



IPADÀBÒ

A Solo Art Exhibition by
Ajayi Damilare Elijah (Snoz)

Ajayi Eli

Curator - Dr Chief Nike Davies Okundaye

IPADÀBÒ

(The Return)

By

Àjàyí Damilare Elijah



Nike Art Foundation

Abuja , Nigeria

21st - May 5th 2026



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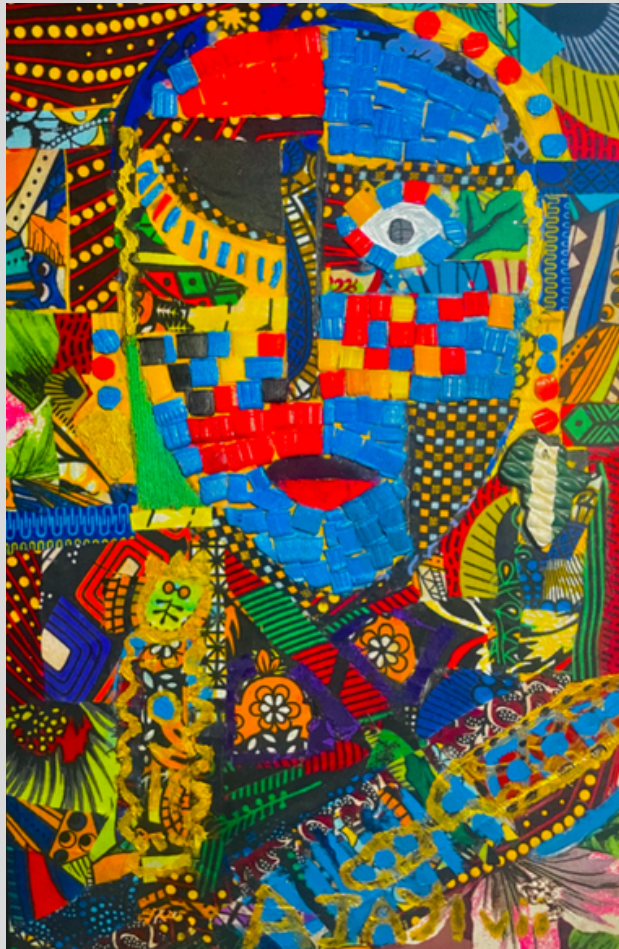
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Nike Art Foundation

Abuja , Nigeria



NIKE ART GALLERY ABUJA , NIGERIA



IPADÀBỌ

An exhibition exploring memory, identity, culture, and human connection through symbolic visual storytelling.



