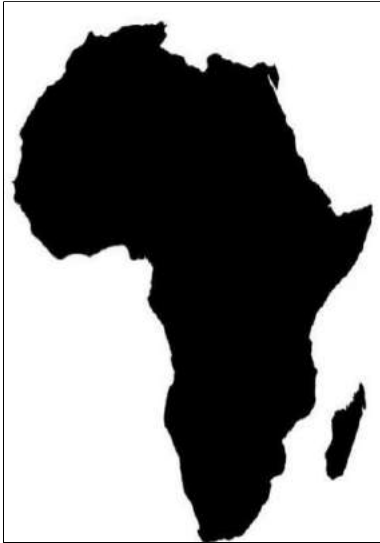




# About The Publication;



LIGHTENING AFRICA is a thematic publication that will showcase African aesthetic minds monthly.

As tagged, certain concepts appertaining to Africa will be unveiled by home base artists as well as those living in the 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.

The submission window opens once a magazine is published and closes as declared. Subsequent themes will be announced on the ending pages of the publication as well as on our website and our media accounts. For more information, visit our website at [www.artingarena.com](http://www.artingarena.com).

To download our subsequent publications and other external publications, visit our website. And for adverts or partnering contracts, send an email to [customerservice@artingarena.com](mailto:customerservice@artingarena.com), giving full details of the scheme.

Designed by ARTINGARENA Graphics Design Team.

# Editorial;

Black is beautiful is a movement whose root could be traced to the Négritude movement staged in the 1930s. The movement argued for the role of a Pan-African racial identity among people of African descent worldwide.

It also began in the United States in the 1960s by African-American and was later spread till it found foot beyond its origin, becoming prominent in the writing of Black Consciousness Movement by South African Steve Biko.

*"When you say 'Black is beautiful' you are saying, 'Man you are okay as you are, begin to look upon yourself as a human being'." ~ Steven Biko.*

The movement aims to tackle the notion that the black-skinned race is relatively ugly and are less attractive, admirable and significant to the whites. It also encouraged a stop in the skin toning through lightening or bleaching, and hair hennaing; intending to eliminate identified black traits.

## On The Publication;

We can say; with reference to facts and figures that this is our best publication yet. A claim validated by the reason of the clamour in traffic, engagement, as well as entries received.

We are claiming that Black is Beautiful. Note that we are not telling, or pushing this movement. We are showing that black is beautiful.

What's already in existence is worth showing – come and see.

## On The Theme;

**'Black Is beautiful'** is a theme coined out of the need to reveal the ingrained grace in the colour 'BLACK' with what it depicts.

As Africa and her habitations are considered a black society, the need to utter, iterate, and reiterate, of which cannot be overemphasized, that Africa's black is truly beautiful.

## What To Expect;

Poems, articles, images, quotes; all revealing one thing; The beautiful black of Africa.

