

FEMI OLAJIRE AKANDE

Born July 28, 1976

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Citizenship: Nigerian

Bio

Femi Olajire Akande is a contemporary ceramic artist who bridges traditional Yoruba ceramic practices with modern innovation and philosophical inquiry. Rooted in the rich heritage of the Yoruba people of southwestern Nigeria, his work explores themes of identity, cultural memory, theological allegory, political critique, and social connection. Through narrative-driven, figurative ceramic sculptures, Akande fuses a variety of ceramics techniques with experimental methods, crafting a visual language that is both emotionally resonant and intellectually engaging. His use of glazed, stoneware and other clay bodies becomes a tool for emotional healing and social dialogue, guided by a deep sense of moral vision and social responsibility. By inviting viewers into conversations around culture, peace, and shared humanity, Akande positions ceramics as a transformative medium—one that fosters cross-cultural connection and contributes meaningfully to global contemporary ceramics art.

Education

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

Post Graduate Diploma (Ceramics & Glass), Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria, 2019

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

Employment

Ceramic Artist in Residence

FOA Arts LLC, Houston, Texas, USA. 2024-Date

Graduate Assistant

Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas. August 2022 – May 2023

Principal Instructor I

The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria. March 2009 – 2022

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

Membership

The American Ceramics Society (ACerS 3012851), USA

Clay Houston, USA

Society of Nigerian Artist (SNA), Nigeria

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024 *FORMATIVE NARRATIVES*, Clay Houston Exhibition, Gallery 100, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Houston, Texas, USA – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "I Offer You My Soul"
- 2023 *PRECIOUS*, International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Vase: "HOPE"
- 2023 *TRUE BEAUTY*, International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "Squirrel"
- 2023 *BELIEVE*, International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramic Sculpture: "When Grace Speaks"
- 2023 *COLORIUM*, International Gallerium Group Exhibition, Ontario, Canada – Juried Selection, Ceramics Vessel: "Look at the Lilies"
- 2018 Solo Ceramics Pottery exhibition "SO FAR THE EXPERIENCE", Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
- 2017 Participant in Contemporary Ceramics Sculpture exhibition "ABINIBI IMPRESSIONS: THE HOME COMING OF GREAT TALENTS", Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2012 Group Ceramics/Pottery Art exhibition "UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN (UI) 50TH ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBITION",
Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2011 Solo Ceramics exhibition "CLAY IN THE MAGIC HAND OF MAN", University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2010 Group Ceramics Pot exhibition titled "Nigeria @ 50", by the Society of Nigerian Artists, Alliance Francais– Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2008 Participated in ceramics exhibition titled "LIFE IN MY CITY ART FESTIVAL", Alliance Francais, Ibadan and Enugu, Nigeria
- 2005 Group ceramics art show "EXPERIENCE NIGERIA", Muson Centre, Lagos, Nigeria

Paper Presentation at Conferences

Akande, F. O. (2021). *The Problem and Challenges Facing the Ceramic Industry in Nigeria*. Proceedings of the National Conference of the Faculty of Environmental Design, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, (June 28 – July 2, 2021)

Akande, F. O. (2014). *Panacea to Inherent Hazards of Ceramic Tiles Usage in Modern Building in Nigeria*. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference of the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES), Assembly Hall, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria, (June 3–5, 2014).

Citations / Media Publications

"*Arise, Oh Compatriots: Akande's Clarion Call for Peaceful Diplomatic Solution.*" **New Telegraph Nigeria**, May 22, 2024. A feature on Femi Olajire Akande, the U.S.-based Nigerian sculptor, joining the G7 Nations in advocating for a peaceful diplomatic resolution to global conflicts.

"*Meet Femi Olajire Akande.*" **Canvas Rebel Magazine**, November 30, 2023.

An article exploring the story behind Femi Olajire Akande's most meaningful projects, highlighting his work as a contemporary ceramic sculptor, peace promoter, and entrepreneur.

Collections

- 2023 Michael Roque Collins, HCU, Artist in Residence, Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas, USA
- 2023 Tiffany Bergeron, Chair, Department of Visual Arts, Houston Christian University, Houston, TX, USA
- 2023 Rachel Gardner, Department of Visual Arts, Houston Christian University, Houston, TX, USA
- 2020 Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2013 WHY ART Foundation, Surulere, Lagos State, Nigeria
- 2010 Susanne Wenger Garden, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2005 The Polytechnic Ibadan, Art Gallery, Nigeria