NIKE ART GALLERY

Abuja international airport road , Piwoyi Village , Abuja FCT , Nigeria



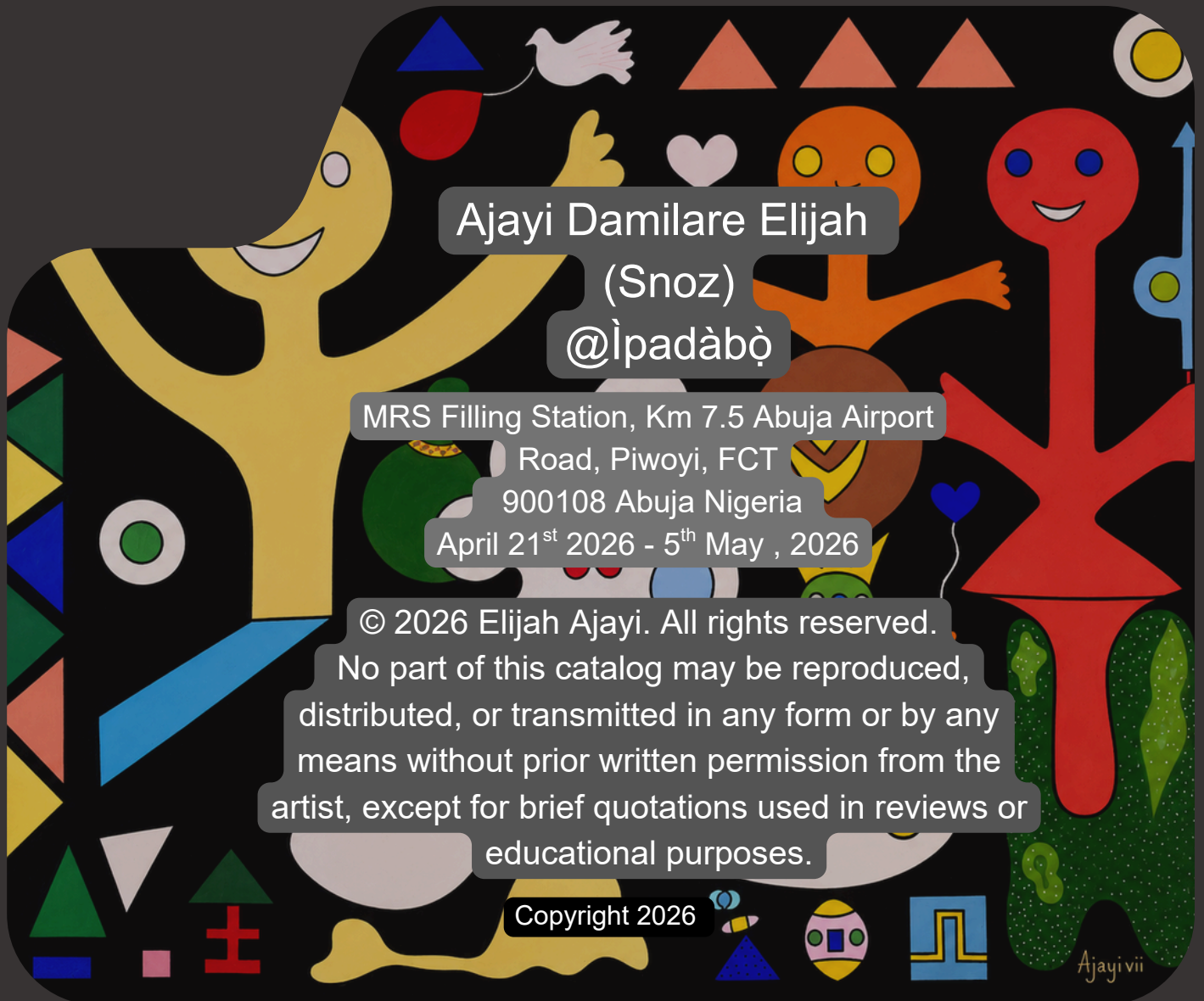
21st April 2026

-

5th May 2026



NIKE ART GALLERY ABUJA , NIGERIA



Ajayi Damilare Elijah
(Snoz)
@Ìpadàbò

MRS Filling Station, Km 7.5 Abuja Airport
Road, Piwoyi, FCT
900108 Abuja Nigeria
April 21st 2026 - 5th May , 2026

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Ajayi vii

Cover Images
Ayò tí kò ní òpin (Endless joy)

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my parents, my two little sisters, Deborah and Imisi, and my two brothers, Biodun and Israel. Thank you all for your unwavering support and encouragement throughout this journey
Ìpadàbò is dedicated to you



FORWARD



It is with great pleasure that we extend our warmest regards in celebration of
Ìpàdàbò (The Return)

Though distance has made it impossible for us to be physically present on this
occasion

The title of the show — "The Return" — is quite intriguing. That title, along with
the illustration on the invitation itself, suggests some new directions in your
works and style.

While we may not be in attendance, we join in spirit in celebrating this
milestone.

We raise a glass in recognition of Elijah's talent, dedication, and the bright
trajectory of his artistic journey.

Richard Mills and Leigh Mills

US Ambassador to Nigeria
May 2, 2024, to January 16, 2026

Exhibition Opening

By

Chief Dr Nike Davies Okundaye



Mama Nike Okundaye is a celebrated cultural icon whose dedication to arts, education, and mentorship has inspired generations of artists. Her commitment to preserving indigenous knowledge and empowering creatives continues to strengthen Nigeria's artistic and cultural heritage.