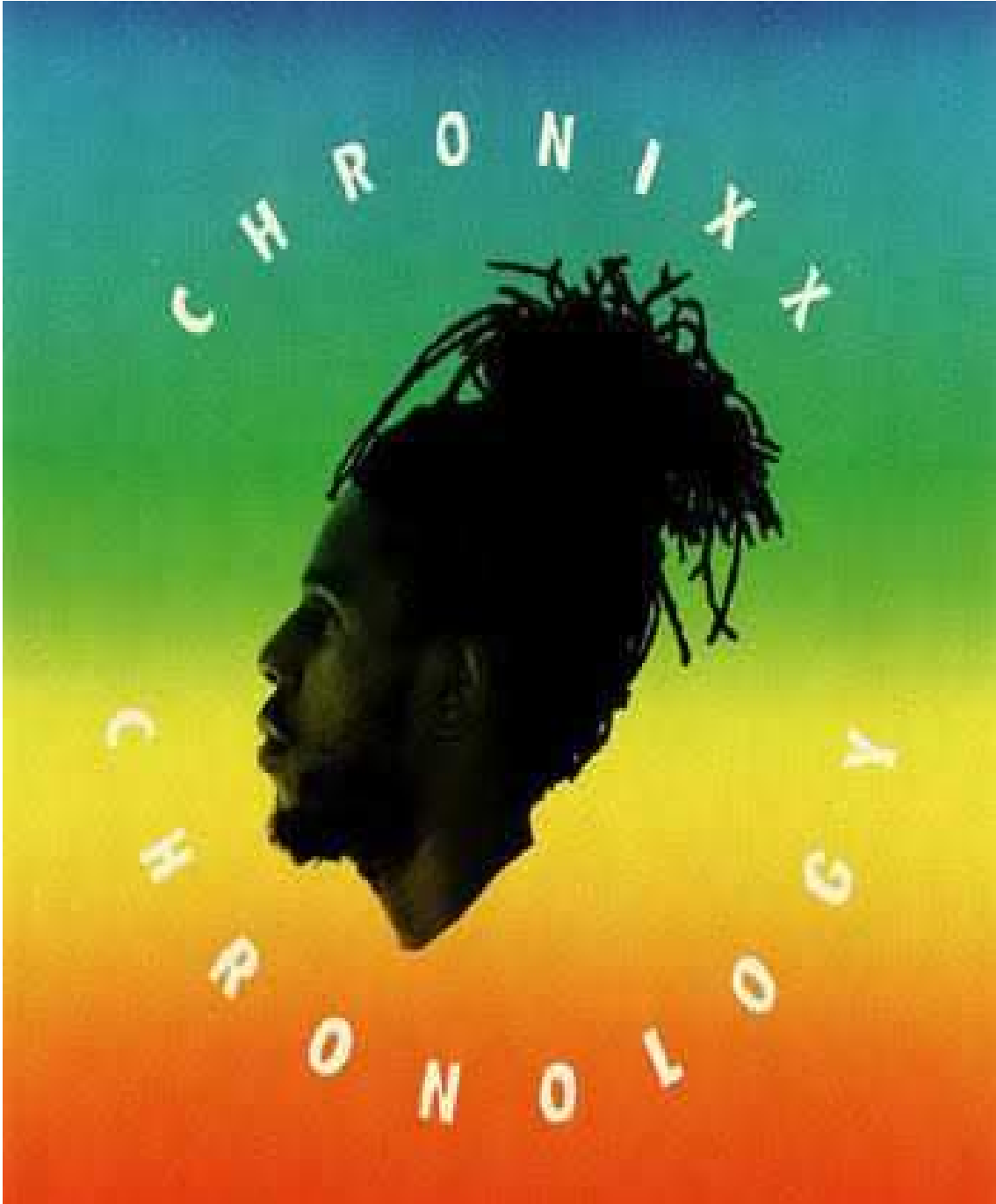


No human can be more  
human than another human  
being. I liberate god from my  
ignorance.

-Maya Angelou-



Black Is Beautiful (audio referenced below) - By  
Jamar Rolando McNaughton (Chronixx)



Making reference to Jamaican (Chronixx) Jamar Rolando McNaughton's "Black Is Beautiful"  
Chronology, Virgin EMI Records, 2017, track 9.  
[chronixx.com](http://chronixx.com)

## Functional Black - By Oyin Bimbo; CEO ArtingArena.

Black Is Beautiful;  
this may sound off base but give me talking time  
black is the achromatic colour of maximum darkness  
and yet I say Black is Beautiful?  
Yes! Black is Beautiful. As I speak of another black.  
Black is Beautiful;  
now I have talking time, and so I will speak on  
black is the adjective that describes a thing devoid of light  
and still I say Black is Beautiful?  
Yes! Black is Beautiful. As I speak of another black.



Black is Beautiful;  
now that I can speak, and you're listening, let's find answers  
check the synonyms of black in the dictionary and thesaurus and see  
do I still say black is Beautiful?  
Yes! Black is Beautiful. As I speak of another black.  
Black is Beautiful;  
the dictionary and the thesaurus gave their answers  
**Bleak, Lugubrious, Atrocious, Callous, Keel**  
is black still beautiful?  
Yes! Black is Beautiful. As I speak of another black.



The black I speak of is one without relatedness to colour or light  
I am not my hair; I am not my skin;  
I may lack melanin or have little of it;  
my nose may be broad and my lips thick and my hairs obsidian and nappy;  
The black I shamelessly claim and represent is a function of my soul:  
resilience, strength, power, and an unnumbered list of virtues are the waters from it's fountain  
I am black  
Black is Beautiful.



## Black - By Siva Das.

Black is a beautiful colour.

Black is a natural colour.

Black is a unique colour.

