

Walk Like a Champion

A Solo Exhibition by Abe Odedina

O'DA Art is pleased to present, *Walk like a Champion*, Abe Odedina's first solo exhibition in Lagos, Nigeria.

This new body of work is a testament to this special gathering and the thrilling opportunity to finally exhibit in Nigeria again and most importantly, to make a show for his Mother ahead of the centenary of her birth. Its title, that Odedina attests, 'is not about swagger. It's not about strutting around. It's about what you think a champion is? It's about being undeniably true to yourself. When we say "walk", it's in a more important sense than one foot in front of the other. It's how you go through life. It's the Big Walk.'

This exhibition exemplifies the artist's personal philosophies, whilst emphasising what he is eager to communicate – to his Mother, to us, to the world. Odedina was given the tools to walk like this from his Mother, who taught him to never be obstinate or inflexible about ideas, that you always have choice, and you have the freedom to explore. Through his practice where he embraces figurative work comfortably with abstract concepts, the artist gifts these tactics to us.

Walk like a Champion is ultimately about being comfortable with your undeniable, ever changing self. By unapologetically employing acrylic alchemy between different symbols and styles, Odedina births casually fantastic characters that we can see ourselves in.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Opening Reception: 28th October, 2023

Exhibition Dates: 28th October - 18th November, 2023

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

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

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Abe Odedina (B. 1960)

Born in Ibadan, Nigeria, now living in London (UK) and Salvador Bahia (Brazil). Abe Odedina had a successful architecture career before starting to paint on a trip to Brazil in 2007. Working on board rather than canvas, Odedina's tableaus embody all the solidity – and practicality – of shop fronts or municipal murals. Compositional elements of Renaissance portraiture, devotional painting and even pop art frame figures from diverse mythologies (Yoruba, Haitian, Ancient Greek) as well as passers-by or characters plucked from the artist's own imagination. 'If, like me, you don't have the discipline or the interest in holding these clear categories,' says Odedina, 'then maybe it's better to enjoy that morphing, from hard facts to poetry, from something to nothing.'

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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.

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