

ED CROSS FINE ART

JERRY BUHARI: JÁPA

EXHIBITION DATES: MAY 8 - JUNE 28
19 GARRETT STREET EC1V 0TY

Please note that prices are exclusive of 10% margin scheme VAT payable by UK clients.

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



Jerry Buhari

The lure of what lies across the blue line, Jápa Series, 2025

Mixed media on canvas

78.6 x 53.5 cm

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

Dream of green lands across the sea, Jápa Series, 2025

Mixed media on canvas

78.6 x 53.5 cm

£ 4,000.00

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Jerry Buhari

Attraction of the blue line, Jápa Series, 2025

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Jerry Buhari

The search for a new home away from home, Jápa Series, 2025

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Jerry Buhari

Dark journey across the Mediterranean Sea, Jápa Series, 2025

Mixed media on canvas
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Jerry Buhari

Daring the Mediterranean Sea, Jápa Series, 2025

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Jerry Buhari

Movement of Jah (Japa) People, Jápa Series, 2025

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Jerry Buhari

Jápa as explorers, 2025

Acrylic paint, recycled fabric and stones on fabric
80 x 150 cm

£ 10,000.00

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

We are all Jápa, 2025

Acrylic paint, recycled fabric and stones on fabric
150 x 200 cm

£ 20,000.00

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

In the valley of decision I, Jápa series, 2024

Watercolour, fabric and pen on paper
12.5 x 9.5 cm

£ 1,250.00

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

In the valley of decision II, Jápa series, 2024

Watercolour, fabric and pen on paper
12.5 x 9.5 cm

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Jerry Buhari

In the valley of decision III, Jápa series, 2024

Watercolour, fabric and pen on paper
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Personal landscape I, Jápa series, 2024

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Personal landscape III, Jápa series, 2024

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Jerry Buhari

Personal landscape IV, Jápa series, 2024

Mixed Media

12.5 x 9 cm

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[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

Personal landscape V, Jápa series, 2024

Mixed Media

12.5 x 9 cm

£ 1,250.00

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

Personal landscape VI, Jápa series, 2024

Mixed Media

12.5 x 9 cm

£ 1,250.00

[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

Migrant's dream of green lands I, Jápa series, 2024

Ink, watercolour, fabric on paper

12.5 x 9.5 cm

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[View detail](#)



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Migrant's dream of green lands II, Jápa series, 2024

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Migrant's dream of green lands IV, Jápa series, 2024

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[View detail](#)



Jerry Buhari

Migrant's dream of green lands V, Jápa series, 2024

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In the valley of decision II, Jápa series, 2024



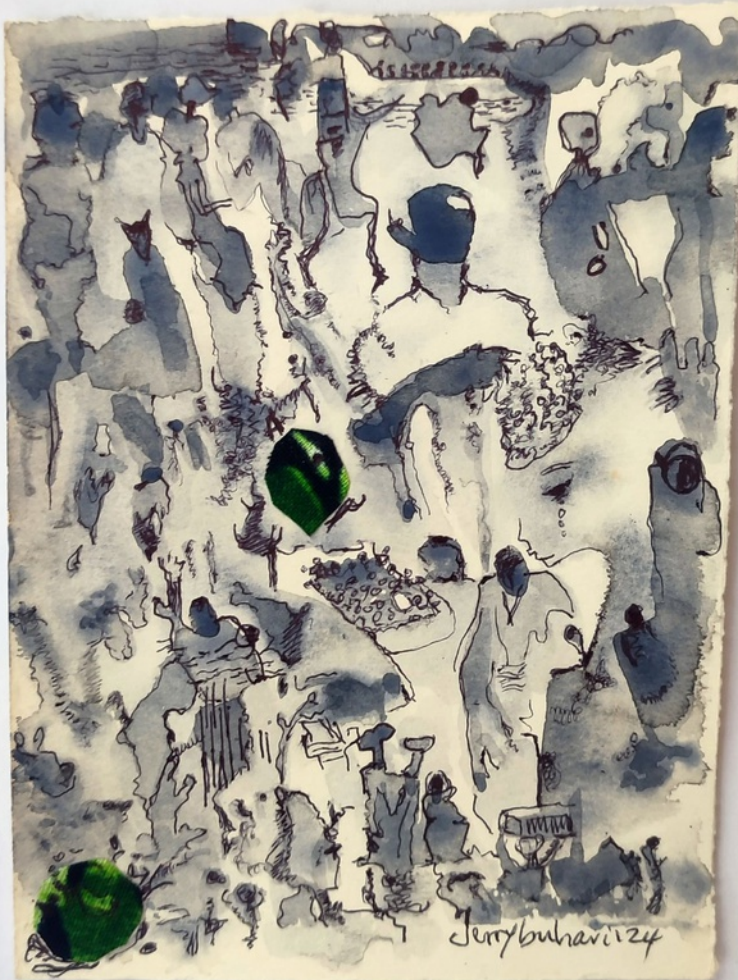
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JERRY BUHARI

In the valley of decision III, Jápa series, 2024



Watercolour, fabric and pen on paper

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JERRY BUHARI

Migrant's dream of green lands V, Jápa series, 2024



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Read the accompanying essay by Ayò Akínwándé here // Watch Jerry Buhari in conversation with Akin Oladimeji // Listen to Jerry Buhari on the Considering Art podcast

Ed Cross is delighted to present *Jápa*, a solo exhibition by Professor Jerry Buhari. This series is a meditation on migration and endurance, set against the backdrop of Buhari's reflections on his personal history, the future of his family, and a national zeitgeist of movement in post-colonial Nigeria.

