

Femi Olajire Akande

Ceramic Sculptor & Educator

Nigerian-born ceramic sculptor based in Houston, Texas, and an elected member of the International Academy of Ceramics. His figurative and vessel-based stoneware, made through hand-building, throwing, and casting, brings Yoruba traditions and incised bilingual text together with contemporary glazing, grounded in *Ìwàlẹ̀wà*, the Yoruba philosophy that "character is beauty." He taught ceramics at The Polytechnic, Ibadan, for thirteen years and holds an MFA from Houston Christian University.

Houston, Texas, USA akandefemiolajire@gmail.com [IAC member profile](#) [Instagram](#)

2025 International Academy of Ceramics Elected Member, Artist category, Geneva	2026 Taoxichuan Art Museum Work in the permanent collection, Jingdezhen, China	2026 52nd IAC Congress New Members' Exhibition, selected by open call	2026 Best of Show <i>Bayou Mud 2026</i> , ClayHouston, Houston
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Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011–12 *Clay in the Magic Hands of Man*, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
November 4, 2011 – January 31, 2012 · Catalogue published by the Institute · [Catalogue](#)

2005 *Serenity*, The Art Gallery, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

SELECTED GROUP AND JURIED EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Bayou Mud 2026*, ClayHouston Members' Exhibition, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Houston, Texas
BEST OF SHOW
September 26 – October 31, 2026 · *Colors of Survival* · clayhouston.org

2026 *Beyond Boundaries: New Frontiers in Ceramic Experimentation*, IAC New Members' Exhibition, 52nd Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics, Taoxichuan Art Museum, Jingdezhen, China
June 30 – August 30, 2026 · *Vessel of Becoming* · Selected by open call; catalogue · aic-iac.org

2024 *Formative Narratives*, ClayHouston Members' Exhibition, Gallery 100, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Houston, Texas
October 25 – November 30, 2024 · *I Offer You My Soul* · clayhouston.org

2017 *Abinibi Impressions: The Homecoming of Great Talents*, Ibadan, Nigeria
[Review, The Nation](#)

2012 *University of Ibadan 50th Anniversary Art Exhibition*, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
August 30 – November 5, 2012 · One of three invited artists, and the only ceramicist · [Poster](#)

2010	<i>Nigeria @ 50</i> , Society of Nigerian Artists, Alliance Française, Ibadan, Nigeria
2008	<i>Life in My City Art Festival</i> , Southwest Regional Exhibition, Alliance Française, Ibadan, and National Finale, Enugu, Nigeria <i>Juried · State of the Nation</i>
2005	<i>Experience Nigeria</i> , MUSON Centre, Lagos, Nigeria

Collections

MUSEUM

2026	Taoxichuan Art Museum , Ceramic Art Avenue Art Gallery, Jingdezhen, China <i>Vessel of Becoming</i> , 2026 · Stoneware with mixed media, underglaze and glaze · 10 × 10 × 16 in. (25.4 × 25.4 × 40.6 cm) · Permanent collection
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INSTITUTIONAL

2019	Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria
2018	Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria <i>Oga pa Ibi da, So Ibi di Ire (Change and Transformation)</i> , 2018 · Stoneware relief, 48 in. (122 cm) diameter
2010	Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

PRIVATE

—	Private and corporate collections in Houston, Texas, and in Ibadan and Lagos, Nigeria, including the WHY ART Foundation, Lagos
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Awards & Honours

2026	Best of Show , <i>Bayou Mud 2026</i> , ClayHouston Members' Exhibition, Houston, Texas Juror June Woest · 53 entries · <i>Colors of Survival</i>
2025	Elected Member , International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva, Switzerland
2008	Life in My City Art Festival , Nigeria 2nd place, Southwest Region · 4th place, National Finale, Enugu · <i>State of the Nation</i>
2005	Best Overall Student , Higher National Diploma, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

Press

2026	Tofarati Ige, "Akande Takes Centre Stage at World Ceramics Congress in China," <i>The Punch</i> , July 26, 2026 Read
2025	Tofarati Ige, "Ceramic Artist Akande Gains Global Attention with New Sculpture," <i>The Punch</i> , December 20, 2025 Read
2024	Gregory Austin Nwakunor, "Artist Urges Use of Visual Arts to Achieve Peace in Ukraine," <i>The Guardian</i> (Nigeria), June 16, 2024, print edition, p. 17
2024	Osa Amadi, "Why My Art Fosters Culture of Peace — Akande, U.S.-Based Artist," <i>Vanguard</i> , May 26, 2024 Read

INTERVIEWS

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| 2023 | "Meet Femi Olajire Akande," <i>CanvasRebel</i> , November 30, 2023 Read |
| 2023 | "Conversations with Femi Akande," <i>Voyage Houston</i> , June 6, 2023 |

