



LIGHTENING
AFRICA



VOL 1 ARTING
ARENA

www.artingarena.com

OUR IMMORTAL
HEROES AND
HEROINES; THEY
LIVED, LEFT
AND LIVES...



article, poetry, images, calligraphy + interview
session.



PUBLISHED BY ARTING ARENA

ABOUT US

Arting Arena is as the name implies, an arting arena. A place where art is showcased. Arting Arena's motto '*for the world*' is also coined out of the need to make art perform its basic essence which is to create aesthetic display of creativity to the audience. Just as an artist said... '*poetry is a broth, poets are the cook, and the audience; the customers*', Arting Arena will be the cook, while art, the broth and you, yes, you the reader, the customer.

And, '*for the world*' - Natural and realistic topics will be considered in our publications as well as on our blog too. And they all will be published with aesthetic applications and after the main concept of art and creativity has been achieved, a message which carefully works towards fulfilling the motto will be sent across. Hence *for the world*, illuminating the world, and it is starting in Africa.

Also, we offer the following services:-

- ★ Branding
- ★ Ghost Writing
- ★ Marketing
- ★ Mentoring
- ★ Publications
- ★ Web Designing.

To work with us, send an email to customerservices@artingarena.com for more information as to how we can satisfy your needs.



ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

LIGHTENING AFRICA is a thematic publication that will showcase African aesthetic minds on monthly basis. **OUR IMMORTAL HEROES AND HEROINES** is the first of all and subsequent ones will be put to the public in coming months. As tagged, certain concepts appertaining to Africa will be unveiled by home base artists as well as those living in diaspora, so you can send your works once the submission window is open.

This publication will not consider vulgar entries or any submission with a tinge of racism or religious or ethnic upsets as art is a general entity, natural, and a gift for all.

Submission window opens on the 1st of every month and closes on the 14th. And subsequent themes will be announced at the last page of the publication as well as on our website and our media accounts. For more information, visit our website at www.artingarena.com.

To download our subsequent publications and other external publications, visit our website. And for averts or partnering contracts, send an email to customerservice@artingarena.com, giving full details of the scheme.

Designed by ARTING ARENA Graphics Design Team.

About The CEO



Oyin Bimbo is a publisher, an editor, and an author based in Nigeria. An artist whose love for art has been the fuel driving his artistic aspirations. In his quest for international recognition which he believes to be necessary for his futuristic novel, he has been published as a poet on Litlight Global, on one of their E-Mag. His works of fiction and nonfiction pieces also found a home in the Kalahari Review and his Motivational/Inspirational piece can be found on the Mwangaza Magazine. You can also find some of his articles on various topics on Qwenu, which is a Nigeria News Magazine. Lastly on his career achievements, he is a literary award winner in the 2019 AT MARSTIAN price for literature.

In his undying love for art in general, he has created a platform - Arting Arena, to further showcase the beauty of Africa's aesthetic minds from anywhere in the world, as he believes there are covert artists with works capable of rendering the world agape.

O.O.D.

**If there's any
love at all, that your beautiful
dark shining blackness your continental
highness could give, I'm sure it will be the
love of a mother sacrificing herself that her
innocent kids might be great again and survive
all these darts the rest of the world keeps
throwing their way. They have tortured
like hawks preying the chicks
right in front of the hen,
de-vouring every line
of hope from dawn to
dusk. Yet at the last lap
of life, you have woken
to re claim your
THRONE**

EDITORIAL Led by Oyin Bimbo.

Our Immortal Heroes - They lived, left and lives...

So self explanatory. It said it all. Our immortal heroes and heroines, they lived, left and lives. It's such a shocking one that in the intended will to satisfy the theme, artists went off base to submit pieces that are unacceptable. While some sent mails to our editor asking for more explanation.

In respect to that, we received 97 submissions and chose to feature the little that ¹Adhere to the rules and regulations guiding the submission. ²Submitted by thinking in line and at the same time outside the box. ³Satiated our aesthetic requirements.