Jápa, derived from the Yorùbá word meaning "to flee" or "to escape," has evolved into a widely used slang term in Nigeria, especially among younger generations. *Jápa* signifies the desire of Nigerians to leave behind oppressive conditions in search of "greener pastures" through new opportunities abroad. Buhari reflects on this phenomenon not as a passing moment, but as part of a larger history of dislocation and search for freedom. Through the *Jápa* series, Buhari interrogates migration as a markedly political yet deeply complex emotional and physical phenomenon. For Buhari, his paintings are "multi-layered texts...in one sense, the journals of a migrant", writes Ayò Akínwándé in the essay that accompanies the exhibition.

In the main gallery space hangs ten textile works which extend Buhari's exploration of migration into the realm of symbolism and cartography. These pieces feature clusters of circular scrap fabrics in brown, blue, and green, representing fleeing Africans, the precarious Mediterranean Sea and Europe/North America, respectively. The textile works, created through a meticulous process of dyeing, stitching, and layering, evoke, as Ayò Akínwándé writes, "a symbolic journey through layered geographies".

In the two large-scale textile works: *Jápa as explorers* (2025) and *We are all Jápa* (2025), Buhari reimagines the migrant as an explorer, a navigator who experiences *jápa* not just as a rupture but a process of redefinition, embarking on a journey filled with uncertainty and hope. In addition to the textile series are fourteen miniature works on paper. These pieces - grouped into the sub-series *Personal landscape I–VI* (2024), *In the valley of decision I–III* (2024), and *Migrant's dream of green lands I–V* (2024) - reflect an intimate approach to the theme of *Jápa*, capturing Buhari's own internal struggles with his children's potential flight from Nigeria as part of his meditations on migration. These small scale works invite close viewing, where the audience is encouraged to ask: "What does it mean to move - voluntarily or otherwise".

Jápa is a contemporary meditation on experiences that have long been part of the human condition. Buhari constructs a visual lexicon of departure: fractured space and motifs of dislocation. The sense of motion throughout the works is tense and ambivalent. The artist encourages the viewer to consider the narrative elements of *Jápa* and in doing so, reveals the sinuous stories of migration in the West African context, where both the artist and his subjects navigate the complex inner landscapes of disillusionment and new horizons.

Professor Jerry Buhari (b. 1959, Kaduna State, Nigeria) is a respected artist, curator and arts educator whose practice spans over four decades. Buhari studied at the Department of Fine Art, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he now serves as a professor. His work explores socio-political narratives, environmental issues, and intercultural dialogue through his practice and curatorial projects. In recent years, Buhari's practice has engaged with the theme of migration, reflecting on the emotional, historical, and cultural dimensions of human movement across geographies. He has curated and contributed to exhibitions interrogating displacement, identity, and memory within African and global contexts. Buhari has curated numerous landmark exhibitions, including retrospectives for Abiodun Olaku and Jimo Akolo, and participated in international residencies and biennials in the US, UK, Cuba, and China. A founding member of the Aftershave International Artists Workshop, he is deeply committed to nurturing artistic exchange across Africa and beyond.

Buhari has received numerous awards and fellowships, including from the Commonwealth Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Triangle Trust and Vermont Studio Centre. He is a Fellow of the Society of Nigerian Artists and has been listed in "Who is Who in Nigerian Art." He has held visiting professorships and lectureships at institutions such as Princeton University, Savannah College of Art and Design, and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He also serves as an advisor to Arthouse Contemporary and curated their landmark exhibition on the Zaria Art Society in 2019.

Selected solo exhibitions include *Landscapes of the Soul*, Kó, Lagos (2022); *Jerry Buhari*, Kó, Lagos (2021); *Framed Images of Time and Memories*, Thought Pyramid Art Centre Wuse, Abuja (2017); *Jerry Buhari in Retrospection: 33 Years +*, Kashmiri Ibrahim Library and Department of Fine Arts Gallery, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (2015) and *Encounters & Dialogues*, Artspring Gallery, Kansas (2008). Selected group exhibitions include *Art Dubai*, Gallery Harare in partnership with Kó, Dubai (2023); *IN A POT OF HOT SOUP*, Brunei Gallery, London (2022); *Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles (2014) and *Àsikò: Evoking Personal Narratives and Collective History*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (2013). In 2022, Buhari exhibited and delivered the keynote speech at ArtoP: The Visual Articulation of Politics at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.