

Alliance Française Ibadan
Invites you to

REFLECTIONS OF HUMANITY

Photography Exhibition

Curated by Nsebasì AKPAN

Opening Day: Tue, 19th Aug, 2025 // 4:00pm

**Exhibition runs till Sept 2nd,
(10:00am - 5:00pm) 2025**



Alliance Française Ibadan
7th Day Adventist Road, (close to
the Magistrate court), Iyaganku

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Mrs. Olaide Turner-Moyet
Director, AF Ibadan

The Alliance Française is a non-profit cultural organization present in more than 130 countries. Its main mission is to promote the French language and foster cultural exchanges between France and host countries. It acts as a center for linguistic, cultural, and educational outreach.

Its main activities:

1. Teaching French:

French courses for all levels (children, teenagers, adults)
Preparation for international exams (DELFL, DALFL, TCF, etc.)
Training for FLE (French as a Foreign Language) teachers

2. Promotion of Francophone cultures:

Organization of cultural events (concerts, exhibitions, shows, conferences, film screenings, etc.)
Celebration of major Francophone dates (Fête de la Francophonie, International Women's Day, etc.)

3. Supporting cultural diversity:

Promoting local talent through artistic partnerships
Platform for exchange between French, Francophone, and local cultures

4. Access to resources:

Library/media library offering books, magazines, films, and digital resources
Access to platforms such as Culturethèque (online cultural and educational resources)

5. Acting as a bridge between cultures:

Privileged partner of embassies, educational and cultural institutions
Support for students wishing to pursue their studies in France

The Alliance Française is open to everyone, French speakers or not, and aims to be a place for meeting, exchange, and dialogue.



Nseabasi Akpan
Exhibition Curator

This exhibition brings together powerful stories told through the eyes of photographers from around the world. Each artist offers a glimpse into what it means to be human – the struggles, the joys, the hopes, and the strength we share.

The photographs reveal different facets of humanity: resilience in the face of hardship, the power of community, the beauty of everyday life, and quiet moments of connection and spirituality. Through their images, the artists invite us to look beyond ourselves and to understand the lives of others with empathy and respect.

My own contribution to this exhibition is titled ‘Who No Go No Know’. From May to July 2025, I was invited by CBK Zuidoost for an artist residency at BijlmAIR in Heesterveld, Amsterdam. For this project, I engaged with the Nigerian community in the Bijlmer to explore their stories and lived experiences. The work investigates the contrast between the dream of migrating to Europe and the often harsh reality – shedding light on the current lives of Nigerians in Amsterdam Southeast.

As you explore this collection, we hope you are moved by these stories and reminded that, no matter where we come from, our shared humanity binds us together.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Warm regards,
Nseabasi Akpan
Curator, Reflections of Humanity, 2025



“Just Girls” By Peace Oladipo Nigeria

Peace Oladipo is a documentary photographer and indie filmmaker known for her captivating images that capture the essence of people and places. With a passion for storytelling, she has dedicated her career to documenting social issues in her country. Through her lens, Peace brings attention to marginalized communities, shedding light on their struggles and triumphs. She won the 1st Prize in the #Safe4Press Photo and Art Contest (Student's Category) in 2023, organized by Center for Journalism Innovation and Development in Collaboration with the Society of Nigerian Artists.



This body of work is centered on women and their journey in my country. As the title suggests, every woman was once a girl, and this celebrates the simplicity and beauty of girlhood. Through this project, I showcase the interactions between climate change and women, particularly in their daily struggle with unclean cooking methods. At the same time, I showcase women's resilience and leadership in various sectors, including food systems, entrepreneurship, business, and fashion, especially at the grassroots level.



The project also sheds light on the challenges women face, such as marginalization and stigma. One remarkable story features a woman living with leprosy who has found prosperity through petty trading. Ultimately, "Just Girls" captures the diverse lives of women in rural communities. It reflects womanhood.



“Acts of Humanity” **By Shahidul Islam** **Bangladesh**



Humanity is a virtue linked with altruistic ethics derived from the human condition. It signifies human love and compassion towards each other. Humanity differs from mere justice in that there is a level of altruism towards individuals included in humanity more so than in the fairness found in justice.

Humanity and people are related to each other. Humanity basically awakens the human mind and body. Through my pictures, I want to express the happiness, sadness, laughter, and tears of people. Love people, teach people to love, this is true humanity. My name is Shahidul Islam and I live in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.





"A Shared Struggle" is an ongoing series capturing the diverse stories of my Sudanese community. What began as a simple effort to photograph candid moments evolved into an immersive exploration of personal histories. Through interactions at community events, in studios, and during everyday encounters, I have discovered powerful narratives of overcoming displacement and exile.

Each portrait serves as a window into the lives of individuals facing the challenges of exile, revealing both shared hardships and unique strengths. Whether engaging with artists, painters, DJs, or ordinary community members, I aim to highlight how resilience emerges even in the most trying circumstances.

"A shared struggle"

**By Ahmed Faisal Abdelrahim Ibrahim
Sudan**





Alkistis Voulgari was born in Athens, Greece. She is an actress and dancer, specialising in the dance technique of Isadora Duncan. For the last five years she has been experimenting with her own film and performance creations, incorporating theatre, poetry, literature, dance and radio art.

Her work has been presented internationally. She is gradually visualising and working on the reconnection of theatre with its natural roots through improvisation and exploration of the primitive idea in an open natural space where the film camera becomes the 'director's eye' and an eternal narrative of theatrical, performative, human and life experience.

“Glimpses of India” By Alkistis Voulgari Greece





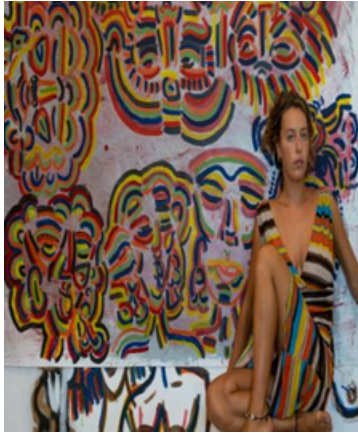
“Reflection of Humanity” By Victor Oluwayaju Nigeria

Victor Oluwayaju is a distinguished photographer and the creative director of Vicola Media where he provides innovative media solutions to individuals, brands, and organizations. His educational background includes a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Mass Communication and a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD), with ongoing pursuit of a Master's degree in Public Administration. As a dedicated lecturer, public speaker, writer, and trainer, he shares his expertise with others.

Victor's photography career is marked by numerous achievements. His works have been published and exhibited globally, and he has undertaken international projects in Benin Republic, Togo, and Burkina Faso, capturing the rich cultural heritage and diverse experiences of these West African nations. With a passion for storytelling and visual arts, Victor continues to push boundaries and explore new creative horizons.

These photographs invite viewers to contemplate the complexities and emotions that define us, from moments of joy and triumph to instances of sorrow and perseverance. Each image serves as a mirror, reflecting the human experience in all its forms, and encouraging empathy, understanding, and connection. With a deep appreciation for the human condition, I aim to inspire reflection, spark meaningful conversations, and celebrate the diversity of human experience through my photographs. By sharing these reflections, I hope to foster a deeper understanding of ourselves and each other, and to remind viewers of the common humanity that unites us all.



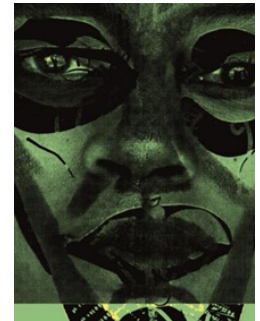
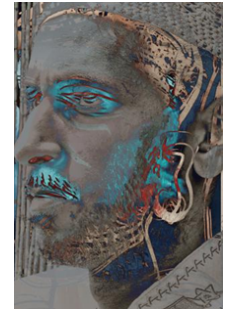


My name is Edith Codegoni. I am a visual artist, originally from Italy. For the last few years, I have been working on a documentary, anthropological art project, whose theme has been in search of Spirituality and so People of Spirituality.

I consider spirituality as the human effort to find, conserve, transform and so search for the sacred in our lives. My artistic research and selection of artworks, includes portraits, photos shot in India and photos digitally edited with the use of drawing and painting.

The result is a reflection of humanity and so the spirituality emerges from the reflection and sometimes refraction of parts of their identities through my eyes.