<http://nikeartfoundation.com>

Curator Statement

IPADÀBÒ, a conceptual exhibition, translated from the Yoruba language of the western part of Nigeria as “The Return,” explores both a physical and psychological homecoming.

In this body of work, Ajayi Damilare Elijah (Snoz) navigates the layered realities of returning to a homeland that is at once familiar and transformed. Born in Nigeria and raised in Malaysia, his practice emerges from the tension between memory and present experience, between inherited identity and lived reality.

Rather than presenting a singular narrative, Ajayi embraces complexity. The community he encounters upon his return is not the one he recalls from memory back, but a space reshaped by time, politics, religion, and evolving social structures. His works reflect this shift, offering perspectives that are both celebratory and critical, intimate and observational.

Employing a visual language rooted in conceptual symbolism, Ajayi integrates recurring motifs, abstracted figures, some somewhat realistic images and coded markings inspired by African iconography and contemporary culture. These elements form a personal path through which lived experiences are translated into layered visual narratives. Through mixed media, the artist constructs textured surfaces that mirror the diversity of his themes. Fabric fragments reference continuity and identity, while repurposed (up cycled) materials such as bottle tops evoke ideas of consumption, fragmentation, and reconstruction. Ajayi makes his art happy, and gleeful. Even though certain messages might seem too deep, the playful characters makes the art more interesting and this goes deeper to give an insight about the artist and how he sees life in general.

Ultimately, IPADABO is an act of reconciliation, an attempt to understand displacement, embrace change, and find balance within evolving notions of home and belonging



Cover image: Creative rebirth 2025, Acrylic, newspaper on canvas

Creative Rebirth is a visual meditation on creation itself. It speaks to the belief that every beginning is born from thought—a silent seed from which ideas, dreams, and realities emerge. The work captures the journey from imagination to existence, celebrating the power of the mind to create and recreate the world around us.



Title

Ìtèsíwájú

91.44 cm × 121.92 cm

2026

A dynamic interplay of symbols and forms, this work embodies the journey of goals pursued through perseverance, consistency, and love.

IPADABO

<http://nikeartfoundation.com>



Title

Ìjìnlẹ

Acrylic on canvas

91.44 cm × 121.92 cm

2026

The work invites viewers to assemble their own narrative from these fragments. It operates as a visual meditation on perception, balance, transformation, and origin

Title

Freedom

Mixed media with
Newspaper and Acrylic on
canvas

91.44 × 91.44 cm
2024





Title Calling

Acrylic on canvas

30cm by 30 cm
2026





**Title: Ayò Tí Kò L'Ópin
(Endless Joy)**

Acrylic on canvas
152.4 cm × 121.92 cm
2026





Title

Àtúnbi

(Rebirth)

Acrylic on canvas

91.44 cm × 121.92 cm

2026

Rebirth emerges as both spiritual renewal and the reclamation of value, where true wealth lies in identity and becoming

