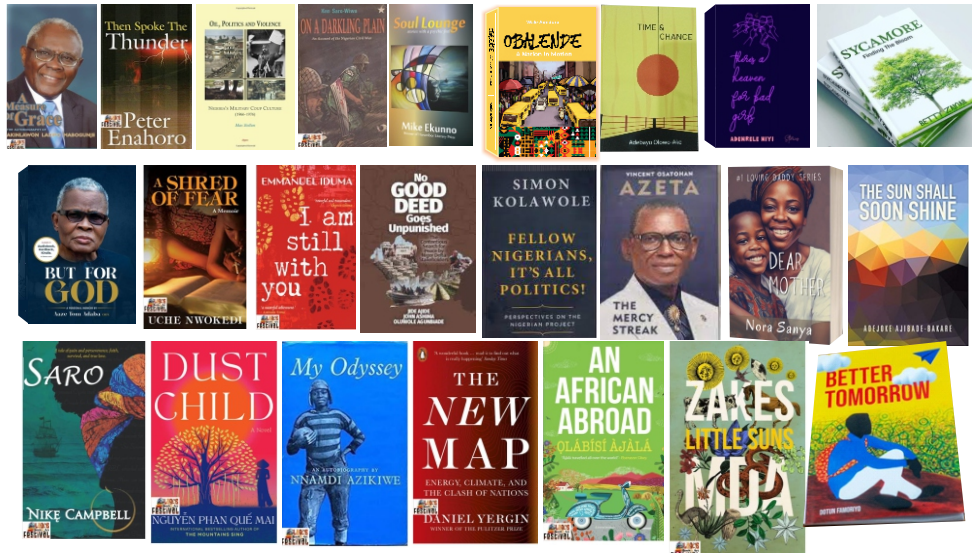


LABAF 25

November
13 - 19, 2023

PLENARY



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THE PLENARY

The LABAF was labelled a Feast of IDEAS & LIFE by a critic. This is indeed an apt capture of the spirit and essence of the festival. Though it is in character and texture a carnivalesque and atmospheric festival, at the heart of it is the PLENARY section which yearly features panel discussions – calibrated under the headings **Conversation, Symposium, Seminar, Colloquium, or ArtHouse Forum.**

The theme of every edition is often explored through the written or performed text and through Visual Art Dialogue. The 2023 edition bears the same swag as past editions. The theme of the festival – *The Reset: History and the Darkling Plain* -- is largely explored through the various panel sessions as outlined below

TUESDAY, NOV 14

3pm: VISUAL ARTS DIALOGUE @Kongi's Harvest Gallery

Theme: ARTISTS, WHERE IS YOUR WORK?

Synopsis: A discourse around the relationship between the artist and patrons/collectors of his/works, exploring such extant issues, as trusts, dependability among others. The conversation is also aimed at sensitising artists on the importance documentation and record keeping.

Keynote: Dr Kolade Oshinowo,

painter, Ex-Dep. Provost, Yaba College of Tech



Panelists: **Duke Asidere** (*painter/art activist*) |

Kunle Adeyemi (*Painter/Academics*) |

Juliet Ezenwa-Pearce (*painter/curator*) |

Wunika Mukan, *gallerist/curator* |

Moderator: **Mufu Onifade,** *painter/arts writer,*
founder Araism Movement

Chairman: **Dr Newton Jibunoh,** *Art Collector/founder,*
DIDI Museum, Lagos

Curator: **Dr Ademola Azeez,** *Provost Federal*
College of Education, Yaba

(Supported by the **Yaba Art Museum, Yaba College of Technology**)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15

3 pm: READERS' FORUM @1st Floor, Kongi's Harvest Gallery

Theme: LEADERS ARE READERS: WHY I READ WHAT I READ

Synopsis: A notable Business Leader in Nigeria's economic space, shares his Literary taste and preferences with the audience.

Feature: Author of *African Odyssey of a Lebanese Immigrant*, **Habib Jafaar**, in conversation with the journalist-writer- public intellectual, **Dr Reuben Abati.**

(Produced by CORA with support of **BookCraft Africa**)



THURSDAY, NOV 16

10am: PUBLISHERS' FORUM @ 1st Floor, Kongi's Harvest Gallery
(In association with Network of Reding Clubs of Nigeria)
(In honour of Mrs. Gbemi Sashore @ 60)

Theme: *The Nigerian Books Ecosystem: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*



10am: Opening Remarks:
Mrs Gbemi Sashore,
CEO Quramo Books/Founder
Q Festival of Words

10.15 am-11.30am: First panel

Topic: *Artificial intelligence: Thrills and Perils: A Publishing Industry perspective.*

Panelists:

Eghosa Imasuen | Nkem Osuigwe | Adachukwu Onwudiwe
Moderator: **Fred Chiagozie Nwonwu**

11.30-1.00pm: Second Panel

Topic: *From Ife till Today: Nigeria's Book Fairs, Festivals and the Reading Culture.*

Panelists:

**Dapo Adeniyi | Adegbola Adesina |
Abiodun Omotubi | Olatoun Gabi-Williams**

1.00pm-230pm: Third Panel.

Topic: *Winning with Book Publishing and Marketing: An Insider's lens*

(Running successfully. Achieving goals. Rising above limitations. Tapping opportunities and advantages....).

