

Into the Deep

A Solo Exhibition by Chika Idu

We cordially invite you to the opening of our upcoming show "*Into the Deep*", featuring the works of Multidisciplinary artist, Chika Idu. In this new body of work, Chika Idu's dynamic compositions are a direct response to the livelihood of destitute water-communities in Southern Nigeria. From studying the every-day life of its people, where children and adults swim, bathe and eat from the same water supply that is populated with waste and sewage, he was inspired by the expressed normalcy and joyfulness these individuals exhibited— especially living under such burdensome conditions.

Idu invites us into a renewed connection with what lies beyond the views of the normalised African rhetoric, and exposes the core of human experience in all its beauty and raw representation.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Exhibition Opening: 13th May - 6th of June 2023

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday | 11am - 6pm

Location: ODA Art Gallery | 10 Sir Samuel Manuwa Street, Victoria Island, Lagos

ABOUT O'DA ART GALLERY

O'DA is a Contemporary Art Gallery based in Lagos, Nigeria. Established in 2021, we specialise in the work of Contemporary Art & Design from across the African continent and its diaspora.

Bridging the gap between local and international audiences, our gallery is committed to championing mid-career and established artists, whilst celebrating multi-faceted designers who explore a wide range of themes such as; identity, technology, political commentary, social consciousness and environmental change.

With "serenity" at the epicentre of our gallery vision, we strive to showcase engaging exhibitions by fusing art and interior design to create an immersive environment for our audiences. With a continuous programme of sublime exhibitions, installations and performances, the gallery aims to foster global partnerships, expand a gallery residency programme and welcome art connoisseurs to contemporary West African art practices.

ABOUT ARTIST

Chika Idu (born 1974) is a multidisciplinary artist who uses his art to highlight relations between nature and the human race. With a 20-year studio practice, Idu comments on the adaptive abilities that humans embody once faced with ecosystems that are foreign to her origin. Returning to the exploration of his *Swimmer series*, Idu is concerned with the interplay between light and darkness which is characterised using a heavy texture and hazy rendition technique he calls 'light against visual distortion'. In hopes of exposing the plight of the African child, Idu continues to depict an energetic flow between the suspended figures and the textured water as a means to connect the optimism of the people who live in these communities and the hope for the betterment of the spaces they inhabit.

Chika Idu is a graduate of the Auchi art School with a major in Painting in 1998. He was instrumental in the creation of the Defactori Studios, a collective of dynamic new generation artists. He also created Nigeria's first Water Colour Society of Artists (SABLES)