Title

Untitled

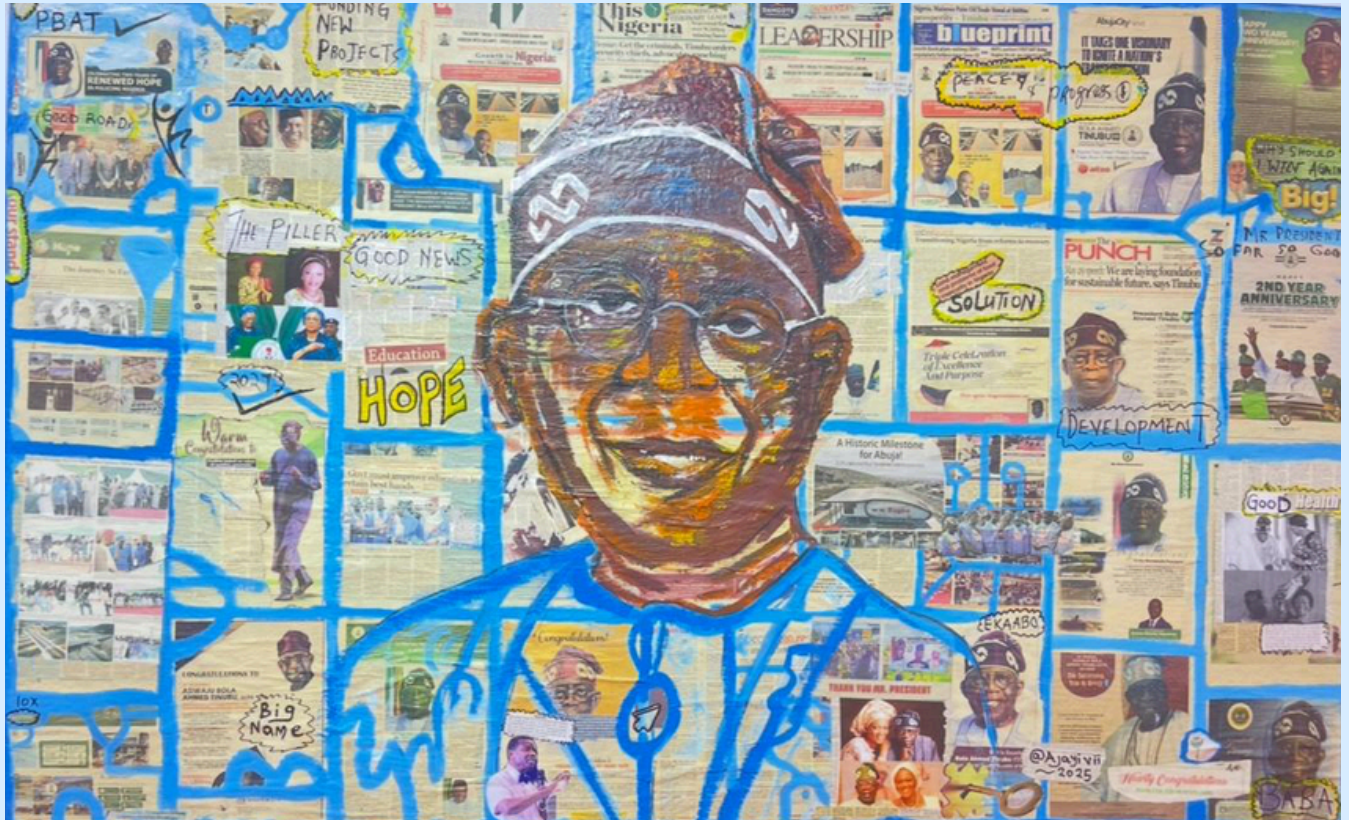
Paper , Acrylic on canvas

90.44cm by 91.44cm
2024

This Artwork captures vulnerability, endurance, and quiet strength, inviting the viewer into a timeless space of reflection



IPADABO
Artist: Elijah Isaac O. Abo
Title: Untitled
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Year: 2025
Size: 90.44 x 91.44 cm
Price: ₦ 1,000,000



National Treasure

mix-media

243.84 cm × 152.4 cm

2025

Nigeria is not defined by bad news alone; it is defined by its people, its hope, and its future, This work represents renewed hope





Title: Ìrìn Àjò Èdà àti Àṣà
(The Journey of Humanity and Culture)

Acrylic on canvas

243.84 cm × 152.4 cm

2025 - 2026

This work maps the journey from primal existence to complex societies through layered imagery and ancestral motifs, inviting reflection on identity, progress, and shared origins.



IPADABO



Title

Silent Guide

Acrylic on canvas

91.44 cm × 60.96 cm
2026

This work conveys the idea that true leadership is not determined by age or size, but by clarity and direction, with the child symbolically guiding the adults forward



Title

Ojú Olówó Kì í Şe Tì Ẹlòmíràn

Acrylic on canvas

40cm × 50cm
2026



My Mind

Acrylic on canvas

60.96 By 60.96
2024



New Begining

Acrylic on canvas

60.96 By 48.16
2024



Promise Land

Acrylic on canvas

30.48cm by 60.96
2024



Title

The Law

Mix-media

91.44 cm × 121.92 cm

2024

This artwork ultimately reflects the law of life , a system built on order, patience, and consequence. It suggests that growth cannot be rushed, as every stage exists for a purpose. The golden spade at the top becomes a symbol of reward, earned only by those who understand and work within the laws that govern existence. In contrast, those who ignore these principles risk falling into confinement, disorder, and chaos. Through this tension, the work explores discipline, endurance, and the quiet power of aligning oneself with the natural structure of life.

