

History of and about the *Canadian Black Artists United*

History: Canadian Black Artists United (CBAU) is registered as Black artists' organization and is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. It was founded after Hon. Patricia Bovey (former Director of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and Canadian Senator (2016-2023) paid a studio visit to Yisa Akinbolaji in 2019. She inspired him based on her awareness of Yisa's capacity and organizational skills, to initiate an organization that would bring practising Black artists together. A pandemic later; CBAU was founded in 2022 to great excitement, hosting several inauguration events that overflowed with artists, art enthusiasts, art administrators, and policy makers, the vast majority of whom continue to be integral and active supporters.



Hon. Pat Bovey (Centre), inducted and the first recipient of Honourary member of CBAU at a public event held at the RBC Convention Centre on September 18, 2022.



Canadian Black Artists United inauguration, June 26, 2022 at the CMHR in Winnipeg.



Sun. June 30th
the Future of Black Artists in Manitoba, Part II
Multiple Voices Collaboration (Art Talk, Exhibition & Presentations)
Venue: Creative Foundation Centre, 1615 St. Mary's Road
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 PM
Refreshments at 2:00 PM



Andrew Idemudia **Toks Agosu** **Bola Oriyomi** **David Fatimehin** **Yisa Akinbolaji**

Featured Artists:
Andrew Idemudia, Visual Artist - presenting painting ground, the step by step
Toks Agosu, Vancouver Visual Artist - to share the story about his artistic journey
Bola Oriyomi, Cultural Performing Artist - to present a short workshop
David Fatimehin, Performing Artist - to deliver a live performance
Yisa Akinbolaji, Experimental Artist - to demonstrate his invented technique



FREE ADMISSION
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 PM

Venue
CREATIVE
FOUNDATION

Host organization:
Canadian Black Artists United

Host and coordinator:
Yisa Akinbolaji

Technology & stage engineers:
Sanchez Saintus
Teniola Akande
Malik Akande

Entertainment coordinators:
Bosede Olalojule and Moji Omotayo

Featured artists contact:

Andrew Idemudia
andrewidemudia@live.com

Toks Agosu
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Bola Oriyomi
bolastoryteller@gmail.com

David Fatimehin
dafatimehin@gmail.com

Yisa Akinbolaji
info@yisagallery.com



To visit the exhibition after Sun. 30th of June is by appointment only:
info@blackartistsunited.ca or call (204)805-7544

www.blackartistsunited.ca

Exhibition duration: 30 June 2024 to 22 August 2024



Andrew Idemudia

Andrew Idemudia is a Nigerian-born, Canadian based-artist. His works captivate viewers with a unique blend of impasto technique and realism. We are an extension of each other—separated by distance, culture, and language but bound by a deep desire to be loved and feel love. Our most distinguishing attribute binds us together, yet we’ve failed to acknowledge these connections. Chasm has replaced empathy, and where love is needed, hostilities abound. Andrew’s work is a reminder that we are more than our differences. Inspired by the rich tapestry of Nigeria and his Canadian experience, his art creates stories about the passage of time, the lessons we pick up along the way, the losses we take, the moments we celebrate and the passersby who linger in our memories forever. Having found a home in Canada, Andrew brings a unique perspective to his art, melding the influences of both African and Western cultures. This fusion is reflected not only in the subject matter but most especially in the vibrant colour palette and emotional depth that characterize his national exhibitions.



Toks Agosu

Toks Agosu is a visual artist whose work evokes a sense of hope, inspiration, and pure joy. His art aims to create a sense of serenity in the present moment, inviting viewers to appreciate the beauty around them. Toks Agosu studied Multimedia Technology and Design at the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. After relocating to Vancouver, Canada, with his family, he now works as an artist at North Wind Illustrations. Toks’ artistic journey began as a way to navigate life’s adversities. It led him to actively seek out the beauty within everyday moments. Toks is also the author of a children’s book titled Kolobo, which reflects on his experiences growing up in Nigeria and moving to the UK.

Toks Agosu primarily works with ink on paper. His subject matter is diverse, encompassing sports, nature, spirituality, abstraction, and music. His mission is to infuse his collectors with a sense of hope, fun, and joy. He achieves this by using uplifting colors, whimsical expressions, and creating spaces within his artwork that invite viewers to participate and experience the sense of movement.



Bola Oriyomi

Bola Oriyomi is a storyteller and cultural performer focused on singing, dancing and drumming. Bola has been performing for over 25 years. Originally from Ondo state in Nigeria, Bola was trained in traditional Yoruba culture and dance that has inspired her work and passion for the arts.

Bola draws inspiration from traditional African folktales and her experiences throughout life to create engaging stories and performances. Bola has performed across Canada and around the world. She leads Ariya Afrika Cultural Group, a contemporary African dance group. Bola’s work has been featured on CBC Radio and local television stations. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Yoruba as well as a degree in History from the University of Winnipeg.

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David Fatimehin

Ibikunle David Fatimehin is a versatile person with interests in the performing arts, mentorship, and community development.

David is committed to mentoring and community outreach using his talents to inspire others and a strong advocate for African arts.

He is a captivating performer who tells stories and dances expressively. He is particularly popular at the Folklorama African Pavilion, where he showcases traditional African cultural ceremonies in his performances. David is also co-founder of F.R.A.M.E. Art Warehouse, which is a platform dedicated to nurturing and promoting diverse artistic expressions. He is passionate about preserving and celebrating African art forms and cultural heritage. David is committed to mentoring and community outreach, and he uses his talents to inspire and empower others. He is also a strong advocate for African arts, cuisine, dance, and languages.



Yisa Akinbolaji

Yisa Akinbolaji has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Dakota. Yisa was featured on the cover of Art Business News, New York, in 2011 for his distinctive technique. His work is published in *Western Voices in Canadian Art*. Yisa has received the *Canada Council for the Arts* and *Manitoba Arts Council* grants. His painting “Wisdom Thread” is featured in the Government of Alberta department of Education’s Curriculum. “The process of my work expresses my playfulness; it is not unusual for viewers to perceive abstraction in my work; though I love colours, there are certain elements beyond canvas or paint which I use to awaken the viewers’ curiosity; I love mystery more than magic because mystery does not have an answer. That is why I’m fascinated by the dexterity at which a tiny insect could weave complex silk; my passion for experimentation has now resulted in the development of my own unique base medium, known as Remoglue”. Yisa says. Yisa, a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal is a Winnipeg-based experimental artist and a Member of the Order of Canada.