Bibliography

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| 2023 | Daniel O. Akanni and Rachel E. Gardner, "Akande Femi Olajire's Ceramic Art Works: An Epic Appraisal," <i>Creative Tendency: An International Journal of Research Problems and Findings</i> 4, no. 4 (2023): 20–27 |
| 2019 | M. O. Ajadi and T. E. Akinde, "Ceramic Art Training in Art Schools of Oyo State," <i>The Artist Journal</i> 3, no. 2 (2019): 13–27 PDF |
| 2015 | Felix Egunjobi, "The Ceramic Sculpture of Femi Akande," <i>Symphony Journal of Arts and Aesthetics</i> 6 (2015): 44–50 |
| 2014 | Ayo Elebute, "From Global to Local: Feminism and Feminist Nudity from Visual Perceptions and Conceptions of Artists," <i>IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature</i> 2, no. 8 (2014): 91–108 |
| 2011 | <i>Clay in the Magic Hands of Man</i> , exhibition catalogue, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan
Essays by Abidemi Abideen Lamidi, Racheal O. Adenuga, Nureni A. Moronkade, Osasumwen Igiorobo, Ajani Kolade Salami, Femi Oose, Sandra Isagua and Ayinde Johnson Ajibade · ISBN 978-978-58493-2-5 |

Commissions & Restoration

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| 2020 | Mural and relief sculpture, St. Caroline Private School, Gbekuba, Ibadan, Nigeria |
| 2012 | Sixteen concrete educational verandah posts for Professor Femi Osofisan, Ojoo, Ibadan, Nigeria |
| 2010 | Restoration of sculptures and pots by Susanne Wenger, Susanne Wenger Garden, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria |
| 2009 | Monumental bust of Leonard Cheshire, Cheshire Home, Ibadan, Nigeria |

Teaching

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| 2022–23 | Graduate Assistant , Department of Visual Arts, Houston Christian University, Houston, Texas
Studio instruction in hand modeling, 2D-to-3D model making, casting, glazing and kiln operation |
| 2017–22 | Program Coordinator , Art, Design and Printing Technology, Continuing Education Centre, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria
Curriculum planning and supervision of adult-education programmes in art and design |
| 2009–22 | Ceramics Instructor , Department of Art, Design and Printing Technology, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria
Ceramic sculpture, studio pottery, drawing and model making for ND and HND students; mold making and casting, glazing, and wood, gas and electric kiln firing; supervision of final-year studio projects |

Education

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| 2023 | MFA, Studio Art , Houston Christian University (formerly Houston Baptist University), Houston, Texas |
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2019	Postgraduate Diploma, Fine and Applied Arts (Ceramics and Glass), Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria
2018	BA, Fine Arts , Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
2005	Higher National Diploma, Industrial Design (Ceramics), The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria
2001	National Diploma, Fine Art , The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria

Selected Publications

2024	"Place of Art in Healthy Peace and Conflict Resolution," <i>Researchers' Voices International Journal</i> 12 (2024): 72–79
2021	With D. O. Akanni, "Analytical Graphic Design with Frills and Philosophical Concepts of Selected Ceramic-Sculpture Artworks in Nigeria," <i>Egghead: A Journal of Art</i> 6, no. 1 (2021): 102–113
2021	With D. O. Akanni and J. O. Adeniji, "An Appraisal of the Role of Culture in the Construction of Visual Messages for Product Advertisement in Nigeria," <i>Egghead: A Journal of Art</i> 5, no. 2 (2021): 50–62
2021	With D. O. Akanni and J. O. Adeniji, "Discourse on Selected Nigerian Contemporary Art Commentaries Inspired by Realities of Their Periods," <i>Graspact Journal of Art and Technology</i> 1, no. 4 (2021): 122–140
2020	With F. B. Egunjobi and A. T. Olajire, "The Aesthetic Transient of Sanusi Adebisi Giwa Mansion in Ibadan," <i>Art Monitor</i> 6 (2020): 46–57
2017	With D. O. Akanni and A. K. Okanlawon, "Problem and Prospect of Art Education in Nigeria's Tertiary Institutions of Learning," <i>Art Monitor</i> 4 (2017): 36–46
2016	With O. M. Olaleye and H. B. Lala, "Exploring Kaolin (Clay) in Modern-Day Healing Therapy," <i>Gbogbonise Journal of Professionals</i> 2, no. 3 (2016): 51–64

Service & Memberships

JUDGING

2017–18	Judge, Visual Arts , National Arts, Science and Technology Competition (EXPO), Nigerian Television Authority, Ibadan Network Centre
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MEMBERSHIPS

2025	International Academy of Ceramics , Geneva — Individual Member, Artist category Elected on the sponsorship of three Artist Members and a vote of the IAC Council. The IAC is an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO.
2026	National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)
2026	ClayHouston , Houston, Texas
2023	The American Ceramic Society
2018	Society of Nigerian Artists