Black is a divine colour.

Black is the colour of attraction.

Black is the colour of unity.

Black is the colour of integrity.

Black is the colour of freedom.

Black is the colour of power.

Black is the colour of togetherness.

Black is the colour of self-reliance.

Black is the colour of romance.

Black is the colour of resistances.

Black is the colour of adventure.

Black is the colour of hope.

Black is the colour of the rich.

Black is the symbol of health and wealth.

Black is the colour of competency.

Black is the colour of rich tradition.

Black is the colour of confidence.

Black is the colour of tolerance.

Black is the colour accepting all challenges.

The colour of black is always superior to all colours.



B L A C K. By Ogunremi Taiwo Isaac.

Have you ever sat down  
to reason this colour up-down?  
Or try to snap it's beauty with the mind camera?  
Well, follow closely to know the unknown!

Black symbolizes strength;  
What do you think is the reason?  
Why your hair is black since you are risen?

Black and uniqueness walk hands together;  
how do I mean?  
Black will remain different forever!  
Black shields and cannot lose, never!

My pen is black, my thought I don't know if it's black.  
Hey, Black does not necessarily mean evil,  
Man gave it the name, and tagged it to devil.

Best desirable, and;  
Least dependent  
African's dignity;  
Cost but given freely, and unique 'cos it  
Keeps secret

BLACK is Beautiful.



**ROOT - By Shedracks Joy Adaora.**

**Black is depth and truth;  
My truth.**

**Black is attitude and culture;  
My culture.**

**Black is that tickling sounds of  
chains, speaking liberation and  
freedom; my freedom.**

**Black is what makes me stand out,  
as a person of color.**

**Black is to be free and black  
is my root.**



**Black Is Beautiful - By D' Unique Gem.**

**I'm living,  
with the body decorated with light;  
in sun I shine; in moon, I light,  
with no fright, I exit over the universe.**

**Black,  
the color that defined my identity;  
I'm brave to reveal it to the world,  
with no word that I'm an African.**

**Black,  
where the souls of legends lie,  
test with love and peace between;  
black! The melodies of holiness.**



**Isn't black beautiful -**

**By Oletu Oghenenyore Cornelius.**

**My race is strong,  
Born of steel; strong will.  
Only in the beholder's eyes  
Will I be appreciated.**

**Power, beauty, perfection.**

**I need no retouching  
So I don't end up a zebra  
With dark and white patch  
Like Pittsburgh trapped  
In California sunset.**

**I have the greatest love  
All color abound in me  
Shielding them from the sun.**

**I take the odd to make them shine.**

**While I burn,  
Becoming darkness in the sun.  
Isn't black beautiful?**

**Black, tinted with a touch of gold, yes, Gold I said -  
By Abigail Isaac.**

**Africa isn't just a name, it's our Heritage  
A gift from our ancestors whose skin are dark and heart filled with treasures**

**The brain that goes into trans  
And with skillful hands bring to life the imaginations of their dream**

**Africa is a heritage that never dies  
Heritage filled with strength and power  
Transferred from generations**

**Oh, how we chant with our ancestors  
They are never far but close  
Their works speaks through even from the land of the dead**

**Our dark skin is our strong weapon  
With the dark skin comes lots of inspirations that naturally flows through our veins**

**In our Native names we tell our story  
In Igbo  
"Onwasueze " Death doesn't forbid a king  
"Ezeadakonobi" Royalty doesn't leave a clan**

**Our culture, Our Heritage  
One we are proud of**

**Africa our very own  
All Hail our Royalty.**

## Black is Magical - By Victor Onyebuchi.

They say black is beautiful  
I say black is magical  
I walk in majesty with head raised up  
Shoulders high as I thread like a king  
The white man took we black overseas for  
our strength, our toughness  
Yes, my colour is power  
When I stance, you see the African buffalo  
When I speak, you hear greatness  
My ruggedness depicts innate strength  
I am like no other, an enigma  
I am not just a colour  
I am a phenomena  
I am beauty, I am hope, I am chivalry  
I am like a lion in the wild, a cheetah on the hunt  
My prowess is like the perfect eagle lofty  
Like the African hyena, I laugh at trouble  
An ancestry of wonderful tradition  
My roots are bliss  
I am no ordinary skin  
I am African, I am BLACK.

