
OPEYEMI OLUKOTUN
(b. 1989, Ipetu Ijesha, Osun State, Nigeria)

Opeyemi Matthew Olukotun is a visual artist whose practice centres on expressive figurative painting. He graduated in Fine and Applied Arts from the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, in 2012. After completing his studies, he worked as an art teacher in a secondary school before, in 2016, dedicating himself fully to his artistic career.

His work is grounded in a continual exploration of the human body – its form, posture, emotional language, and the narratives that surface even in the subtlest gesture. Olukotun is particularly drawn to the anatomy of expression: the tilt of a head, the weight of a gaze, and the nuances of the face and hands. These elements allow him to communicate states of mind and the complexity of human experience.

The use of harmonious colour palettes, impressionistic brushstrokes, and visible sketch-like lines contributes to a dynamic sense of movement and vitality. These lines suggest motion and create a connection between the figure and its surroundings, reminding us that identity is constantly evolving. Such visual strategies establish a fluid relationship between the figures and the contexts they inhabit, portraying them as reflective, complex individuals with rich interior worlds.

Olukotun depicts his subjects as reflective and multifaceted agents – individuals who carry entire worlds within their expressions. Through his practice, he seeks to honour the interiority of the people he paints, offering the viewer not only a representation of the human form but an invitation to consider the depth, vulnerability, and resilience that each person holds.

OPEYEMI OLUKOTUN | CV

SOLO SHOWS

[**2025**] "Through my window, there is a view" Art Gallery Of Southwestern Manitoba, Brandon, MB, Canada

GROUP SHOWS

[**2024**] Pretty, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

[**2023**] Real and Surreal, Out of Africa gallery, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain
Legacy III, Thought pyramid gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
Members Show, AGSM Brandon, Manitoba, Canada
African Figurative Art, out of Africa Gallery, Sitges, Barcelona Spain

[**2022**] African Rises in Fall, Out of Africa Gallery, Notting Hill, London
Art X, Out of Africa gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

[**2021**] Blue, O'DA gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
October Rain, Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
Legacy, Mydrim gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

[**2020**] Future Masters 4, Mydrim gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

[**2019**] Next of Kin 2, Thought Pyramid Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
Future Masters 3, Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

[**2018**] October Rain, Thought Pyramid Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
Identity, Radisson Blu, Lagos, Nigeria

ART FAIRS

[**2024**] Winnipeg Art Fair, Manitoba, Canada

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

[**2023**] Residency at Out of Africa Gallery, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain

AWARDS

[**2024**] Manitoba Art Council Grants
Canada Council for the Arts Grants

[**2019**] 2nd position for Next of Kin art prize, Thought pyramid art Centre, Lagos Nigeria

ARTIST TALKS & PUBLICATIONS

[**2024**] "Thematic Analysis of Opeyemi Olukotun's Paintings". A thesis by Adedeji Nimotallahi Ololade

[**2023**] Artist talk on the importance of being relevant in art practice, Thought pyramid art centre, Lagos Nigeria

[**2022**] "Opeyemi Olukotun captures human emotions and society in his paintings" by Tope Akintayo

[**2021**] Live painting demonstration and presentation for Big Brother Naija, Nigeria