

ArtExpo New York Solo Prize Recipient

Nigerian-born painter, Onyeka Ibe (pronounced ebay) has achieved international recognition for his dramatic approach to painting. Described as the most exciting young painter to emerge from Sub-Saharan Africa since the 1990s, he was awarded “The Best SOLO Artist of the Year 2006” at the International Artexpo New York. In 2007, Art Business News profiled him as one of “Today’s Top Artists.” Ibe looks for inspiration in “natural and humanistic traditions of contemporary realism and abstraction.” His paintings convey a spectrum of human emotions.

Ibe was born not long after the end of the Nigerian civil war and grew up in a developing democracy that was abruptly terminated. Violence became the order of the day. As a youth, Ibe realized that his artists’ sensibilities could move him in either of two directions -- either to fight back at such dehumanizing situations, or to escape inward by searching for elements that reflect humanity. He chose the latter.

Encouraged by his father, a painter himself, Ibe was introduced to drawing as a youth. He achieved success at the age of sixteen when he first exhibited at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Lagos, Nigeria. Ibe was quickly offered a full scholarship to study art at the high school. He went on to train at the University of Benin in Nigeria, earning first class honors (summa cum laude) in fine arts. After moving to the United States, he continued his education at Georgia State University.

Ibe has traveled extensively through the United States, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. His work has been featured in art publications as well as major museums, private collections, and galleries around the world.

Laguna Valley, oil on canvas, 36" x 48"



Onyeka Ibe on:

Painting...

My paintings are like visual journal entries of my life and the world around me. Every painting I create can probably be referenced to a particular experience, person, or place in my life. Due to the fact that I have had the privilege to live in another part of the world, I genuinely appreciate the differences in human beings as individuals and am always trying to perceive things with a fresh mind.

Colour...

Colour is the primary characteristic of my work. If I didn't have colour, I would have nothing. I apply thick layers of colors with the palette knife and watch the life come out of the painting.

Value Indicator

	Small	Medium	Large
1998	\$200	\$600	\$1,200
2003	\$1,200	\$3,000	\$5,000
2007	\$2,500 - \$5,000	\$6,000 - \$10,000	\$12,000 - \$25,000
2010	\$3,000 - \$6,000	\$8,000 - \$18,000	\$25,000 - \$85,000



Morning Light, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Selected Exhibitions

- 2010 Harbour Gallery, Mississauga, ON
- 2009 Thornwood Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2009 Huff Harrington Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2009 Thornwood Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2009 The Seaside Gallery, Pismo Beach, CA
- 2009 The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA) Atlanta, GA

Art from Within—Life Magazine Canada, March 29, 2011

For Nigeria's Art Market, Excitement Soars, Page 46, THISDAY, Vol. 15, No. 5731, January 1, 2011

Renowned Nigerian Artist's Work, Time Press Recorder, May 22, 2009

Thornwood Gallery presents: Onyeka Ibe, Pegasus News, February 27, 2008

Expressionist Color, American Art Collector, November 7, 2007

Universal Appeal, Atlanta INtown, January 11, 2007

Artist Living His Dream, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, October 18, 2007

Artist paints world's villages in rich colors, The Greenville News, July 17, 2007

"Today's Top Artists", Art Business News July 1, 2007

Artist Vitae, Art World News, May 2007

Ibe Awarded the SOLO Prize at ArtExpo New York 2006

Selling Sensuality, Art Business News, July 2006