Think of any immortal, think of any hero or heroine that had done something remarkably unforgettable. That's simply what we require. They lived, before us. Some died while we had known them together with what they do, and belay that, they are not dead, they lives, and lives forever. That is why they are regarded immortals.

This publication will reveal what immortality is in totality, how it was achieved, and how it could be achieved.

Lastly, on the interview section, we discovered an interesting artist, Ogunnaike David (OOD). A lover of diagrammatic poetry from Nigeria. Read on unto the last pages to discover more of him. He would satiate your thirst to know more of him, what he does, and how he does what he loves to do.

Immortality

Immortality in its most succinct definition is eternal life. It can also be regarded as an unending existence. And basically, the exemption from death. These three independent definition sums up to one single point which makes any immortal entity continue and never cease to exist. Bear in mind, that absence of ageing is another subtle point to consider. Ageing is a summation of the aggregate alterations to the molecular and cellular structure of an organism, which thereafter will result in furtherance to metabolic activities, and as more and more increase is achieved, just as the law of diminishing returns stated, a breakdown of metabolism (e.g cell loss without replacement, damage in the DNA, cell senescence, mutations in the mitochondria, aggregation of the lysosomes, immune system decline etc) occurs, leading to death. Absence of ageing definately will provide humans and organism with biological immortality, however, it is with a biological immortality which is vulnerable to death by disease conditions or physical trauma, and environmental change. It is then a fact unconcealed, that an organism that has the maze of ageing solved can not be regarded as being immortal, as immortality tends to extend above the tragedy accustomed to death. Is this concept hence achievable?

Definitions And Conjectures From Certain Fields.

Religious

Immortality in religion makes stand on both immortality in the physical realm and dwells mostly on more of spiritual afterlife, which is the transcendence into paradise, where humans who satisfies the requirements are said to live forever.

Ancient Greek religion believed that immortality in the physical is achievable by an external existence as a disembodied dead soul, some men and women were believed to have inherited immortality and were brought back to live in Elysium (paradise), heaven, or beneath the earth, consider Zeus.

Also, it is highly anticipated in large parts of Christianity and Islam and Hinduism and Taoism that all true believers of the respective beliefs and morals appertaining to personal and interpersonal relationship will one day resurrect into immortality, in a spiritual-physical entwined form, somewhere in a place called paradise. But the latter process is said to commence after death.

Scientific

While immortality remained an unsolved riddle, some organisms such as bacteria, hydra, planarian worms and the jelly fish exhibits biological immortality which simply indicates an absence or ageing or cessation of ageing at a particular point, accompanied by rejuvenation.

Bacteria reproduce through binary fission. A process that sees a parent bacterium splitting itself into two identical daughter cells which eventually split themselves as well. This process repeats, ensuring the parent bacterium continues to live on through the further splitting of the daughters. This gives an hint to one of the elixirs of immortality that are disclosed in this publication.

Turritopsis doohmi, a jelly fish one which after becoming a sexually matured adult can transform itself into some kind of polyp form. *Turritopsis doohmi* can constantly repeats this cycle in unlimited chances that it may have an unending lifespan.

However, these biological samples can be disallowed to continue their process by death conditions based on trauma and environmental conditions. But how do the heroes and heroines this publication heaps praises on achieved this concept of immortality? Read on...

Fiction

Immortality is a popular subject in fictional pieces, especially in fantasy fictions. Over the years, there has been endless stories of a character seeking the elixir of immortality and thereby becoming something off naturalness. We have seen characters totally immortal and invulnerable to age, death and also immune to diseases. However, such powerful immortals can only be killed or forced to hibernation by counterparts in the same power state. Also, storytellers often simplifies the feat by giving a weakness to these indestructible beings, like vampires susceptible to sunlight and silver. Fictional pieces has shown us no bound to how immortality can be achieved by stories with relatedness to vampires, werewolves, elves, cyborgs and so on by biological, scientific and supernatural means. How then do we live forever if these are considered fiction, we definately won't turn into one of the above mentioned things.

Once Lived, Nonliving And Living - By Victor Lucky.