“People of Spirituality” By Edith Codegoni Italy





Abubakar Sadiq Mustapha is a multimedia storyteller whose works focus on climate change, displacement, identity, and culture. His work has appeared in the Ebedi Review, Ake Review, Lolwe, Panorama: The Journal of Travel, Place, and Nature, The Nigeria Review, The Shallow Tales Review, Libretto Magazine, and Salamander Ink Magazine. He is a fellow of the Bada Murya Fellowship and a 2023 fellow of the Imodoye Writers Residency.

The Kilisa festival of the Lapai Emirate of Niger state is celebrated twice a year to mark the five-day end of the Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr celebrations in the Emirate. By 10 am on the last day of the Sallah celebration, the emir and his entourage of title holders, district heads, traditional musicians, magicians, hunters, masquerade men, tourists, and locals proceed to the historical grounds called Kilisa, located somewhere on the outskirts of the city. At the grounds are usually performances by musicians, hunters, drama groups, magicians, masquerades, and stick fighters, and paying of homage by members of the royal family, dignitaries, and title holders. After the performances, the emir and his entourage in colorful regalia ride on horseback around the city and finally to the emir's palace, where the emir addresses the people. During the emir's ride home, there is usually a display by different groups on horseback, which is led by a traditional title holder or district head, as well as displays by hunters, magicians, stick fights by youthful Fulani men, and the masquerades known as Ndakogboya.

“Kilisa” By Sadiq Mustapha Nigeria





In 2022, a decade after the Syrian war officially ended, I traveled to witness its aftermath. The devastation was overwhelming, entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble, abandoned buildings standing like silent tombstones of the past. Cities once full of life had become mere shadows, unlikely to return to what they once were. Yet, amidst the ruins, I found something unexpected: resilience.

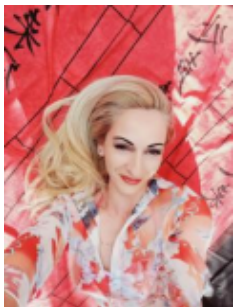
Among the destruction, young boys played football. Their laughter echoed through the empty streets, breaking the silence left by war. They dribbled the ball over shattered concrete, past collapsed buildings, as if refusing to let their world be defined by loss. Their game was not just play, it was an act of defiance, a declaration that life endures. Even in the darkest places, joy finds a way to exist.

As I watched them, I realized that while the city might never be rebuilt as it was, its spirit remained unbroken. These children had known nothing but war, yet they still dreamed, still played, still found happiness in something as simple as a football match. Their existence was a testament to humanity's strength, a reminder that hope persists even in the most shattered landscapes.

Perhaps, as long as children continue to play among the ruins, there is still a future waiting to be rebuilt. In their laughter, in their defiance, I saw the most profound reflection of humanity, the will to rise, to endure, and to hope."

“Resilience” **By Davide Garonzi** **Italy**



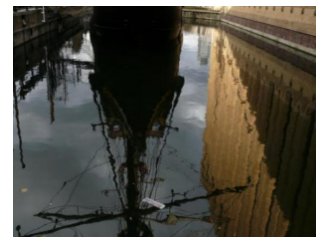


“Illusive Reality” By Jelena Jovančović Montenegro

Born in 1982, Podgorica (Titograd, SFRY) Montenegro, she lives and creates in Bar, Montenegro. Jelena Jovančović studied at the Faculty of Fine arts, Cetinje Montenegro (University of Montenegro) from 2002-2007 where she graduated from Printmaking department. 2008-2010 Master studies of Arts (Interdisciplinary Printmaking) at the Faculty of Fine Arts Cetinje, Montenegro. She completed her MA in 2010. 2008 Post Baccalaureate Certificate – Pont-Aven School of Contemporary Art, Pont-Aven, France. Jelena Jovančović works primarily in printmaking, experimental print, object-sculpture and photography. She has held 25 solo exhibitions and over 400 selected national and international group exhibitions.

I often photograph my surroundings—images that serve as trails, marks, and visual legends. My current focus is Reverberation – Mirroring—exploring reflection as both a physical and conceptual state. In my work, the sky becomes land, the earth dissolves, and moments shift—revealing how our world mirrors our elusive perceptions.

I use natural reflections, where light and angle align to create images that exist only as the eye perceives them. These reflections do not alter reality, but add a layer of illusion—unreal, absurd, yet strikingly real. Double images and visual duplication become a metaphor for modern life. A reflection on water becomes a metaphor for the distorted image of today’s world. A man appears upside down—an echo of lost values and inverted truths. In many works, I connect the incompatible: sky merges with soil; man dissolves into sky and earth. It’s illusion, a mistake—or a deliberate reflection of our fractured reality. Each image is both a mirror and a message.