Panelists:

**Dotun Eyinade | Awele Ilusanmi |
Yomi Ogunlari | Mike Ekunno**
Moderator: **Funmi Ilori**

2.30pm-3.30pm: Fourth Session

Topic: *The Guinness World Record and the Reading Culture in Nigeria.*

Featuring:

John Obot | Bayode Treasures Olawumi
in conversation with **Amara Chimeka**

FRIDAY, NOV 17

1pm: COLLOQUIUM (1) @Kongi Harvest's Gallery

Festival Theme: *The Reset: History & The Darkling Plain*

Keynote: Obari Gomba, Ph.D, Deputy Dean of Faculty of Art, University of Ibadan, Honorary Fellow in Writing of Univ. of Iowa (USA), winner Nigeria Prize for Literature 2023.

Chair: Femi Osofisan, playwright/poet, Emeritus Professor, University of Ibadan



3pm: SYMPOSIUM (1) @Kongi's Harvest Art Gallery

Theme: Was there ever a Glorious Moment in our Postcolonial History?

Reading and conversations around

- Peter Enahoro: *Then Spoke The Thunder*
- Akin Mabogunje: *A Measure of Grace*

Moderator: Kunle Ajibade, writer/journalist, Exec. Editor, *The News*

As we determine to use history as a guide to reset the path to greatness of our country, this Festival has selected two books written by Nigerians born in the 1930s, who came of age as the ferment for independence was in full swing, had distinguished careers in the early decades after the lowering of the Union Jack and settled into fully productive, highly productive citizens in the three decades afterwards

The question we seek to answer from

.30 pm: COLLOQUIUM (2) @Kongi's Harvest Gallery

Theme: The Future Glimpsed in the Past

Reading and conversations around

- Nnamdi Azikiwe: *My Odyssey*
- Femi Olugbue: *PELEWURA*

What would history, as we know it, be without the cult of the personality? In the Festival's choice of historical texts as tools to examine how the Nigerian state can reset its governance machinery to serve the people better, we have chosen to engage



with the sagas of two individuals, preferably non-monarchical, who championed rights of the people in different ways. Their stories offer us different compasses to navigate how constructs of statehood should have, or not have been. Pelewura was the first Iyaloja of Lagos. In telling her story in fictional form, the author Femi Olugbue weaves a fascinating narrative of colonial Lagos, Nnamdi Azikiwe's transverses were more of a global nature; including the Gold Coast, the United Kingdom, the United States, before returning to Nigeria to play a key role in the independence movement.

From the history and herstory, we ask a simple question: How differently could it all have turned out? What alternative future can we extract from these trajectories?

SATURDAY NOV 18

1.30pm: COLLOQUIUM @Kongi's Harvest Gallery

Theme: Biafran Narratives: War without End

Reading and conversations around

- Ken Saro Wiwa: *On a Darkling Plain*;
- Max Siollun: *Oil, Politics & Violence:*

Nigeria's Military Coup Culture, 1966 -1976)

The Nigerian civil war has remained, stubbornly, the most defining episode in the shaping of Nigeria's postcolonial history. Its textual narratives—direct and derived—constitute, perhaps, the largest group of literary material in the country's modern



historical library The trauma and scars of the three-year war fought in the 1960s, define Nigerian politics till this day and was effectively the back drop against which the last elections to the national offices were fought. A Nigerian literary festival which uses history as the peg for its main discourses cannot disclaim a robust discussion of the raison d'être for the hostilities

4.00pm: SEMINAR @CORAVille

Theme: *A Fourth Generation of Nigerian Writers? Trends and Times*

Several discourses have arisen in recent times concerning the trends and issues of contemporary Nigerian literature. Some observers note that Nigerian writing has deviated from the marks set by the Soyinka, Achebe to Osundare, Ofeimun, and Ojaide generation. This conversation is still ongoing on social media platforms but has not been engaged in any physical event in the country. The session will feature both physical and virtual sessions, have contemporary young writers from all over the country engage on the trends of their time, their scope and aesthetic rupture.

Moderator: **Oko Owi Ocho**



SUNDAY, NOV 19

3pm: SEMINAR @Kongi's Harvest Gallery

Theme: *From History to Here: Birth by LABAF*

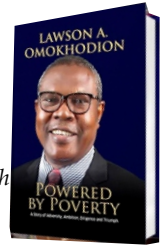
Oko Owi Ocho, Kemi Bakare, and Kiki -- three writers and resource persons who attended LABAF as teenagers and were inspired by the different activities reflect on how the festival has impacted their lives and careers. It is a 25th anniversary special tribute to the LABAF.

4.30m SEMINAR @Kongi's Harvest

Theme: **Keys to the Knowledge Economy**

Readings and discussions around:

Lawson Omokhodion: *Powered by Poverty: a story of adversity, ambition, diligence and triumph*



5:30pm: ART STAMPEDE @FoodCourt

Theme: **Memo to the Ministry of Arts, Culture & Creative Economy**
Stakeholders in the Culture sector dissect the current state of the Nigerian creative economy sector; offer blue prints on how the sector could tap into local and global resources to maximize gains and opportunities.

Featuring: Heads of Artists organisations, guilds, cohorts, advocates and activists

It is the Festival's PLENARY Wrap-up

LABAF @25 special project