IPADABO



Unmoved, Yet Found

wood & iron and acrylic

The bench does not move, does not call, does not explain.

It simply remains.

In Ipadabo, return is not a question of direction, but of alignment.

What is yours does not seek you, you arrive at it.

The bench stays.

And still, you come back.





The Quiet Base

Even at its lowest point, it holds presence. With fewer marks, it speaks to the strength in simplicity



The Full Rise

This work reflects the freedom and confidence that come with growth, playful, bold, and fully alive in its height.

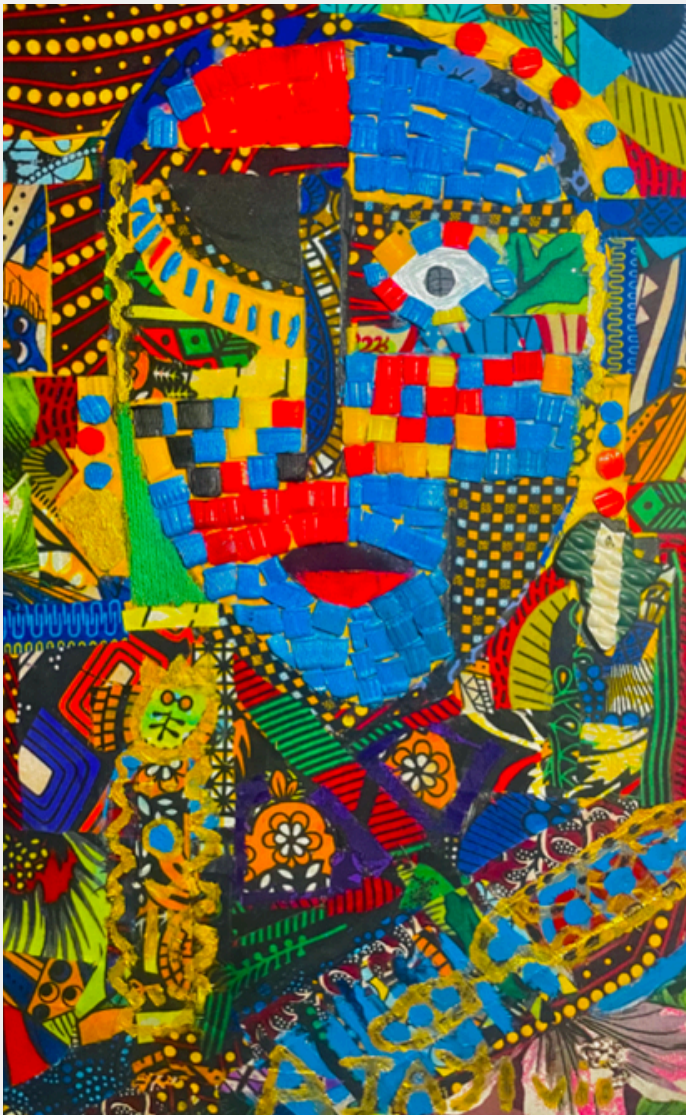


paint on wood and iron

The First Signal

The First Signal" reflects the power of being ourselves. Elevated in form, it speaks to growth and perspective, how each level we reach in life offers an advantage. The playful figures remind us that rising doesn't have to be serious; it can be joyful. In simply standing as we are, we find strength