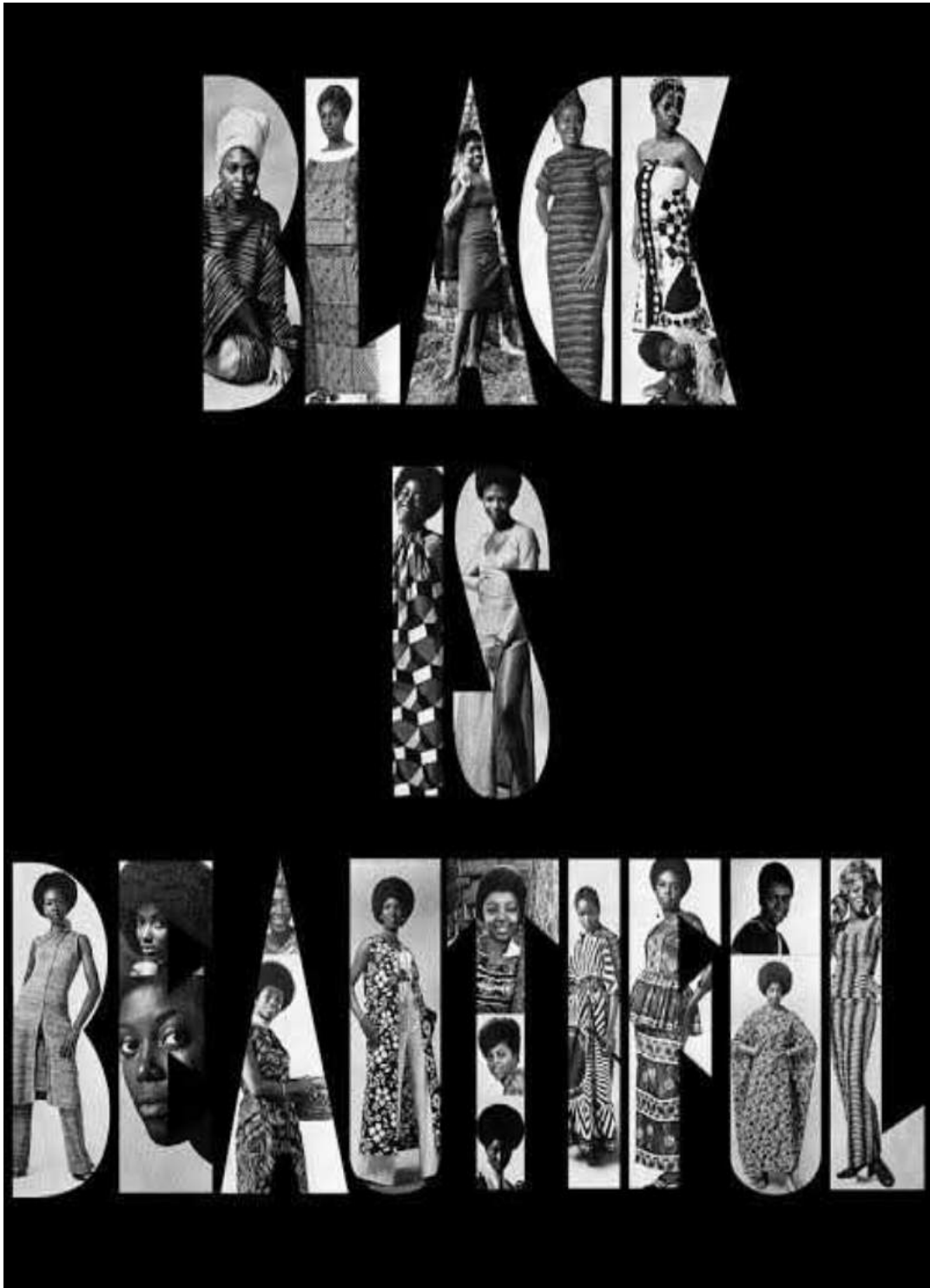


A work of art - By Mayor\_Art.



