last Hour to All Time).
5. Ensure that Cookies, Site Data, Cached Images, and Files are selected.
6. Finally, hit Clear Browsing Data at the bottom of the screen.

## Nigeria's Central Bank Lifts Cryptocurrency Ban, Implements Stricter Guidelines for Enhanced Transparency

Nigeria's Central Bank lifts ban on cryptocurrency transactions, introduces strict regulations for crypto businesses and exchanges. Financial institutions must conduct thorough KYC checks and obtain BVN of directors and owners. Crypto companies need SEC license and must meet minimum capital requirement of ₦500 million. Banks are still prohibited from holding, trading, and transacting in virtual currencies. Regulatory changes aim to increase transparency and instill confidence in the industry. CBN's revised stance balances innovation and investor protection.

[Source: Techcabal](#)



# FOODS FOR CREATIVE MINDS

By Justina Nnamani

## 1



### Berries

Rich in antioxidants, berries can enhance cognitive function and protect the brain. They also help activate BDNF (brain derived neurotrophic factor), which aids in the growth of new neurons necessary for clear, creative thinking.

## 2



### Fatty Fish

Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish such as salmon can support brain health and improve cognitive function. They also help increase blood flow to the brain and positively impact learning and memory.

### Nuts And Seeds

Packed with nutrients such as Omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants, and Vitamin E, nuts and seeds can be beneficial for brain function.



## 3

### Dark ChocoLate

The antioxidants in dark chocolate also extend their protective effects to the brain. It also contains flavonoids and caffeine that may improve memory and boost mood.

## 4



## 6

### Eggs

Eggs are some of the most nutritious foods on the planet. They contain a wide variety of essential nutrients, with omega-3 enriched and/or pastured eggs having even higher levels of certain nutrients. They are particularly rich in choline, which is a precursor to acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter important for regulating mood and memory.



## 5

### Leafy Greens

These nutrient-rich wonders offer numerous benefits, from supporting essential bodily functions to reducing the risk of chronic diseases. High in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, greens like spinach and kale support overall brain health.



## 7



### Whole Grains

Whole grains contain a wealth of nutrients that increase energy levels, mental alertness, and boost creative brainpower. B6 vitamins help enhance short-term memory, focus, and energy for brain cells and eyes. They provide a steady supply of energy to the brain, aiding in concentration and focus.

## 8

### Turmeric



Turmeric gives curry its yellow color and has been used in India for thousands of years as a spice and medicinal herb. Research has shown that it contains compounds with medicinal properties, including curcumin, which has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant benefits.

# Navigating Creative Waters

## The Essence of Contracts and MOUs in Collaborative Projects



In the dynamic realm of creativity, collaboration serves as the lifeblood of innovation. Whether you're an artist, writer, or musician, the prospect of joining forces for a project can be invigorating. Amidst the excitement, it's crucial to establish a foundation for collaboration, and this often comes in the form of contracts and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). These legal documents act as indispensable tools for safeguarding artistic integrity and financial interests.

Contracts and MOUs offer clarity by defining the scope of work, responsibilities, and contributions of each party involved. This upfront delineation helps prevent misunderstandings and disputes that may arise during the project, ensuring a smoother creative process.

Protecting intellectual property is paramount in the creative world, and these documents play a crucial role in this regard. By clearly outlining ownership, usage rights, and distribution channels, creatives ensure they receive due credit for their work and retain control over its use.

Financial transparency is another key aspect addressed by contracts and MOUs. Collaborators can establish fair payment structures, revenue-sharing models, and budget allocations, fostering trust and fairness in financial transactions.

Dispute resolution is streamlined through these legal instruments. They provide a roadmap for addressing conflicts, encouraging amicable solutions that preserve relationships and the integrity of the collaboration.

Contracts and MOUs elevate the professionalism of creative collaborations. They signal a commitment to the project's success and contribute to a culture of trust within the creative community, positively influencing the reputations of all collaborators involved.

In conclusion, as creatives embark on collaborative projects involving credit or compensation, the importance of contracts and MOUs cannot be overstated. These documents provide a solid foundation, offering clarity, protection, and professionalism, contributing to creating a sustainable and thriving creative ecosystem.

By Joey Average



# ART GANG POPUUP



WE ARE EXCITED TO PRESENT THE ART GANG POP-UP EVENT, AN INITIATIVE TO SHOWCASE, EXHIBIT, AND SELL ART AND PRODUCTS CREATED BY DEA'S ART GANG AND OTHER TALENTED CREATIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

JANUARY 20, 12PM - 6PM  
DIGITAL ESCAPE AFRICA

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**Creative**

**Guest**