Men like gods
The ones with the heart of lions
The mortals with immortal nature
Those who are called real man in time of crisis
Thine deeds can never be forgotten
Thine words keeps thee alive for thousand years
Ye are being celebrated for thy strength, wisdom, influence, initiative and victory
Though thou art gone as mortals but ye lived and still living as immortals
Oh how the mighty had falling is never used to qualify and describe thine death
Because ye are still living
And are still conquering through another life (thine deeds)
Ye are reflection on earth that can not disappear
Till infinity it can be pointed to
Ye fight and battle with sorrows
To create a better tomorrow
Ye refuse pleasure to give pleasures
To thee, sacrifice is love
To thee, fighting for a better world is affection
To thee, tears in battles is emotion
To thee, standing for the people is service
Thou hast shew thy strength in dimension, in love, in force, in command, in sacrifice,
and in service
**Surely these are omens that interpret thee as mortals, immortals, gods and once
lived, living non-living living Heroes and Heroines.**

...Immortality is to live your life doing worthwhile things and leaving a mark behind but what I seek is a deviation. Presumably, just as I've done, most of us have secretly and/or ignorantly hoped and work towards immortality. To live and leave, and not just live and leave, but to live and leave a name behind which will never leave, but live forever in this world.

Through legacy, through marriage, through evolution, and revolution. Through obsession with art; literature, visual, applied, and performing. Through quest for fame and name - the desire for power, seeking treasures and forging progress, casting down imaginations and building strongholds, we're aiming immortality.

I'm a writer, my works will live when I'm gone, I hope they'll breathe to people and serve as a lamp just as books of these immortals:

William Shakespeare, Marcus Tullius Cicero, Chinua Achebe, Wakini Charity Kuria, etc, and spoken words of Franklin .D.

Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King Jr.

My works will be my ghost, which will live forever. I'm immortal!

What else do I seek?...

{Excerpts from Oyin Bimbo's Live, Leave, Live... (L³)

Published by AT Marstian literary platform. ©2019}

The End O' Life - By Oyin Bimbo

*Failure is success turned inside out
as rejection is acceptance turned inside out*

I'd turn now, if they be clothing.

Behold! I say; Failure is not the end o' life

there is hope for a tree cut at the middle

even death is not the end o' life

once a buried seed – be my witness.

What fate could be worse than failure and death?

I'd say the discontinuity of life, after death!

The Clergyman preached Elysium, I spake of another.

The failure to live and leave, and not just live and leave

but to live and leave, and fail to leave a sign behind

which will never leave, but live forever in this world –

– that is death after life, that is death after death.

The failure to do so – the utmost failure, the end of life.

Gone But Not Forgotten - By Kenny Peace

Brave, strong, bold, stood, stand, standing for justice
Liberation breaking loose from the shakles of captivities
By people with the heart of gods

Can't be forgotten
Hidden sacrifice with greater losses
Building with pain, restoring hope
They came, they saw, they conquered
They live till eternity

Memorabilia statue
To keep in mind the date, to keep in mind the event
Gone but not forgotten



Here is Ogunnaike David. An artist who took to his creative mind to cause us to awe by his submission - Ògún.

Slide down to view his calligraphic poetry on Ògún as well as his interview section with us.

Ògún - By Ògúnnáike David

Ògún Ooo!
Ògún ooo!
Jànkàn GBIJÀ
Gbìjà ọkúnrin ogun, ẹrù baba
Ìdànrè. Ọpani káàánú apani
ọpani sílé, pani sóko! níjọ
Ògún bínú n'ílú Ọrè, Ó le
Kú, n'ijà
Ọrè. Ojọ
Ìjẹbú ati
Íbò jìjọ
f'ẹjẹ wẹ
Ògún s'ojú
d'ẹjẹ, o taşo
Pupa soju
Àwọ sánmà
Yeee!
ẹ wo ojú ọrùn
Şú dúdú fún ọjọ
Şùgbón kàkà kì
Ọjọ kí ó rọ, ẹjẹ
L'ojú ọrùn n sun
Ojọ Ògún nbínú
t'onílẹ, t'àlejọ
L'Ògún dá sèrià
fún. Ògún
Òò! Dákun
Pa mí mọ
lọjọ inú
bá nbí Ọ

Interview Section

Artists are indescribable. Talk about evolution of man, talk about artists. Have you heard of the term sixth sense? Artists exhibits it duly. It's a term that speaks of their ability.