the blacker the  
BERRY  
the sweeter the  
juice





**I am Black. By Ejike-Ezeani Vivian  
(Queen Chija).**

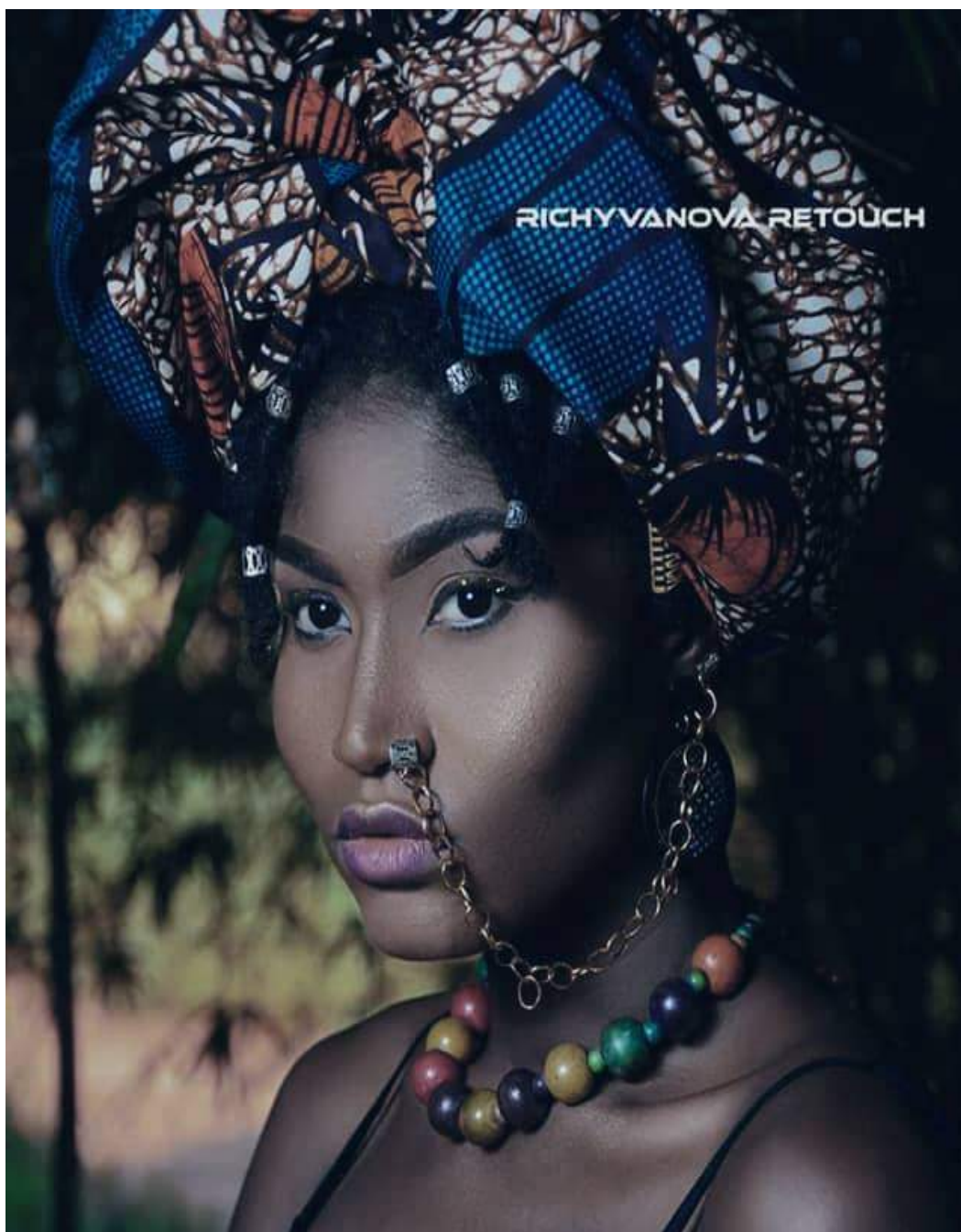
**I am Black**

it is not my colour, its not my name  
neither is it my race

I am Black  
it is me  
my person, the Me I chose to be  
not the title the pale face gave me

I am Black  
it is who I am  
the uniqueness of being me  
I am not just anybody, I am Black

Interview Section - Featuring Ejike-Ezeani Vivian  
(Queen Chija); a model, and a compere.



And this would affirm our claim at ArtingArena that we are into creativity; and creativity in its whole. This time our network of discovery has found a creative mind; Ejike-Ezeani Vivian (Queen Chija), a model and a compere.

Read on to see our chat with a mind from another genre of art.