Title

Only One

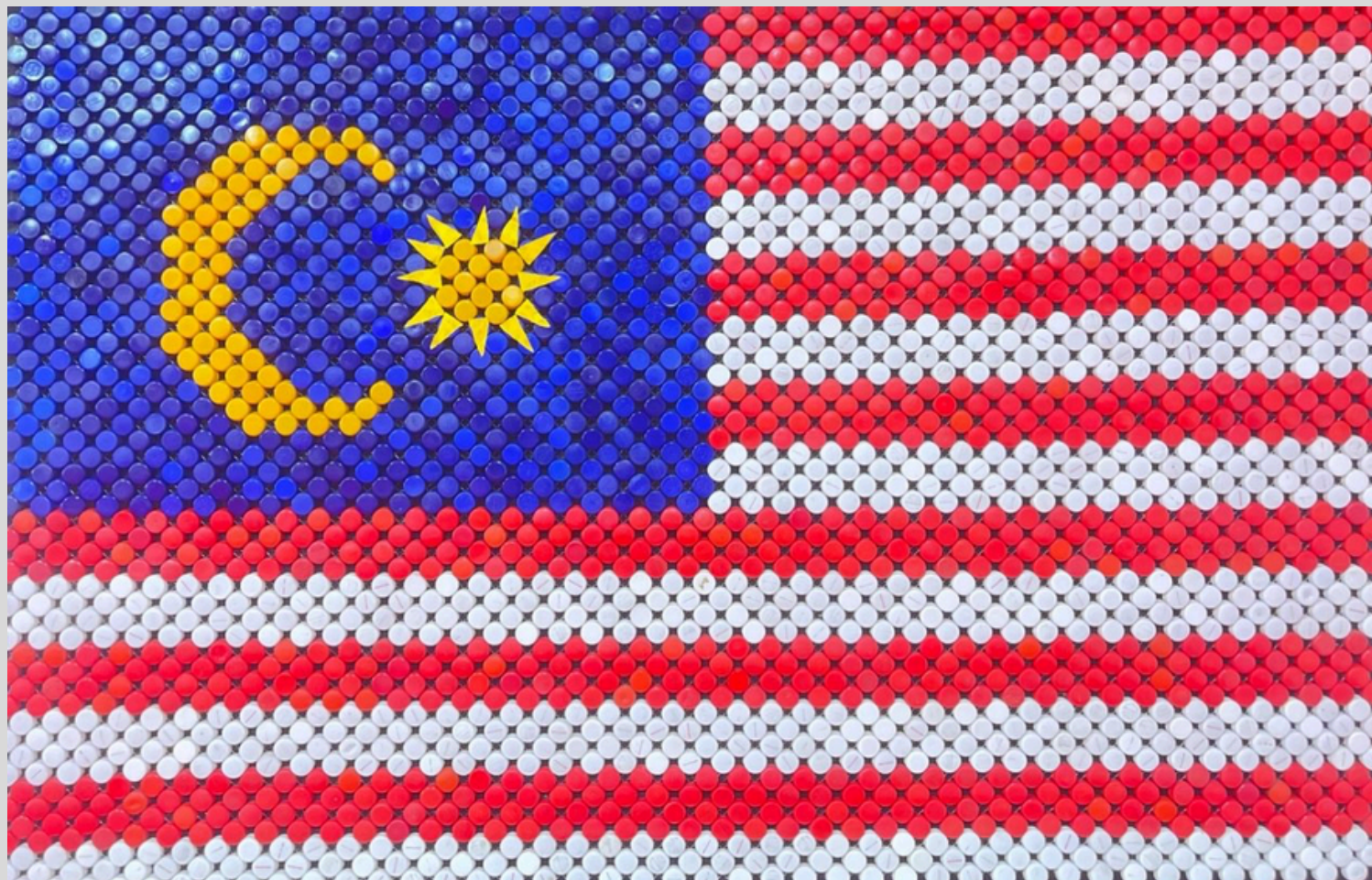
Mix Media
Plastic , fabrics & acrylic on canvas

45 cm by 30.5 cm
2024

Only one represents a nation learning to see together, choosing unity over division. One vision, many people.