They are beings that won't see from the present alone, but can look at the past, create a replica of it, polishing it with paints of the present and thereby produce an insight of the futuristic happening - the world as it could be.

In this publication, we can't be prouder to have discovered this artist, Ogunnaike David, one who wouldn't just write poetry alone, he draws them too. While we are receiving entries, he wowed us with an ancient recap of a deity - Ògún. Ògún fits as a legend and as a deity according to Yoruba mythology. What's written in the calligraphy poetry above mentioned Idanre, a town Ogun still guards by turning himself to the great Idanre Hill up till today. Reference was also made to the Biafra war that happened till it was quenched at Ọrẹ̀, another location at Ondo State. This is an appreciation and preservation of our indigenous Yorùbá heroes, gods and immortal.

With Ògúnnáìke David

- Who is Ogunnaike David?

Ogunnaike David is a graduate of Tai Solarin University of Education, who only studied English language for the sake of coming in contact with Literature-in-English. From the outset, I have always been attracted by Bible stories and moonlight tales and have always fabricated stories to that effect.

Most times my parents even detect my lies from the way I embellish events created from my imagination. So instead of lying continuously, they advised me to start attempting story telling.

- What connects Ogunnaike David with poetry. And not just writing poetry, even drawing it?

My main fuse about Sundays ever since I was a child is to listen to Bible stories and most importantly collect weekly memory verses which were printed to represent shapes of whatever the lesson was about, ranging from Fish, to jar, table, food, etc.

Those shapes were what actually captivated me and I kept those stories in my heart.

After being admitted into the university in 2009, I realised there was this ever constant urge to express myself and poetry was just the only genre my head could form.

However, after writing volumes, I realised I wasn't really satisfied with the conventional way of writing, until I flashed back to the memory verse shapes I enjoyed during Sunday school and imported the style into poetry.

It was later I discovered that Prof Niyi Osundare have always adopted the same style, while Apollinaire have called this style Calligrams.

- Defend the concept of diagrammatic poetry. What is it?

Calligrams/drawing poems is creativity in two folds. Poems are creative expressions on their own and drawings are also as creative as they come. Yet the fusion of the two means where the meaning of an image stops, the words will be able to suffice; and where the meaning of words are restricted, the image will be able to compliment. Calligram is a way of allowing people appreciate the words and then the image at the same time. It is the blend of wit and skill. It is something to adopt should anyone feel like having poems as a wallpaper or having a wallpaper as a poem.

It could also be used for adverts, as it's a wild genre of creativity on its own.

It's a modern world, how could you think of Ogun as a hero worth remembrance? Or is it because you're OGUNnaike? Smiles...

An indigenous adage says "Ile la tií kó èṣọ̀ ròde"... Meaning charity begins from home. Before anyone could be picked as a hero, legends who originate from one's ancestral paths should be scrutinised first. Have these legends been praised enough? Should we because of westernization do away with our own philosophy, myth, heroes and concepts? When we leave our heroes uncelebrated, will someone else pick them up and celebrate them for us?

We've always had Greeks and Romans celebrating their gods of war and even making movies in their memorial annually. Thor as warring god even had his concept conceived and presented by Marvel Studios to children from all over the world in form of movies and animation. Yet we keep demonising our own gods and shutting them out of animations, literatures and the media.

Therefore my focus on Ògún is rather a late intervention to help Yorùbá heroes survive the culture sweep invented by the Whites ever since the inception of colonisation.

Like I also mentioned the adage of charity starting from home, I purposely chose Ògún due to the formation of my surname itself. Ogunnaike in Ijèbú means "Ògún pampers"... "Ògún ní ikè" is what was later corrupted to become Ogunnaike-insinuating that despite being a god of war, he still has fatherly traits, even to the extent of loving and pampering. (Interviewer:- "This is a amazing")

- The piece is written in your mother's tongue, would you write a book or create a collection of art works in your language?

Yes! Charity begins from home. If I have the balls to express myself in another man's language and even study that within the four walls of a university, I better have the nerve not to relegate my mother tongue and do the same too then.

-If yes, we would like to publish it in our publishing house and reinstate the local taste of Yoruba to awaiting audience?

Of course. I have already been translating some English articles into Yorùbá language for some media houses during my free time and hope I publish at least one book in Yorùbá language too.

-What is art in its general form to Ogunnaike David?

Art means Arbitrarily Representing Thoughts to me. A perfect art must be an art that at its existence must inspire another art. If a poem can inspire being a wallpaper, which can also inspire being used for 3D tiling, to inspire being an advert - then it's a perfect art.

The aesthetic representation of one's thought till it attracts, and resonates the mind of audience to the point of it being coveted and lusted after, even at the point of transformation into another form is art.

-Your aim as an artist?

8. My aim as an artist is to preach peace and bring peace into the world. 85% of criminals in the world began as victims of domestic violence and dysfunctional homes. So my target since 170 days ago has been couples.

I've been writing poems themed on love, bonding and halt to domestic violence daily and hope to do that for 365 days in a bid to gradually slow down the number of divorcees in the world. That monster needs to be stopped.

- Something for artists out there (as in advice, call to action)

Originality, peace, moderation, didacticism and cultural heritage are artistic ethics that should always be upheld. Our artistic platforms should always be used as a medium of protest too, instead of endangering lots of life only to end up with international pity and condolences.

- If you're to make a fiat, one which Africa in entirety must obey, what would it be?

Let everything be made in Africa. What can not be made in Africa should not be used in Africa until it is made in Africa; because if we do not develop and patronise ourselves, no one will.

- How do you think Africa can step up her game and be the continent we all desire?

By adopting a cryptocurrency and making all the rest of the world trade in that currency if they want any trading to take place with African countries. It must be strictly made in Africa

Made in Africa and for Africa... From art to applications,... Everything. Let's start catering for ourselves. People won't value what we do not value

- Something about ARTINGARENA

Artng Arena is the canvas of art in Africa. It is the palette approachable by everyone for the purpose of artistic expression, and it must continue that way.

They have set up the tone of innovation, content and originality on the globe and must keep up the good work.



SUBMIT TO US

What do you do as an artist? Do you write, paint, sketch...

We at Arting Arena are open all through the year for submission. All you have to do is visit the link and follow the rules and regulations guiding the submission. We look forward to receiving your works. To submit, visit our website or click [here](#).



CALL FOR SUBMISSION

What do you do
as an artist?

We are open
for submission
all through
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Send us your
works and we'd
house them if
they fits.

visit www.artingarena.com for guidelines.

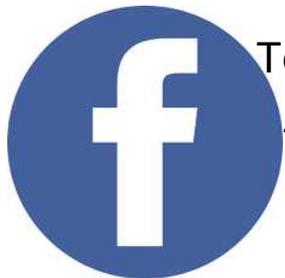
ARTING ARENA MONTHLY MINI MAGAZINE - June Edition (VOL 2

And we are happy to announce the theme for our next publication. The theme is BEAUTY.

What is beauty to you? If it's an entity laced in an image, and imagery is the part of art that got you, send us an image exhibiting the theme via photography, painting, sketching or any mean through which imagery can be achieved.

If beauty to you can be beaten down to words, send us fiction or creative nonfiction pieces (articles and essays) that best convey the theme.

And if you're a Spoken Word artist, and you've got vocal lines that would denote the theme in voice expression, let's hear you too.



To submit, visit our website or click [here](#).

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**CALL FOR
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fiction
creative nonfiction
poetry
image
spoken word

THEME: BEAUTY

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LIGHTENING AFRICA