**Interviewer** - Welcome to ArtingArena. This section would see us interviewing you based on what you do; modeling. This insinuates that at ArtingArena, creativity is what we are after. Anything related to aesthetic creation, and showcasing it; that is our vision and mission. Once again, welcome, and thanks for being here for us.

Who is Ejike-Ezeani Vivian (Queen Chija)?

**Answer** - Ejike-Ezeani Vivian is a 26yr old Model, Model Instructor, and Compere, born and raised in Onitsha. She hails from Umukegwu, Akokwa in Ideato LGA of Imo State, a certified Electrical and Electronics Engineer graduate of Federal Polytechnic Oko.

**Interviewer** - The next question should be what has academic contributed in your career. But they aren't related.

How did you chose your career?

**Answer** - I have always had this flair for modeling and fashion as people kept asking me if I was a model. After realizing this is something I'd love to do, I got trained and ventured into it.

**Interviewer** - Being a model, what is the first required thing you have to do?

**Answer** - I had to train as a model for a year, learnt the business aspect of modeling as well. I had a personal instructor, Mr Felix Amobi, and later on learnt the business aspect from Mr Akeem Shittu, Mr Uchenna Obizoba and Mr Davidson Okoro.

I'd say I had private tutors.

**Interviewer** - And what is modeling?

**Answer** - Modeling is the art of exhibiting, showcasing, advertising, and displaying the creative work of an artist for creative purpose as well as commercial purposes. The artist can be a writer, a photographer, a content creator, a fashion designer, a makeup artist etc.

**Interviewer** - What inspires you to modeling?

**Answer** - Being a creative person, modeling gives me the room to be very artistic, so this inspires me to keep modeling.

**Interviewer** - You first modeling experience, tell us about it.

**Answer** - It was an outdoor photoshoot with Kolex Photography. Having to give different poses, and for the first time at a mechanic workshop. After taking a lot of pictures only one came out nice.



**Interviewer** - What are the challenges you faced as a model?

**Answer** - Models face a whole lot of challenges. But to mention a few: as a model, I had people judge me (because of the mentality people have of models being prostitutes), I've also had men make advances towards me because of that same mentality, the biggest challenge was getting jobs because I couldn't get into a good modeling agency, I had to do some free stuff for people. It was quite difficult for a while, but we good now, yay!

**Interviewer** - About being good now, congratulations. In modeling, do you have limitations? What are the things you can never do?

**Answer** - For now things I wouldn't do are: I can't have piercings to fit into a particular description for any Creative Director, another is, I can't go bald (smile).

**Interviewer** - Briefly talk about the social life of a model.

**Answer** - Models are trained to be extroverts because it is needed in everything about modeling. From runway shows, outdoor shoots, video shoots etc, a model learns to socialize in order to work well with other artistic people like make up artists, photographers, videographers and other models too. In rare cases we have models who are introverts and are doing well in the industry.

**Interviewer** - Are there disciplines related to your career? Like nutrition, fitness, etc. Tell us more. And how you cope.

**Answer** - Yeah, a whole lot. Like one's got to eat healthy, keep fit, take care of his or her skin and be fashionable. Eating the right foods and the right time matters a lot to a model. Models have to avoid processed food and eat more of natural foods with less carbs. Fitness is almost the same thing, doing the right exercise to keep fit and healthy like the plank, the glute, the glute fearsome foursome etc. Plus you never stop training.

**Interviewer** - Aside photography and fashion, are there other aspects related to modeling?

**Answer** - Yes, we have Vixing (the art of being a video vixen).

**Interviewer** - How do you think modeling relates with art?

**Answer** - Modeling relates with art through creativity. From the definition I gave earlier, just as art speaks or passes a message, so does modeling when it showcases the creative work of an artiste.

**Interviewer** - Modeling in Africa? What's your view about it. Is it what it should be?

**Answer** - So far so good, modeling in Africa is evolving. Modeling in Africa showcases originality. In fact people around the world want to identify with African tradition and culture. So I believe in Africa we're where we want to be and also growing higher.

**Interviewer** - Would you choose to model for foreign countries over Africa?

**Answer** - I would Choose Africa. Because I believe in what we igbo's call Aku Ruo ulo. I want to keep it home. And even if I take the opportunity to model for foreign countries, I will showcase the African heritage to the world.