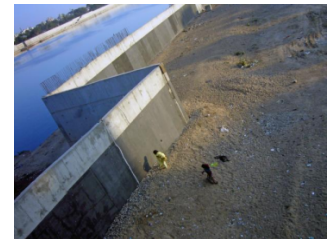




Born in 1959 in Cologne, Germany. Studied 1975-1977 at the School of Printmaking and Design, Cologne, Germany and 1977-1981 Dun Laoghaire School of Art and Design, (IADT) Dublin, Ireland. Works as a multimedia and interdisciplinary artist. Photography plays a major role in his artistic concepts and works. The work belongs to the categories of art, conceptual and partly street photography. During his artistic career he has lived and worked in different countries Europe, the Far East and South Asia, Australia, North and South America and West Africa. Currently lives and works in The Hague, The Netherlands. Since 1981, worldwide participation in exhibitions, projects, art festivals.

In my work in the field of urban street photography, which also involves people, I follow the following principles: My goal is to isolate, catalog, analyze, and examine in detail these perceptions, seemingly unremarkable views, and mundane structures and patterns of everyday human life. I want to delve deeper into the context in which they are situated, how they differ from one place to another, from one neighborhood or community to another. Finally, I want to examine how they relate to and are connected to one another. Accordingly, I pay special attention to the obvious, subtle details of the environments we create or inhabit. My interpretations are ultimately embedded experiments through alternating observations and analyses of our visible and invisible environments and human behaviour.

“Everyday Human Life”
By Johannes Christopher Gérard
Germany



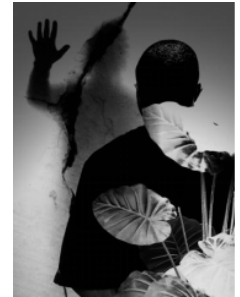


“The Cartography of the Soul” By Oladosu Michael Emerald Nigeria

Oladosu Michael Emerald, the author of "Every Little Thing That Moves," is a multidisciplinary artist, poet, and educator, recognized for his published works in magazines such as Lolwe, Ake Review, Daily Times Nigeria, and the Nigerian Tribune, among others. He has won or placed in various contests, including the Off the Limit Art Contest and the Spring Annual Poetry Contest, and a graduate of Mimaster Illustration College, Bologna, Italy. As an instructor and volunteer, he channels his passion for the arts to empower diverse communities.

In this photographic series, "The Cartography of the Soul," Emerald explores the universal threads that connect us all. Each image—whether capturing moments of vulnerability, environmental responsibility, or shared spirituality—serves as a confirmation of our collective resilience and interdependence. Through thoughtful composition and evocative contrasts of light and shadow, the photographs highlight the many facets of human experience: the beauty of unity, the struggle for identity, and the enduring bond between humanity and the natural world.

By focusing on everyday expressions of faith, environmental stewardship, and interpersonal connections, these works invite viewers to engage in introspection and empathy. They challenge us to see beyond our individual narratives and recognize the shared hopes, fears, and dreams that unite us. Ultimately, ****Reflections of Humanity**** stands as a call to acknowledge our common humanity, celebrating the power of community, compassion, and creative expression.





“What Will People Say” By Tsepiso Mahooe Lesotho

Tsepiso Mahooe is a 23 year old Lesotho born female photographer living in Soweto, Johannesburg. Mahooe holds Intermediate photography certificate from Market Photo Workshop. She has a certificate in film and script writing from SACAYF, September 2020. In 2018, she worked at The Hub, an organization in Lesotho where she was teaching children photography. Her current work focuses on the livelihoods of South Africans living in Soweto and their survival, moreover her other body of work focuses on the void and sense belonging she is experiencing due to the absence of her unknown father.

In June 2019, I came to South Africa to study, at the time I had a sponsor covering everything from fees, food, and accommodation. Before I could finish my sponsor faced personal challenges that lead to her withdrawing from supporting me. I had to move to a shack in Soweto. Life there was not easy, on top of that people were judgemental about my living situation. This then lead me to keeping my life a secret which made me depressed. Truth is I had dreams and ambitions I had to fulfil my location didn't matter that much as long as I had a roof over my head so I could do what I had to - finish school.

