

VISIONS IN CLAY COLLECTIVE (VICC)

@LABAF 2023

- A COLLECTIVE CERAMICS EXHIBITION.

Stanley Ukwuoma
Akanni Kehinde
Olatunde Asuni | Fiyin Koko
Olubunmi Atare | Chris Ekuafeh
Djakou Kassi Nathalie | Ato Arinze
Azeez Afeez Adeoti | Mercy Itohan Idemudia
Uchenna Eugene
Chidiebele Oteleh.

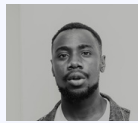
NOTICE, WE ARE HERE?



Powered By:



Partner:



Adeoti Azeez Afeez

Adeoti Azeez Afeez (b.1998) is a skilled ceramic artist known for his graffiti technique, which brings out contrasting colors on clay coated with engobe. He draws inspiration from his Yoruba heritage and personal self-awareness, infusing his art with cultural and introspective elements. His work has been featured in various group exhibitions, including Beyond Limit 2022, Colour Theory, AMG Projects 2023, and (Sur)face exhibition at chilli art projects 2023. Additionally, he took part in the Statues Also Breath workshop with Prune Nourry, in collaboration with Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife.



Opo Kan
Sgraffito on Clay | 13" x 14" | 2023



Chris Onaivi Ekuafeh

Chris Onaivi Ekuafeh graduated from the industrial design department of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. His desire to promote creativity, saw him teach art to young kids in primary schools, where he helped established art studios. Born in Kano state, he currently lives and practices his art as a full time artist in Lagos state, Nigeria. He has participated in different exhibitions and his works can be found in public and private collections.

"We are created, as such have become creators".



Anda
Clay | 1ft x 17in | 2022

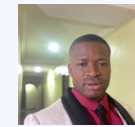


Idemudia Mercy Itohan

Idemudia Mercy Itohan (21) is a student of Auchi Polytechnic, Edo state, Currently studying ceramics and glass technology. She explored her Industrial Training period at Mr Ato Arinze and Djakou Kassi Nathalie studios in 2022. After which she debuted at the Beyond Limit Contemporary Ceramics exhibition 2023.



Fired Clay | B - 6' x 20.5 in, M - 5.5 x 9 in, S - 4 x 6.5 in | 2022



Ukwuoma Ikechukwu Stanley

Ukwuoma Ikechukwu Stanley (b.1989) is a skilled potter, ceramic technician, educator, and entrepreneur, from Imo State, Nigeria. He earned his Higher National Diploma from Yaba College of Technology in 2018. After graduating, he established himself as a full-time studio artist in 2020. Stanley's portfolio includes diverse commissions, such as wall murals using fired clay as a medium and the construction of kilns and ceramic equipment. His artistic inspiration stems from nature, and he particularly enjoys working with natural red clay. His work highlights the dichotomy of clay's strength and vulnerability, shaping it with both force and gentleness to convey movement and softness through various wheel-thrown and hand-building techniques.



Adaptation and Renewal ii
Clay | 20x15cm | 2023



Uchenna Eugene

Chidiebele Oteleh is a passionate ceramic Artist whose interest in lines, shapes and attention to details are phenomenal. A graduate of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, 2017. He started his Studio practice in 2023, while undergoing a Residency Program at Mr Ato Arinze's studio. He believes in exploring unexpected and neglected shapes, patterns and approaches with clay ;bringing them to life.



Apo (Life)
Terracotta | 6" x 8" x 10" | 2019



Chidiebele Oteleh

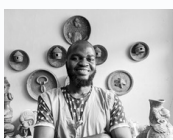
Chidiebele Oteleh is a passionate ceramic Artist whose interest in lines, shapes and attention to details are phenomenal. A graduate of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, 2017. He started his Studio practice in 2023, while undergoing a Residency Program at Mr Ato Arinze's studio. He believes in exploring unexpected and neglected shapes, patterns and approaches with clay ;bringing them to life.



The Crack Within us | Clay | 37cm X 24cm | 2023
Ilo"
Painted Terracotta | 8.5" H | 2023

Appreciation

Our heartfelt gratitude to individuals and collectives that partnered, supported and encouraged the fruition of this project. We acknowledge the contribution of Ato Arinze, Djakou Kassi Nathalie, Jahman Anikulapo and the CORA/LABAF team, Rilwan Onaolapo, the Kaabo Clay Collective, the Visions in Clay Collective and VICC Signature Members.
You're appreciated!



Olatunde Asani

Born. 1988 is an admirer of nature, culture and his immediate environment. A ceramicist with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts Degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University. His works are characterized by Yorubá motifs and folklores which are explored to deepen his narrative. Asani was the technical assistant for Statues Also Breathe, a traveling exhibition by Prune Nourry in Partnership with Obafemi Awolowo University. He has facilitated and participated in various pottery workshops.



Ajé iv
Polished Terracotta | 42cm cir. | 2021



Olubunmi Atere

Born. 1991 is a ceramic artist crafting narratives with clay. Self-taught, she employs her inclinations and heritage to create unique carvings, evocative forms, inscriptions and lyrical marks in her ceramic works. She uses clay as a witness of the invaluable knowledge passed from one generation to another. Her artistry pushes boundaries within the medium of clay, emphasizes information practice and balances harmony and chaos.

In addition to her decade-long experience in communications, she debuted as a ceramicist in 2022, and was awarded the Technical Proficiency Prize at LIMCAF the same year. Her work has been exhibited at Koop Projects in Brighton (UK), NCECA, Contemporary Art Center in Ohio (US), the Caudan Art Center in Mauritius (MA), Chale Wote, Christiansborg Castle in Accra (GH) and recently the Mauritius International Art Fair, Moka Smart City (MA).