**Interviewer** - Something about Africa and it's interaction with art (1)in general (2) with modeling.

**Answer** - Africa since the beginning have been more artistic than any other continent, from our language, folktales, dance, music, artistry etc. We have a lot of connection with Art. Now when it comes to modeling, our melanin skin, hairstyles, way of life in so many ways interact with art. Most foreign agencies come to different countries in Africa to scout for models because they know we interact so well with our artistic lifestyle.

**Interviewer** - Your expectations in the path you've chosen?

**Answer** - I want to make a strong impact in the modeling industry in Africa, Nigeria and especially in the eastern part of Nigeria. And I think i'm achieving that gradually.

**Interviewer** - Something for model wannabes.

**Answer** - I tell my students a lot, modeling requires, hardwork, discipline, patience, humility, intelligence and good social skills. To be the master of this craft, one has to keep evolving, just as modeling evolves.

**Interviewer** - Something about ArtingArena

**Answer** - I love the fact that someone thought of a way to portray Africa's artistic exposure to the world and its actually real, like its real man. And I'm happy to be part of this dream, like who wouldn't be part of something this big.

**Interviewer** - Thanks so much for your time, one last time on this section, we are happy to have you here.

**Answer** - My pleasure.

## SUBMIT TO US

What do you do as an artist? Do you write, paint, sketch... We at ArtingArena 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  
the year.

Send us your  
works and we'd  
house them if  
they fits.

visit [www.artingarena.com](http://www.artingarena.com) for guidelines.

ArtingArena LIGHTENING AFRICA Monthly  
Publication announcing the theme for the next  
issue - PAST; PRESENT; FUTURE.

Delightedly, we are publicizing the theme for the next publication - Past; Present; Future. The publication will feature as usual fiction, creative nonfiction, poem, image, quotes, spoken word; taking a plus, we are introducing a special feature - a debate. To know the rules and regulations guiding the submission, as well as the insight click [here](http://www.aringarena.com).



A graphic announcement for ArtingArena submissions. The background is dark with diagonal gold and black stripes. In the top left is a white silhouette of the African continent. In the top right is the ArtingArena logo, which features a yellow sun and the text 'We See the World'. The main text 'CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS !!!' is written in large, bold, yellow, slanted letters. Below it, in smaller white text, are the genres: 'fiction, creative nonfiction, poem, image, quotes, spoken words, debate - (special feature)'. At the bottom left, the deadline is stated as 'Deadline - 31st August 2021'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.aringarena.com' is written in white. The words 'Past', 'Present', and 'Future' are written in a large, white, cursive font across the bottom of the graphic.

# Introducing; Artist's Page.

ArtingArena presents - Artist's Page (get a page, get an audience). At ArtingArena, we have one aim, tailored into our outputs and vision and mission - to promote art. And how do we promote art if not by promoting artists? Which is why we have decided to offer artists across the globe a chance to get a page and derive an audience. A page that would link up to all their works and thereby acquire a name. This offer is free, pro level coming soon.

Read the rules and regulations guiding the page acquisition as well as points to note by clicking [here](#).



# ArtingArena TV

## INTRODUCING - ArtingArena

There is an African Whatsapp TV dealing with everything you need to hone your artistic skills as well as everything you need to feel about art.

It doesn't matter who you are (an artist, or an audience of art) or what you do: poem, artwork, fiction, creative nonfiction, spoken word, painting, or any unnamed form of art; ArtingArena will stage it.

ArtingArena will operate daily under specific schedule of programmes that will birth aesthetic pleasures and the lecture parts will be aimed at developing artists in their respective fields. It will also serve as a valid source of information regarding art in general and it's dealings as represented by other literary platforms across Africa.

**+234 809 566  
8953**

Featuring:

- \* Lectures
- \* Contests
- \* Writing prompts
- \* Poetry
- \* Fiction
- \* Creative nonfiction
- \* Images
- \* Quotes
- \* Publication opportunities
- \* Promotions (Books and artworks)
- \* Adverts
- \* Interviews



To subscribe, click [here](#). And to remain updated on our programs, follow us on [Facebook](#).



## 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.

Resulting from 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.

## 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](mailto:customerservices@artingarena.com) for more information as to how we can satisfy your needs.

Thanks for reading us. Follow our facebook page via the link above to read us again as we look forward to hearing reviews from you; yes you.

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