I am no longer staying in a shack, I have come to reflect on others in a similar situation having to get by living in a shack. My current body of work aims to address the misconceptions people who live in shacks. I am currently documenting the lives in the informal settlement in Soweto called Ghosttown. I've met a lot of people there who are going through what I went through. They can't even take pictures in their space because of the fear of “what will people say?”. Through my work my aim is to give people there authorship of their space though the images I take. So they too can be proud of the progress they have made.





“Playing Is Learning” By Rob Godfried The Netherlands

Children learn through playing. Nothing new about that. But in most educational systems ‘playing’ has been replaced by ‘teaching’. Curriculum and teacher became the leading path for the children to develop and learn . The children became objects of teaching instead of subjects developing and learning. Thus the power of playing to learn was taken away from the kids.

In my bigger report you see children in a situation of playing, set up, facilitated and coached by a teacher who understands that in role-play skills and attitude are naturally needed to be as real as real life. Children want to know and learn all that is needed to play the constructed situation ‘as if’ it were real! There is the will to learn, instead of the pressure to learn. You see motivated, concentrated and learning children full of joy.

In this particular series you see here children are playing doctor, nurse, patient, pharmacist, cashier, making necessary notes, measuring, reading in the waiting room, working together. And a cultural figure: the traditional healer.





My name is Oluseyi Olalekan Komolafe, from Ilesha, Osun state, Nigeria. I started as a film editor apprentice but in 2012 but I moved into photography fully when I got a camera as a gift from my brother. Since then I've covered many weddings and events. I worked for some organizations including CHESTRAD Global (Centre for Health Sciences Training, Research and Development), as a photographer working with the research consultant for the United Nations Women Trafficking In-Person (TIP) study in in Nigeria. I also worked for a media outfit, Rare Edge Media.

I studied accounting from The Polytechnic, Ilé-Ifè. I speaks English, Yoruba and some German. When not actively working, I can be found cleaning and seeing movies.

My photography captures the untold stories within everyday moments. This series documents the 2020 End SARS protests in Nigeria - an uprising filled with pain, courage, and unity. Using both my phone and digital camera, I focused on what many might miss: the quiet power in gestures, faces, and scenes that speak volumes. I'm driven by the need to tell stories that matter, to reveal beauty and meaning in the overlooked. We may all witness the same event, but through my lens, I aim to show something deeper - something human.

“End SARS” By Oluseyi Olalekan Komolafe Nigeria





Bienvenue Fotso is a Cameroonian visual artist who lives and works in Douala. She was trained in the workshop of the Futur'Art association. She is also a graduate of Ateliers Kam'art 2021, a photography training workshop. Her work evokes poetically the multiple and interrelated destinies of Man and the forest, in order to explore nature as a whole. Her artistic practice most often takes the form of painting, but also photography, video and installation. Bienvenue has taken part in a number of exhibitions, including her first solo "FIPAN GRASS" (African Art Beats Gallery, Washington 2022), the ACAA fair (Paris, 2023); OFF Biennale Dakar, Manifa (2024); "La place de l'humain" (Douala 2017) at Doual'art; "AUJOURD'HUI" (Yaoundé 2019)

This photo series is part of the project « Fipan-grass » (considered to be the fever herb, by extension traditional medicine). Fipan-Grass therefore has strong cultural roots and over the decades has acquired national resonance, even more so with the advent of Covid 19. For as long as I can remember, traditional medicine has always been a part of my life, as I come from a family of tradition-keepers. A decoction or chewing of certain leaves or roots could very quickly put an end to many ailments. But on this occasion, medicinal plants were called in to treat a virus. The idea behind this project was for us to reconsider the place of our habits and customs which are part of who we are and a profound expression of our humanity.

"Fipan Grass" By Bienvenue Fotso Cameroon





My name is Amber Joy, I'm 27 and I'm an artist based in London. I create music and perform experimental stories under the name THE NARRATOR. I often carry a cheap digital camera with me to capture the people I encounter in my day. Upon visiting my home country of Grenada last October for the first time, I was inspired to document my experience. The carousel of pictures below are of family I finally met and strangers I'll never forget.

**“Untitled”
By Amber Joy
United Kingdom**





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