**Curatorial Text**

***Catharsis***

**Curated by Iyke Avan-Nomayo**

Catharsis is a collaborative project that combines the works of five outstanding artists, from paintings to collages, to generate a melting pot of emotions and aesthetic expressions via art. The exhibition catharsis provides a lens to analyze the parallels and variances in our diverse experiences by gathering varied ingredients from each artist's bowl of knowledge and innermost experience. It creates a collage of deeply embedded imagery that capture time, emotion, and subjectivity in a way that grasps the nuances of our human experience.

Catharsis is traditionally characterized as the emotional discharge resulting from experiencing distressing feelings. Still, a broader understanding of catharsis is required to investigate it as a component of aesthetic systems. If you look attentively, you will notice that art and the concept of catharsis are inextricably linked. The execution of an artist's work has an artistic purpose, including catharsis, yet an artist's charge or brief is formed by societal variables (Baxandall 1985; Griswold 1987). Subjectivity is affected by social and practical variables, limits, and influences throughout production, dictating how much the artist's objective is accomplished and examining how the artist's catharsis interacts and shapes the content of the work. Over time, art's communal and individual production stems from foundational motivations. All of this falls under the category of emotional contributions.

As an outcome, this show covers a wide range of topics that these artists feel passionate about, encompassing transcultural and multicultural identity, spirituality, recollection, contemporary architecture, societal prejudice, and ancestry.

**Evita Tezeno's** compositions are inspired by her childhood. Evita, who works primarily with handmade paper, embodies the experiences and essence of life in the numerous personas she rebirths via her creations. Evita's practice exemplifies mastery of retrospection as a mirror through which to study and link contemporary subject themes. She accomplishes this magnificently with the use of solid and vibrant patterns.

**Hamid Nii Nortey's** bright and colorful images are a testament to the African continent's rapidly changing modern environment. Hamid's paintings use a variety of fascinating tones to capture life and times against the backdrop of urban scenes that are significantly under- represented in the exposition of contemporary Africa. Hamid combines tradition with current culture, creating the groundwork for what many sense will be a new wave for Afrofuturism.

The works of **Oliver Okolo** express the strength and confidence of African society. Oliver dives deep into history to build fresh narratives in the portrayal of black ancestry and anecdotes by depicting his figures in robust and grandiose postures. He discloses essential facts about his personal and communal reality while challenging socio-cultural and political assumptions.

**Rafael Baron's** work is a vehicle through which he provides a remark on societal concerns prevalent in his culture by examining and portraying individuals as a method of opening up a discourse. His bold, elegant strokes and patterns express the essence of human emotions.

Rafael's goal with this work is to create feelings in his viewers, leading to dialogues and reexamination.

**Wonderbuhle Mbambo** elicits emotions and symbols profoundly rooted in his origin by pulling inspiration from lineage, customs, and family. He uses them as a visual language to address various subjects, including culture, heritage, family, community and social healing, and spirituality. His use of the floral theme, which dates back to his ancestral culture, links his past and present while acting as a communicative and therapeutic symbol.

Navigating through this diverse selection of works reveals a dance of uniqueness and collectiveness expertly combined to elicit emotions deep inside us and provide insight into the sentiments these artists have poured forth to make these works—a catharsis from both ends.