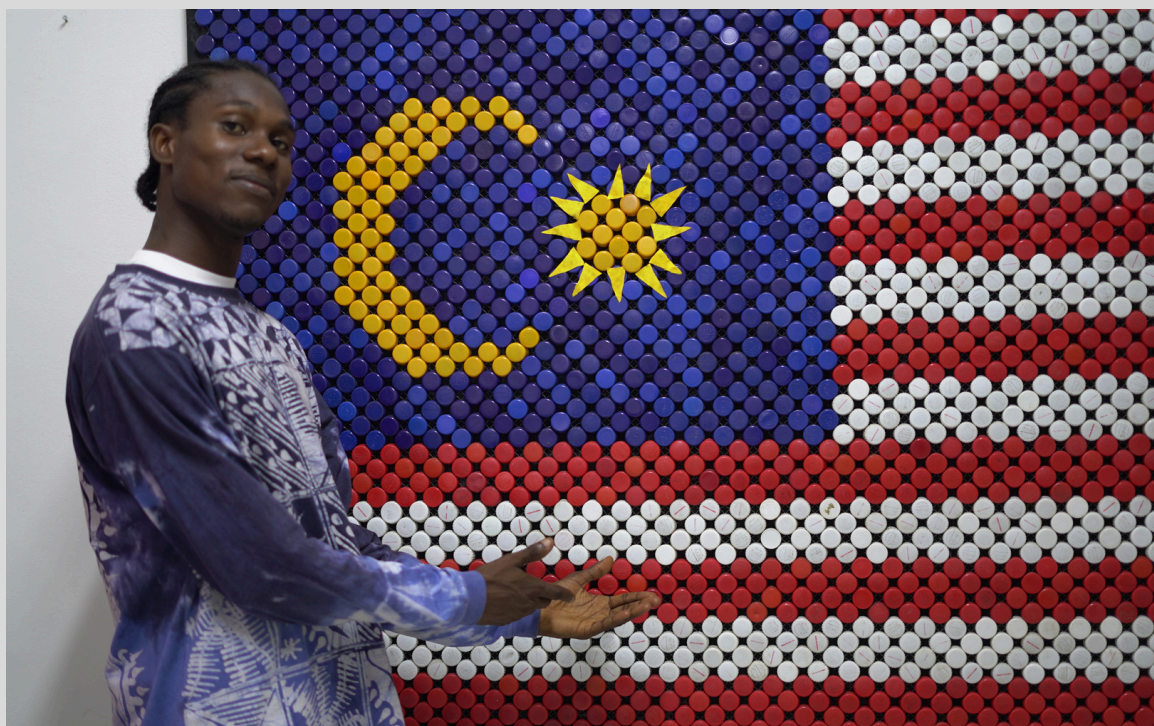
IPADABO



Title : From waste to nation

Mix media - Bottle tops & Fabrics

182.88 cm × 121.92 cm
2025



IPADABO



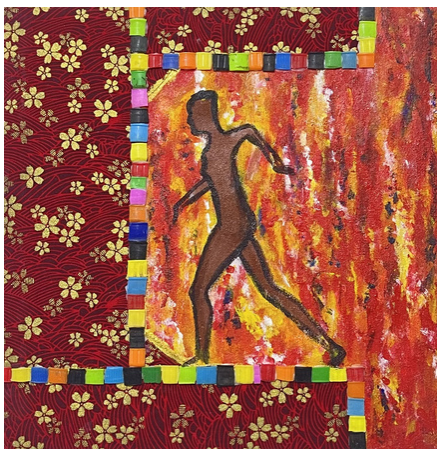
Special Visit

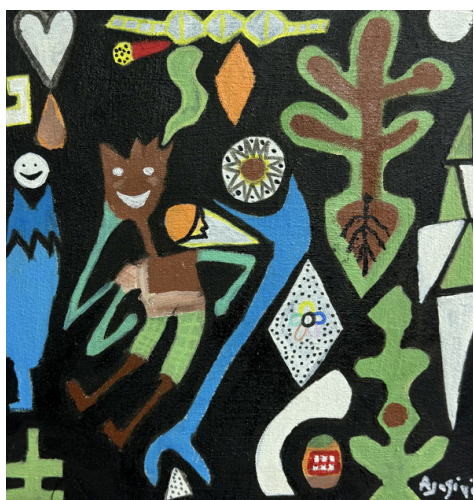
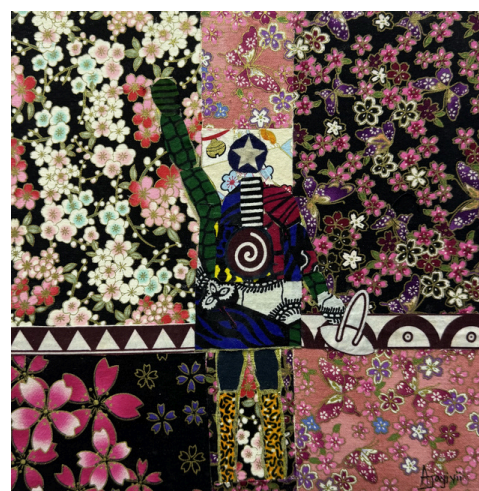
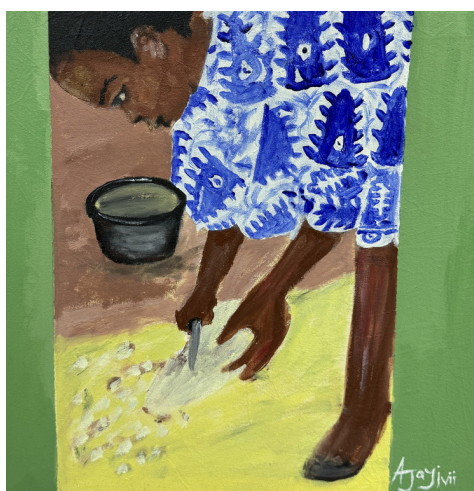
His Royal Majesty, the Obaro of Kabba
Oba (Dr.) Solomon Dele Owoniyi





IPADABO









ALX Africa
 Empowering 10,000
 Creatives by Fusing Art and
 Tech in Nigeria's Tech Talent
 With @ALXNigeria support
 and Nike art gallery





NIKE ART GALLERY ABUJA , NIGERIA

Artist Statement / Biography

AJAYI DAMILARE ELIJAH
(Snoz)

Ajayi Damilare Elijah (SNOZ) is a contemporary visual artist exploring identity, memory, and the connection between past and present. He began his professional practice in 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he grew up, shaping his cross-cultural perspective.

His practice is shaped by experience in fashion, music, and collaborations with global brands, bringing a distinct contemporary edge to his work. His visual language is defined by recurring motifs—eyes, cowries, and fractured form, which bridge spiritual awareness and physical reality.

Rooted in African philosophy and personal experience, his work explores themes of return, renewal, and self-discovery, while also addressing environmental concerns through the use of recycled materials such as plastics and fabric.