Ambiguous Adventure I
Glazed Clay, Wood, Fibre | 16 x 14 inches | 2022



Fiyin Koko

constantly seeks to interpret these pillars in everyday life, seamlessly blending the essence of fantasy, 'artivism,' and her dreams to weave captivating narratives. Through her mixed media paintings, sculptures, photography, and digital illustrations, Fiyin Koko employs a masterful interplay of blue hues and bold color palettes. This artistic approach imparts a harmonious aesthetic that deepens her fondness for and celebration of the black woman. Her work serves as a testament to the strength, beauty, and stories that lie within, while fostering a sense of empowerment and appreciation."



"Hello"
Painted Terracotta | 8.5" H | 2023

VICC SIGNATURE EXHIBITING ARTISTS

1. Olatunde Asani
2. Olubunmi Atere
3. Djakou Kassi Nathalie
4. Fiyin Koko
5. Ato Arinze
6. Akanni Kehinde
7. Chris Ekuafeh
8. Azeez Afeez Adeoti
9. Mercy Itohan Idemudia
10. Chidiebele Oteleh
11. Uchenna Eugene

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

These days, some of us have probably heard of ceramics more frequently in the Nigerian scene we are well aware of what it is - but is there more? What has changed? What about its current trajectory? With NOTICE, the Visions in Clay Community of ceramic artists, want to do our part in projecting the current trajectory of this craft and let more people notice we are here!

Our aim is to support local expertise, share knowledge and promote craftsmanship in ceramics as an integral sector of society that everyone can participate in. The participating artists use ceramic history, culture and traditions to bolster craft, experimentation, conceptual strategies, and relational approaches to materiality. Lending their voices to tell the stories lingering outside the public's sight.

NOTICE will join the ongoing conversation and will assert that the works of ceramic artists in Nigeria to carve out an equal space is an ongoing process.

Curated by Olubunmi Atere
Assisted by Azeez Afeez Adeoti

About Visions in Clay Collective (VICC)

Visions in Clay was founded in 2017 by Djakou Kassi Nathalie and Ato Arinze after their joint exhibition in 2015. They felt a need to fill the vacuum of the absence of exhibitions for practicing ceramics artists in Nigeria. It started as an exhibiting artists group with an exhibition which was hosted by Morehouse Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos in 2017. After the exhibition, a Whatsapp group was created with a wider scope. Today, we operate as a collective, creating an avenue for Potters and Ceramics artists across Nigeria and Africa inclusive of Africans in diaspora to network and exchange ideas.



Djakou Kassi Nathalie

Is a Cameroonian ceramicist based in Nigeria. Djakou started her studio practice in 1998, the same year, she became an instructor at the Institut de Formation Artistique Mbalmayo, Cameroon. There, she successfully introduced the "Material Technology" course into the school's curriculum. In 2004, she joined Centre d'Art Appliqué de Mbalmayo, Cameroon as a ceramicist and chief manager of the ceramic studio. By 2011, she became the vice president of the craft association of her local government for 3 years. In 2013, she created a ceramic group DECERAM where she spearheaded several commissions.

Djakou Kassi Nathalie moved to Nigeria in 2015 to continue practicing her art, she has since participated in several outstanding exhibitions and ceramic projects/programs including the 9th China Changchun International Ceramic Symposium, "SAY MY NAME" with Signature gallery in London, "DEUS EX FEMINA" with Akka Project in Dubai, ART & EXCEPTION at the Grand Palais in Paris, Art Connects Women organized by Zee arts in Dubai. She also participated in many international online exhibitions with bon art project and Madlozi gallery. Her works have also appeared in many TV programs, newspapers and magazines and featured in many academic researches and publications across Africa, Poland and America. Her works can be found with renowned collectors in Nigeria including HRM Nnaemeka Achebe, the Obi of Onitsha, Mr Hakeem Adedeji, Access bank and other renowned collectors internationally including Mohak Mehta and Nicole Kadji.



The Hustler
Glazed Clay | 35 x 35 cm | 2023



Ato Arinze

Ato is an artist with special interest in Portraits, Sculptures, and Statues. His grasp for forms, attest to his skills particularly in handling figural sculptures. Born in Mushin, Lagos in the mid 60's. He attended Afolabi Primary Institute, Oshodi in Lagos between 1972-1978, then Zixton Secondary School, Ozubulu, Anambra State between 1978-1983. He was admitted to study Art in Federal Polytechnic Oko in 1986 where he obtained the Ordinary National Diploma in 1988, later proceeded to Yaba College of Technology between 1989 and 1991 for his Higher Diploma, majoring in Sculpture. Also to has been a full time studio artist since 1991, practicing as a Sculptor and a Potter. He has participated in many group exhibitions within and outside the Nigeria, with many sculpture commissions to his credit, such as the Bust of the first President of Nigeria Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe which he executed in the year 2000, a collaborative project with Chike Oyeka at his studio in Onitsha. Recently his Statue of Chief Bode Akindele, The Parakoyi of Ibadan Land was commissioned and unveiled in June 2021.

He was a recipient of the Solidra Award for Sculpture and Pottery in 2002 and in 2008 was awarded the Society Nigerian Artists (Lagos State Chapter) Distinguished Artist Award.



Okonkwo's Suicide and the Crucifixion of our Glorious Past
Fired Clay | 119 x 45 x 45cm | 2023