

# YOMI ORIMOLOYE

Ottawa, ON

## BIOGRAPHY

Yomi Orimoloye (b. 1996) works with drawing, painting, and digital media. Inspired by his educational background in science, Nigerian heritage, and a love for animation, he employs simple geometric patterns, vibrant colours, and bold compositions to explore abstraction on familiar objects and the human form. His work reflects the intricacies and joys of navigating life through familiar territory, yet encountering unexpected or unfamiliar situations that require adaptation and resilience in a society that retains traditional elements and structures but is continually evolving and presenting new challenges and opportunities.

Yomi earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Ottawa in 2019. In 2023, he was awarded a Seed Grant by the City of Ottawa. His art has been showcased in group exhibitions, including "Black Dreams and Aspirations" at Toronto's Union Station (2024). Yomi is represented by Wall Space Gallery and his works have been collected nationally and internationally.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I was always drawing as a child, recreating images from cartoons, encyclopedias and textbooks. In 2013, at the age of 16, I moved from Lagos, Nigeria to Toronto in pursuit of post-secondary education. It was not until I enrolled in a Summer art course that year that I began dedicating more time and attention to my creativity. Throughout the subsequent five years, while pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Ottawa, I persisted in nurturing my artistic skills. Contrary to the notion that art and science are incompatible or opposite sides of a coin, I discovered that it was at the intersection of these disciplines where I developed my unique visual style and techniques. Since graduating from university in 2019, my artistic pursuits have flourished significantly.

Today, my artistic focus revolves primarily around the exploration of identity across various mediums, including drawing, painting, and digital art. Fundamentally, my work

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delves into the inquiries of self-discovery, oftentimes turning towards introspection and addressing both personal questions and broader societal queries. Within the context of everyday life I carefully examine my experiences with ethnicity, sexuality, and mental health. I am particularly interested in the interaction between individual actions and collective identity, and their dynamic interplay with the surrounding social and political environment. To convey these ideas, I employ elements of abstraction to enhance storytelling within my work.

## CV

### EDUCATION

2013-2019 BAsc. Electrical Engineering with a focus on Systems Engineering, University of Ottawa

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Black Dreams and Aspirations*, Union Station, Toronto, ON  
2024 *The Batouala Waltz*, Astrosankofa with Carnegie Hall, Virtual Exhibition  
2024 *Undercurrents*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2023 *Rest. Galerie Annexe*, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2022 *Origins & Futures*, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2022 *How I Love You*, Galerie Annexe, Ottawa, ON  
2022 *Home*, Gallery 55, Ottawa, ON  
2022 *Pique Spring*, Debaser at Arts Court, Ottawa, ON  
2021 *Prism II*, Envision Arts, Virtual Exhibition  
<https://www.envisionartshow.com/prism-ii>  
2020-22 *Art + Parcel: A Holiday Sale*, Galerie Annexe, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON  
2019 *The Gallery: Installation #1*, Club Saw, curated by Severe Nature, Ottawa, ON  
2018 *Welcome Home*, Exhibition and Zine launch by Swoon and Pace Magazine, Ottawa, ON

### PUBLICATIONS

2023 "Trials", Issue 06, February, feature and interview in Flolit Magazine  
2021 Volume 1, August, Nosy Mag (nosymag.ca). Newspaper  
2020 "Artiste en vedette : Yomi Orimoloye", 31 May, Le Pressoir (lepressoir.ca). Web Article  
2018 Issue 06, July, Pace Mag (pacemag.ca). Magazine

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## AWARDS

- 2023 Equity and Inclusion in the Arts Fund (Seed Award), City of Ottawa Cultural Funding
- 2013-19 Nortel Founding Scholarship for the School of Engineering and Computer Science

## PUBLIC EVENTS

- 2023 *LUCK!*, Ottawa Arts Council at Arts Court, Ottawa, ON
- 2023 *Give to Get Art Auction*, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON

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