

Fresco Gallery

Press Release March 2024

Press contact:

Ima Ekpo

contact@thefrescogallery.com

090 7398 7026

Exhibition: Fresco Gallery presents “Solitude,” Gbolahan Ayoola’s debut original, limited-edition print release.



The one who has lived long enough to know that life can bring down the strong, 2024
Print with acrylic on giclee archival fine art/cotton rag paper 310gsm
24" x 16" inches

Fresco Gallery is thrilled to present “Solitude: The Fortunate Loneliness of Being on a Path Less Traveled” a solo exhibition of original, limited-edition prints by Gbolahan Ayoola (March 30 - April 27, 2024).

After two decades of mastering traditional mediums, including painting and drawings, Ayoola embarks on an exploration of new media, including printmaking, animation, and digital art.

In this groundbreaking collection, Ayoola strives to articulate the profoundness in moments of seclusion and introspection. Exploring new, contemporary mediums, he combines the old and the new, drawing inspiration from the past and the present. Each print, derived from his iconic bodies of works “The Blue Woman” and “We Are The Re-Agents,” is meticulously hand-painted, hand-signed, and digitally designed by the Artist, ensuring unquestionable intentionality and authenticity.

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Darkest Path, Brightest Sky, 2024
Print with acrylic on giclee archival fine art/cotton rag paper 310gsm
27" x 19" inches

“The realm of digital art, prints, and animation offers me a portal into self-discovery and introspection,” says Ayoola. “As an artist, my soul pours into the intricate dance between solitude and the human spirit. Embarking on this artistic odyssey marks a profound shift in my voyage, offering a fresh mosaic for weaving thoughts and visions. As I navigate this uncharted cosmic sea and carve my own constellations, I find myself unshackled from the traditional confines that enveloped my previous mediums. This new route presents a realm of liberation and empowerment, a symphony of freedom as I fearlessly embrace the unknown. Embracing this path less taken stands as a testament to my burning desire to break free from the shackles of conformity and plunge into the depths of my unique individuality.”

Join us for a multi-sensory, immersive experience of Ayoola’s exploration of Self and new media. He invites you to embark on a pilgrimage of self-exploration and introspection. **Presented in collaboration with AMG Gallery.**

March 30 - April 27, 2024

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

AMG Projects
24 Rasheed Alaba Williams, Lekki Phase 1
Lagos, Nigeria

Closed on Mondays

[Catalogue](#)

Artist Statement

As an artist, my soul pours into the intricate dance between solitude and the human spirit, culminating in the unveiling of my debut exhibition of exclusive prints, "Solitude: The Fortunate Loneliness of Being on a Path Less Traveled." With each stroke and pixel, I strive to capture the raw power and profound introspection that bloom in moments of seclusion. The realm of digital art, prints, and animation offers me a portal into self-discovery and introspection, a journey that transcends the ordinary and delves deep into the essence of existence.



Gbolahan Ayoola, captured in his Lagos studio

Solitude, to me, is a sacred ballet of renewal, contemplation, devotion, and strategic contemplation. It is within these silken threads of solitude that we unravel the tapestry of our thoughts, emotions, and intentions, paving the way for personal metamorphosis and inner enlightenment. Furthermore, my artistic inquiry into human behavioral

nuances through the prism of anthropology adds an enigmatic layer to my creations. By decoding these intricate symphonies of human interaction, emotions, and cognition, I aim to craft pieces that resonate viscerally and provoke deep contemplation and soul-stirring reflection in the beholder.

Embarking on this artistic odyssey marks a profound shift in my voyage, offering a fresh mosaic for weaving thoughts and visions. As I navigate this uncharted cosmic sea and carve my own constellations, I find myself unshackled from the traditional confines that enveloped my previous mediums. This new route presents a realm of liberation and empowerment, a symphony of freedom as I fearlessly embrace the unknown. Embracing this path less taken stands as a testament to my burning desire to break free from the shackles of conformity and plunge into the depths of my unique individuality.

Through the prism of "Solitude: The Fortunate Loneliness of Being on a Path Less Traveled," I beckon you to join me on an immersive pilgrimage of self-exploration, introspection, and the revelation of the human saga. Let my art be your guiding

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constellation, leading you into the uncharted territories of introspection and unveiling the enigmatic tapestry of the human experience.

About The Artist

Gbolahan Ayoola (b.1977) is a gifted and prolific visual artist based in Lagos, Nigeria. Born and raised in the palace with a blend of traditional Yoruba culture and Christian beliefs, blossomed into a renowned contemporary African artist. His upbringing, steeped in the dichotomy of Esu and Christ, sparked his interest in exploring the theme of coloniality in African art. Despite initially failing to grasp the artistic significance of his surroundings, Ayoola's inherent talent flourished naturally. Educated at Obafemi Awolowo University, he discovered his artistic prowess exceeded that of his teachers. Through dismantling Western colonial influence and embracing African heritage, he emerged as a captivating artist with a unique perspective.

Ayoola's works have garnered international recognition, with exhibitions in prestigious galleries worldwide. His art is featured in prominent collections, included in reputable institutions such as the World Bank in Washington, USA; African Finance Corp, Nigeria; and The Nigerian National Gallery of Arts, and showcased on various digital platforms, including Netflix and Amazon Prime. He has received numerous awards, including the "54 Nigerian Art Masters" from the Greek Embassy of Nigeria. A mentor and facilitator, Ayoola continues to inspire the next generation of artists and push boundaries with his thought-provoking creations.

Gbolahan has thrived in the art industry for over 20 years. He is a graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife, with a Bachelor's in Fine/Applied Arts.

[Website](#), [Instagram](#)

About Fresco Gallery

Fresco Gallery is a contemporary art gallery with a distinct focus on original prints and editions by emerging and established African artists. Since its establishment in 2022, the Gallery has showcased and collaborated with artists from Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and the African diaspora, fostering connections across various African cities.

At the heart of Fresco's philosophy is artist collaboration and accessibility for collectors. Our mission is to encourage a new generation of art enthusiasts while advocating for the integration of prints and edition-making within the realm of contemporary African art.

Operating primarily online, with periodic physical exhibitions, Fresco Gallery is based in Lagos, Nigeria. Web

[Website](#), [Instagram](#)