Ìpàdàbò (return) is a journey back to self, origin, and truth.

Through symbolism and abstraction, this body of work reflects the process of rediscovery in a world where identity is often fragmented. Motifs like the eye, cowries, and layered forms speak to awareness, ancestry, rupture, and healing.

Ìpàdàbò invites reflection—

What does it mean to return, and what do we find when we do?



Nike Art Foundation

The Nike Art Foundation, founded and led by Chief Mrs Nike Davies Okundaye, is a world-renowned institution dedicated to artistic education, cultural preservation, and creative empowerment.

Established in 1983 in Osogbo, Nigeria, the Foundation has provided free training and mentorship to hundreds of aspiring artists and craftspeople, equipping them with valuable skills in painting, wood sculpture, relief carving, beadwork, mosaic, batik, adire, appliqué, quilting, pen-and-ink drawing, drum making, dance, and other traditional and contemporary art forms.

What makes the Foundation truly unique is its commitment to teaching and presenting art in continuity with indigenous African culture and traditions. By preserving ancestral knowledge and nurturing new generations of creative talents, the Nike Art Foundation continues to inspire artistic excellence and foster cultural pride across communities.

Nike Art Foundation is Preserving Heritage, Empowering Creativity, and inspiring generations.

<http://nikeartfoundation.com>



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