

FEMI OLAJIRE AKANDE

Artist. Nigerian. Lives and work in Houston, U.S.A

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www.femiolajireakande.com

https://www.instagram.com/femi_olajire_akande/

<http://www.biafarin.com/artist?name=femi-akande>

<https://www.aic-iac.org/en/member/femi-akande-2/>

BIO

Femi Olajire Akande is a contemporary ceramic artist whose practice bridges traditional Yoruba ceramic heritage with modern innovation and philosophical reflection. Drawing from the moral wisdom of Yoruba culture, his work explores identity, cultural memory, theological allegory, and collective healing.

Through figurative and narrative-driven ceramic sculptures, Akande transforms clay into a vessel of spirit, ethics, and transformation. His recent body of work, *Ìwàlẹ̀wà: The Radiance Within*, centers on the Yoruba philosophy that “character is beauty,” reinterpreting beauty as an illumination of moral virtue.

Blending indigenous knowledge with global contemporary discourse, Akande uses ceramics as a contemplative medium that fosters peace, empathy, and renewal. His art affirms that true beauty radiates from within — inspiring personal growth, societal harmony, and the restoration of human dignity through the quiet power of form and moral imagination.

Education

2021–2023 Master of Fine Arts (Ceramics), Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas, USA

2013–2019 Postgraduate Diploma (Ceramics & Glass), Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria

2014–2018 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Employment

Artist in Residence

2023–2024 FOA Arts LLC, Houston, Texas, US

Graduate Assistant

2022–2023 Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas.

Supported instruction in ceramic arts, including 2D-to-3D model making, hand modeling, casting, glazing, and kiln operation, while providing technical and creative guidance to students

Principal Instructor I

2009–2025 The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

I taught National Diploma and Higher National Diploma students in drawing, ceramic sculpture, studio pottery, and 3D model making. Led instruction in clay modeling, casting, glazing, and kiln firing (wood, gas, and electric). Supervised final-year projects and mentored students, promoting both technical skill and personal growth.

Awards

2023 The 2023 American Art Awards Winners in Ceramic Sculpture—Representational, USA/Nigeria

2023 World Art Awards Winners in Ceramic Sculpture Representational, USA/Nigeria

2022 The Pinacothèque Awards Recognition, Luxembourg Museum, Luxembourg (Honorable Mention)

2008 Prize—Life in My City Art Festival Juried Exhibition, Enugu, Nigeria

2005 Prize—Best Overall Student, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

Jury Membership

2018 Member of the jury for the 2018 Annual National Arts, Science, and Technology Competition by the Educational Television Directorate of the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

2017 Member of the jury for the 2017 Annual National Arts, Science, and Technology Competition by the Educational Television Directorate of the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

Membership/Fellowship

2025 Elected member of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC)—elected 2025 (UNESCO-affiliated global body), based in Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.aic-iac.org/en/member/femi-akande-2/>

- 2023 The American Ceramics Society (ACerS 3012851), USA
 2023 Clay Houston, USA
 2018 Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA), Nigeria

Selected Exhibitions

- 2025 *Existence*. International Exhibizone Smart Group Exhibition, BC, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "Fragments of a Shattered Self".
<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/femi-olajire-akande-fragments-of-a-shattered-self>
- 2024 *FORMATIVE NARRATIVES*. Clay Houston Exhibition, Gallery 100, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Houston, Texas, U.S.A. – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "I Offer You My Soul."
- 2023 *PRECIOUS*. International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Vase: "HOPE."
 Gallerium: Precious—2023 | Group Exhibition
- 2023 *TRUE BEAUTY*. International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "Squirrel."
<https://www.exhibizone.com/p/truebeauty2023.html?TP=artists&name=femi-akande>
- 2023 *BELIEVE*. International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "When Grace Speaks."
<https://www.gallerium.art/p/believe-2023.html?TP=artists&name=femi-akande>
- 2023 *COLORIUM*. International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramics Vessel: "Look at the Lilies."
<https://www.gallerium.art/p/colorium-2023.html?name=femi-akande>
- 2023 *LOVE*. International Exhibizone Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Printmaking: "Sweet Indelible Memories."
<https://www.exhibizone.com/p/love2023.html?TP=artists&ARID=2440602000210819611>
- 2018 *SO FAR, THE EXPERIENCE*. Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. solo ceramics pottery exhibition.
- 2012 *UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN (UI) 50TH ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBITION*. Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Group Ceramics/Pottery Art exhibition.
- 2011 *CLAY IN THE MAGIC HAND OF MAN*. (solo ceramics exhibition)
 Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. 2011.
<https://www.aic-iac.org/wp-content/uploads/Femi-Olajire-Akande-solo-Exhibition-Catalogue-CLAY-IN-THE-MAGIC-HANDS-OF-MAN.pdf>
- 2008 *LIFE IN MY CITY ART FESTIVAL*. organized by Alliance Francais, Ibadan, and Enugu, Nigeria - Jury Selection, Ceramics sculpture: "State of the Nation."

Citations/Media Publications

- 2023 *Meet Femi Olajire Akande*. Canvas Rebel Magazine, November 30, 2023.
<https://canvasrebel.com/meet-femi-olajire-akande/>
- 2023 *World's Best Sculptors: 2023 American Art Awards*. Medium, November 6, 2023.
<https://thombierd.medium.com/worlds-best-sculptors-2023-american-art-awards-eren-mcavoy-xin-kang-nijssen-shook-d3acf5668406>

Research / Journal Publications

- 2024 Akande, F. O. *Place of Art in Healthy Peace and Conflict Resolution*.
 Researchers' Voices International Journal: An International Journal of Inquiries in Science, Commerce, Art, and Technology (ISCAT), Vol. XII, No. X, pp. 72–79. ISSN: 2971-6365. Published January 2024.
<https://www.exiswacpublishers.mozello.site.com/exiswac-joint-e-journals-publications/params/post/4617744/>

Collections

- 2023 Michael Roque Collins, HCU, Artist in Residence, Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas, USA
 2019 Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos, Nigeria
 2018 Fine and Applied Arts Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
 2013 WHY ART Foundation, Surulere, Lagos State, Nigeria
 2010 Susanne Wenger Garden, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria