

# MATTHEW EGUAVOEN

PORTFOLIO



# MATTHEW EGUAVOEN

MATTHEW EGUAVOEN WAS BORN IN 1988 IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA. HE CURRENTLY LIVES AND WORKS IN LAGOS.

Self-taught artist, Matthew Eguavoen is part of the *Black Vanguard* movement, a figuration that loudly proclaims its origins and culture; influenced by the fashion world. Matthew Eguavoen's portraits reflect his view of the society in which he lives, notably through a reflection on the family, immigration and the consequences of the colonial past.

Eguavoen attended the University of Port Harcourt, where he attained a Bachelors in Science for Civil Engineering and Structures. In his final year at the university of Port Harcourt, he decided to pursue his passion for creating art through self-study, where he continued his artistic development.

A full-time contemporary painter, he depicts his figurative and portrait subjects using a combination of oil paint, acrylic paint, charcoal, and graphite pencils to document stories that encompass the emotions and demeanor of his

muse to the viewer of his work. Eguavoen uses his work to address the societal, economic, and political views across the complex intersectionality that Nigerians face in different facets of life. The constraint of societal ideology about life, on human existence and survival.

As an artist he is deeply concerned about the impact of his work on his immediate environment and the world at large and that is why themes of his art centers around the societal, political and economic imbalance taking over humanity happiness, swamping over the essence of society.

Eguavoen's works are featured in collections across West Africa, USA, Europe, and North America.

# MATTHEW EGUAVOEN

Born in 1988  
Edo State, Nigeria



## SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2024

Ukhurhę, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

2022

*Akaté*, PM/AM Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Egbé Okpá*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France

## SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2023

*Color Coded*, BODE Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2022

*The New African Portraiture. Shariat Collections*, Kunsthalle Krems, Vienna, Austria

Art x Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

AKAA Art fair, Paris, France

*Shout Plenty*, African Artists' Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria

*Smiling and Suffering*, Out of africa Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

1-54 Paris, Paris, France

Expo Chicago, Chicago, United States of America

Artgenève, Geneva, Switzerland

Investec Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

*40 under 40 artists*, What if the World Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

*I No Be Gentlemen (at all o)*, Ada Accra Gallery, Accra, Ghana

*Live in color*, Mitochondria Gallery, Texas, United States of America

2020

*Art in Medicine, Art for Mental Health*, Online exhibition

2019

*African Art exhibition - Art Number 23*

« Art has a unique ability to evoke emotions, provoke thought, and challenge norms. When used properly, it can serve as a powerful tool for change and offer solutions to the countless obstacles we face in the world today. »



*MOM AND HER TREASURED QUEEN, 2021*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

122x185 cm / 48x73 in

Matthew Eguavoen continues the tradition of family portraits. Historically popular with historical figures, politicians, members of the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie - from Diego Velazquez's portrait of the Infanta Margarita to Jan Van Eyck's Arnolfini Portrait - they depict individuals in their homes and expose the ties that bind them. They inscribe the family in history and are the standard of its social and economic success. They salute its importance by displaying its wealth and stability. In the same vein, the composition of Matthew Eguavoen's portraits is evocative. By immersing his figures in the comfort of a domestic setting, he shows the centrality of the child in this new trio. He illustrates with his brushes how the harmony of the couple is modified, how the offspring becomes a new pillar of the family balance.



EXHIBITION VIEW

*Egbé Okpa*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
September 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



LEFT  
*SHE CAME WITH ADDITIONAL POUNDS*, 2021  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
120x120 cm / 47x47 in



RIGHT  
*IYANIWURA (MOTHER IS AS PRECIOUS AS GOLD)*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*WE WORK SHIT OUT*, 2021  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
125x182 cm / 49x72 in





*CONVERSATIONS WE MUST HAVE, 2022*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

120X180 cm / 47x71 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

*Egbé Okpa*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
September 2022

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



*I CAN'T GIVE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING IN EXCHANGE FOR MENTORSHIP*, 2021  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
182x152 cm / 72x60 in

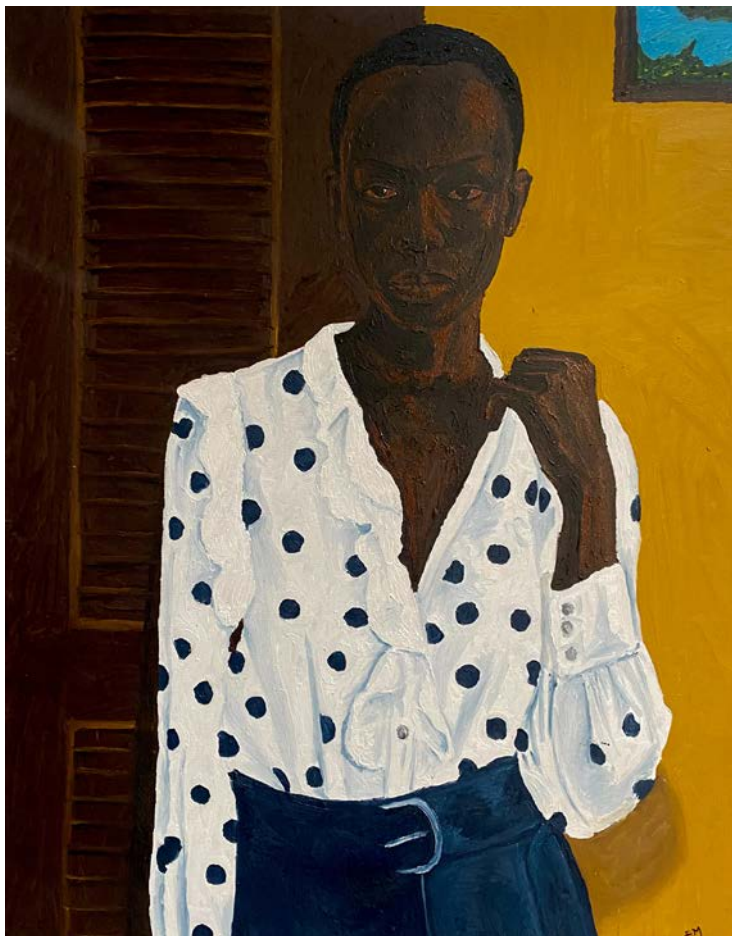


*YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in

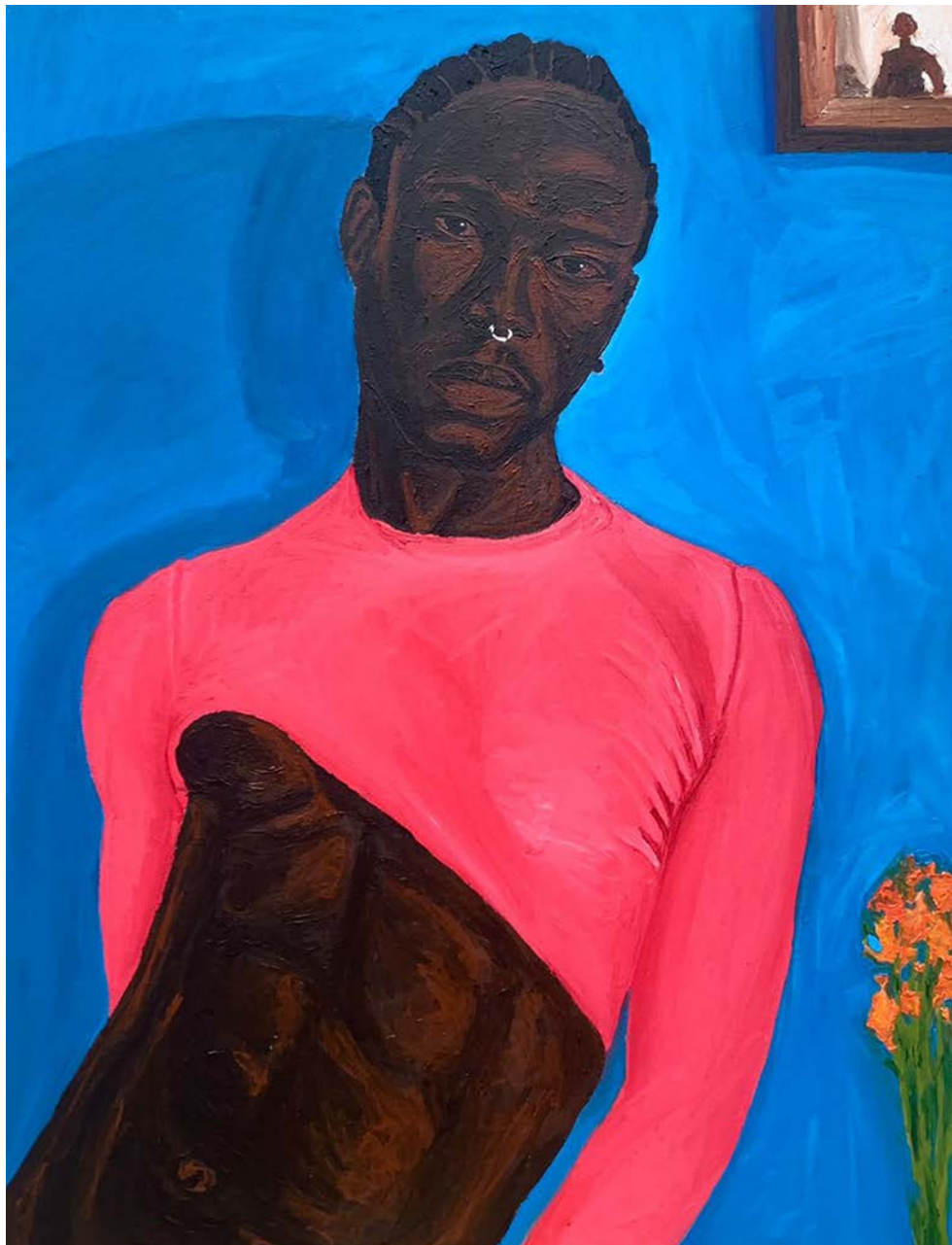
Imbued with a photographic vision, Matthew Eguavoen's art stands between fashion printmaking and social painting. While he depicts scenes inspired by fashion photographs, he changes the context to create a link between these idealized figures and contemporary realities. In this way, he highlights societal problems through the eyes of his models. Their gaze fixes the viewer and breaks the third wall, creating a certain intimacy and proximity. The figures depicted are no longer untouchable icons created to satisfy a fantasy of perfection. On the contrary, immersed in a domestic setting, they are like us. They thus bear witness to their past and present, questioning us head-on about their future.



LEFT  
*I MADE MY HOME HERE, 2022*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



RIGHT  
*STEPPING OUT IN A MINUTE, 2022*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*IT'S ILLEGAL TO BE MYSELF II*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 In



LEFT  
*WITH ALL THE MONEY*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 In

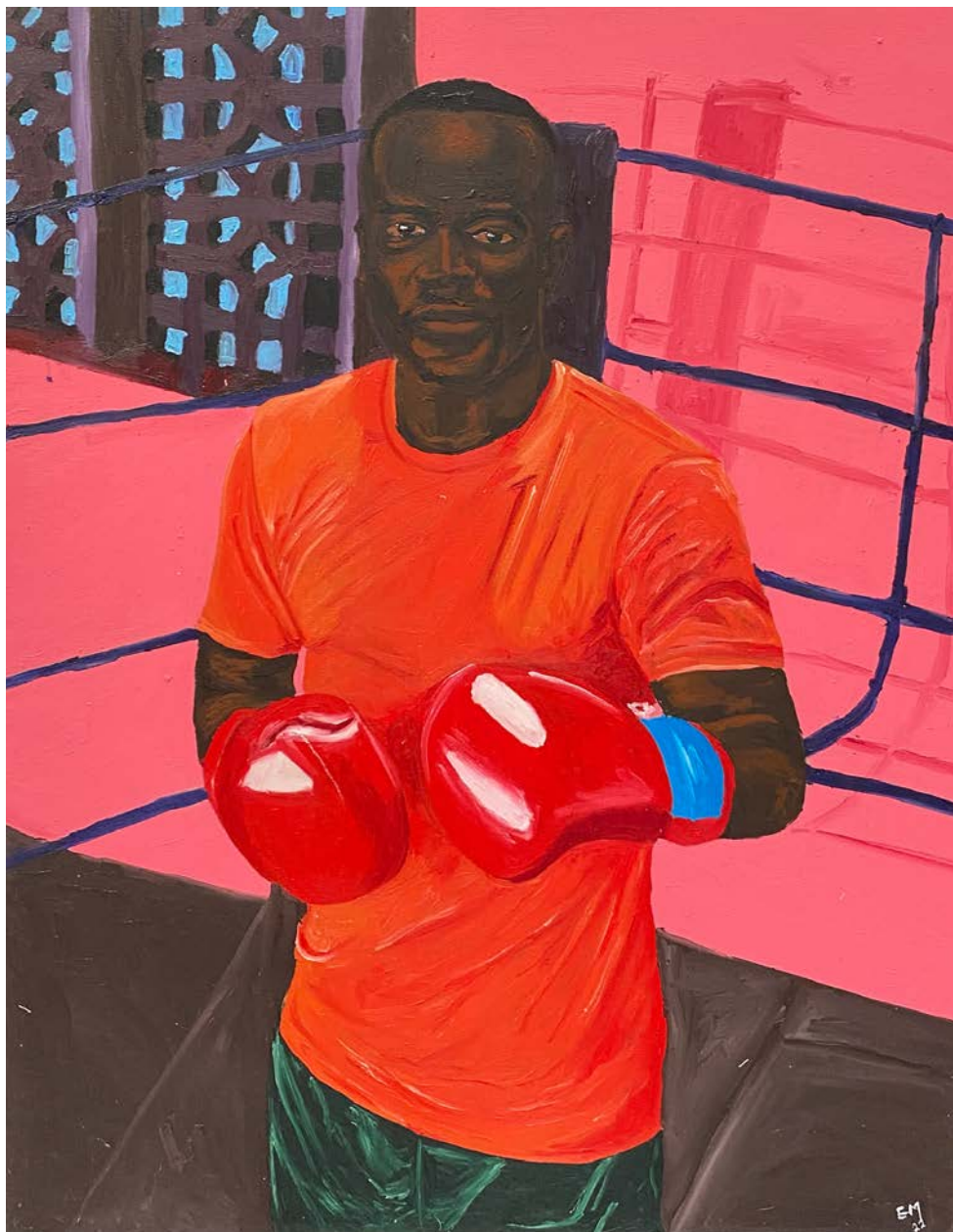


RIGHT  
*NOW THAT WE ARE HERE*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 In



*THE COLLECTOR II, 2022*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
180x122 cm / 72x48 in





*THE COLLECTOR IV, 2022*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*PUSHING TWICE AS HARD FOR HER, 2023*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
140x130 cm / 55x51 in



*AMIDST THE DIVIDE*, 2022  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
150x181 cm / 59x71 in



*MY MIND STILL WONDERS, 2022*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

130x100 cm / 51x39 In

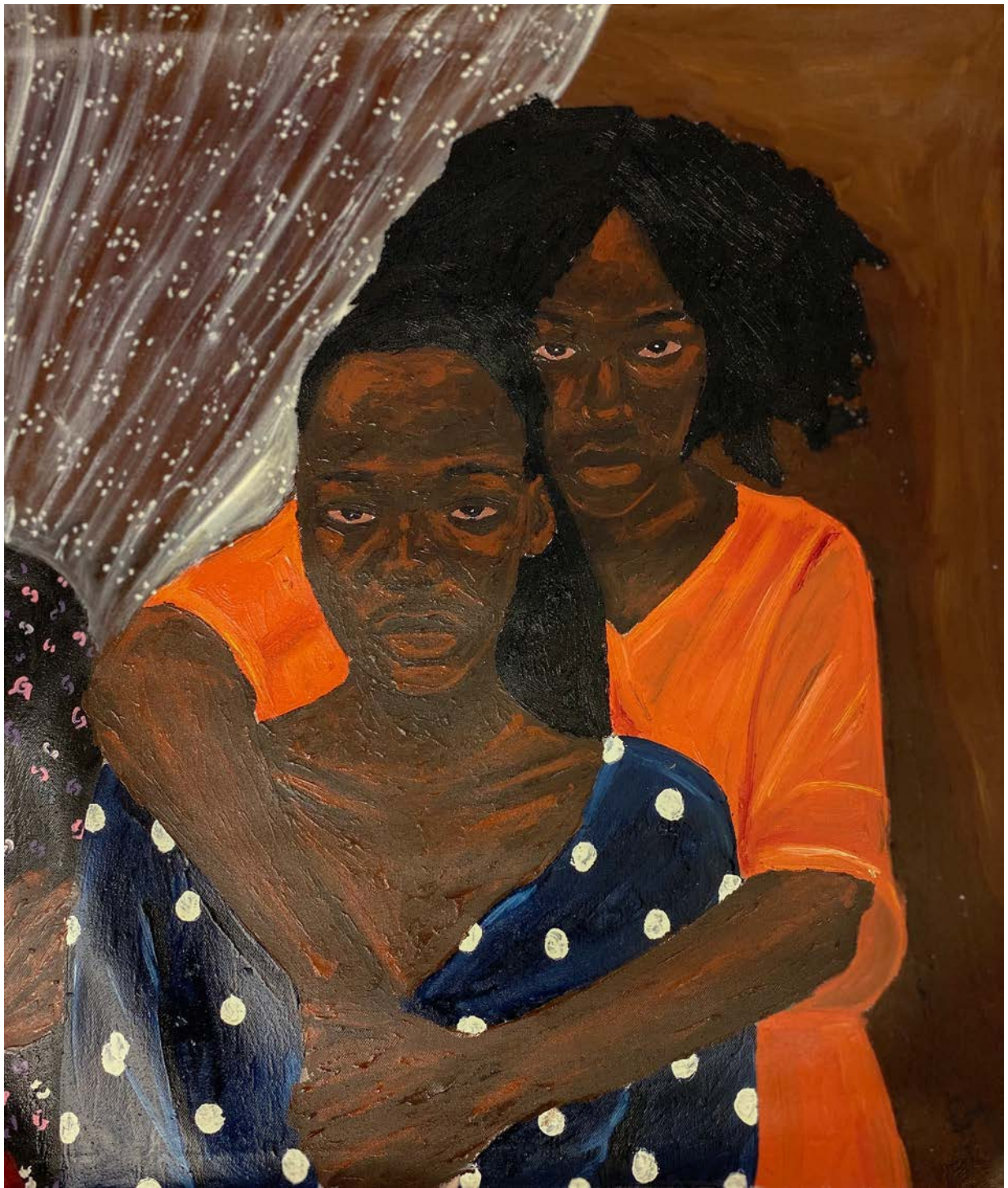


EXHIBITION VIEW  
*Ukhurhe*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

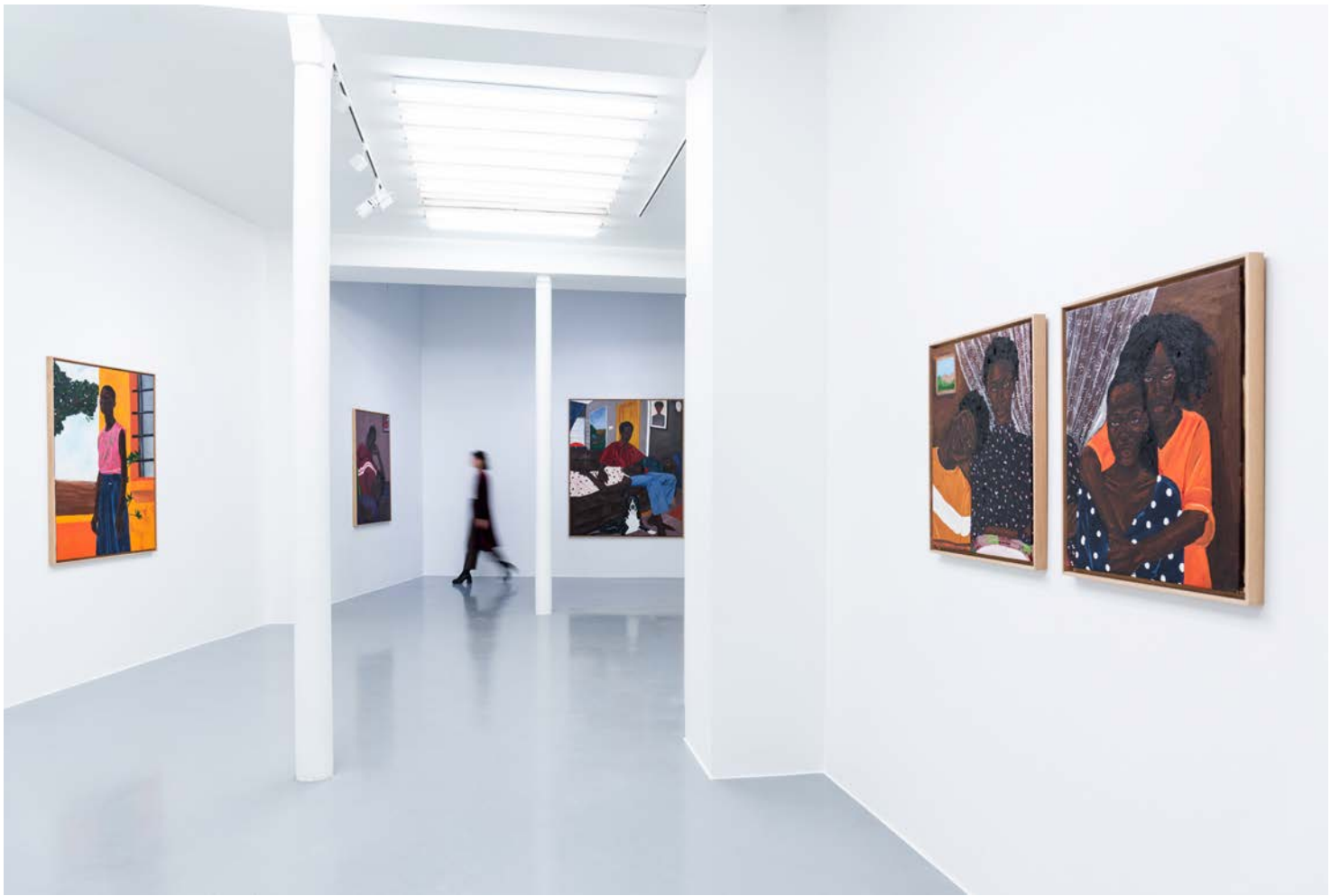
Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



*EGBÉ OKPÁ I*, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
70x61 cm / 27x23 in



*EGBÉ OKPÁ II*, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
70x61 cm / 27x23 in



EXHIBITION VIEW  
*Ukthurhẹ*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay





*A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

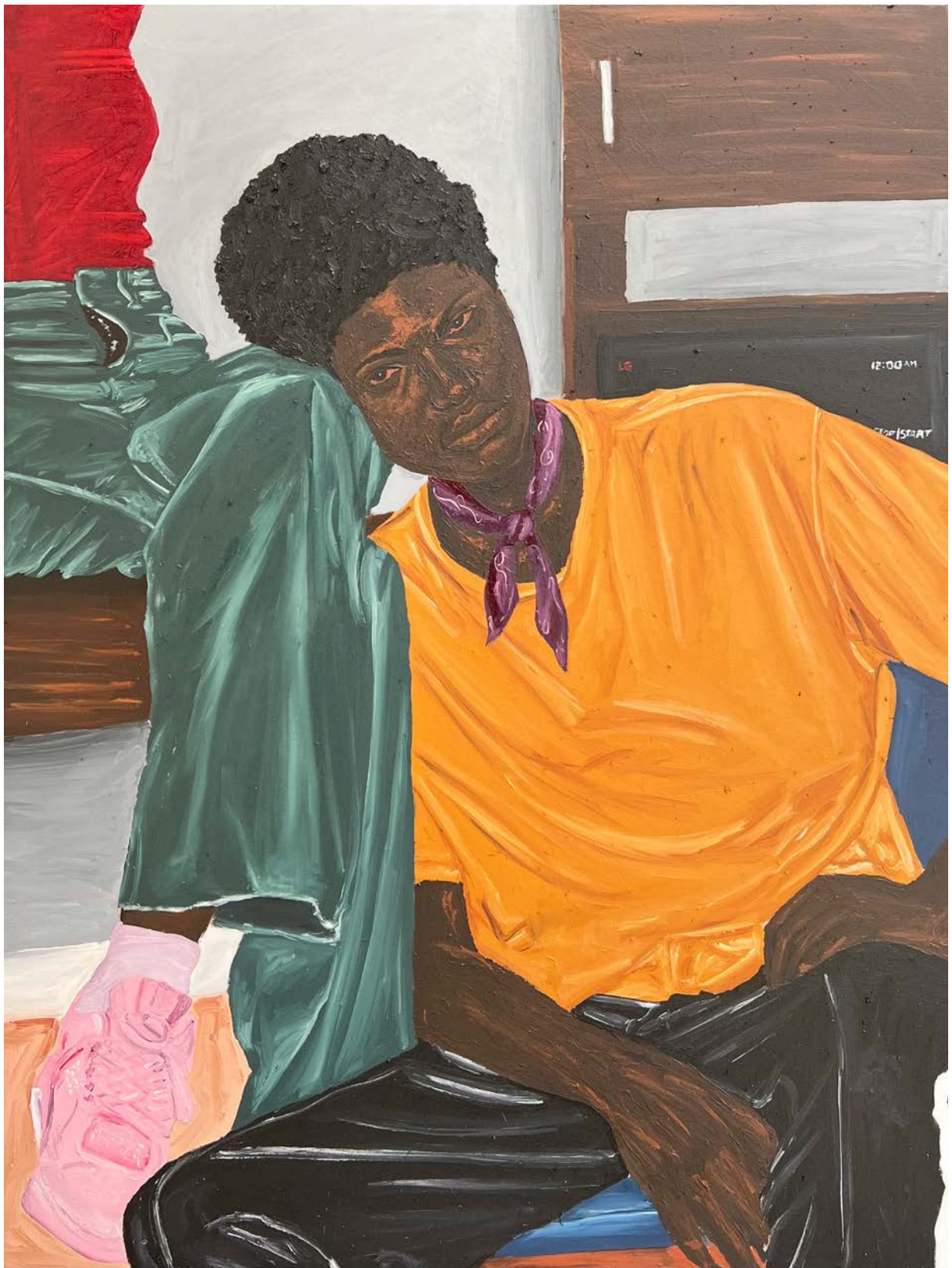
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*COMFORTING SILENCE, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*I STILL HAVE FAITH IN THE MIDST OF EVERYTHING, 2023*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
160x120 cm / 63x47 in



*NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*IN THE END NOTHING AND EVERYTHING MATTERS, 2023*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
120x182 cm / 47x72 in

Depicting faces with a stressed expression and a piercing gaze, Matthew Eguavoen portrays Nigerian society. Staged in a familiar interior, his models mirror social issues.

« I strongly believe in the saying that  
«the eyes are the window to the soul.»  
It's a fundamental aspect of my work.  
By portraying characters with piercing  
gazes, I aim to draw viewers into the  
essence of the artwork—to invite them  
to contemplate the experiences and  
narratives depicted within. »



EXHIBITION VIEW

*Ukhurhẹ*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay

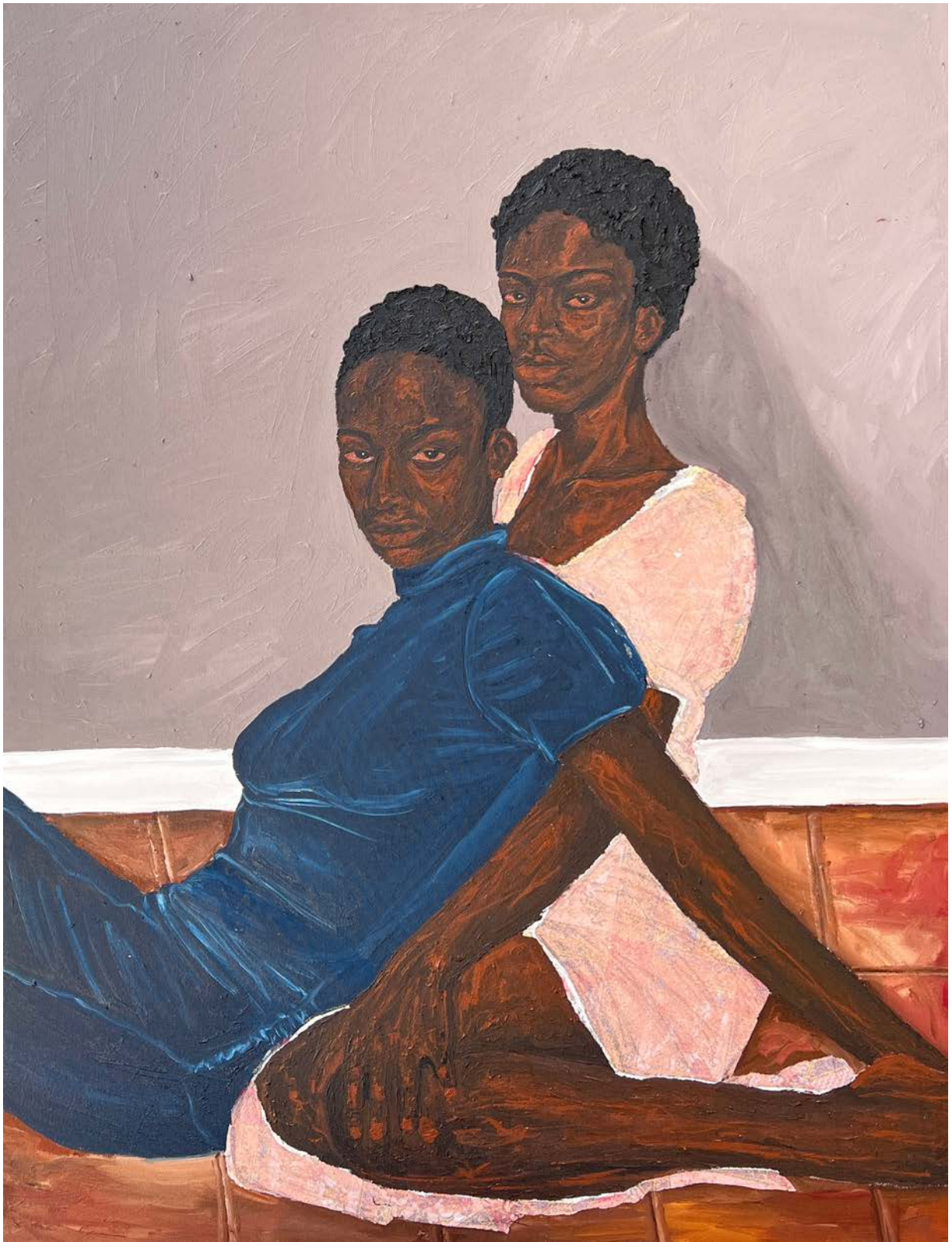


*IT GETS EASIER WITH THE THOUGHT OF YOU, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

120x182 cm / 47x72 in





*LEAN ON ME, 2023*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in



EXHIBITION VIEW  
*Ukhuře*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



*LIVING THROUGH MY OWN THOUGHTS, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

75x61 cm / 30x24 in



*YOUR PRESENCE BRINGS PEACE, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

160x120 cm / 63x47 in



*SELF REFLECTION IN THE RESTROOM II, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

130x100 cm / 51x39 in



*WHAT IS OURS WILL FIND US*, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
182x152 cm / 72x60 in

Each image carries an intimate story and emphasises the complexity of personal internal conflicts. The artist's experience hides behind these portraits, himself being involved and a witness of the global malaise spreading among the youth.



EXHIBITION VIEW

*Ukhurhę*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



*STAY WITH ME*, 2023  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
120x182 cm / 47x72 in





*THE SILENCE AFTER THE CONVERSATION, 2023*

Acrylic and oil on canvas

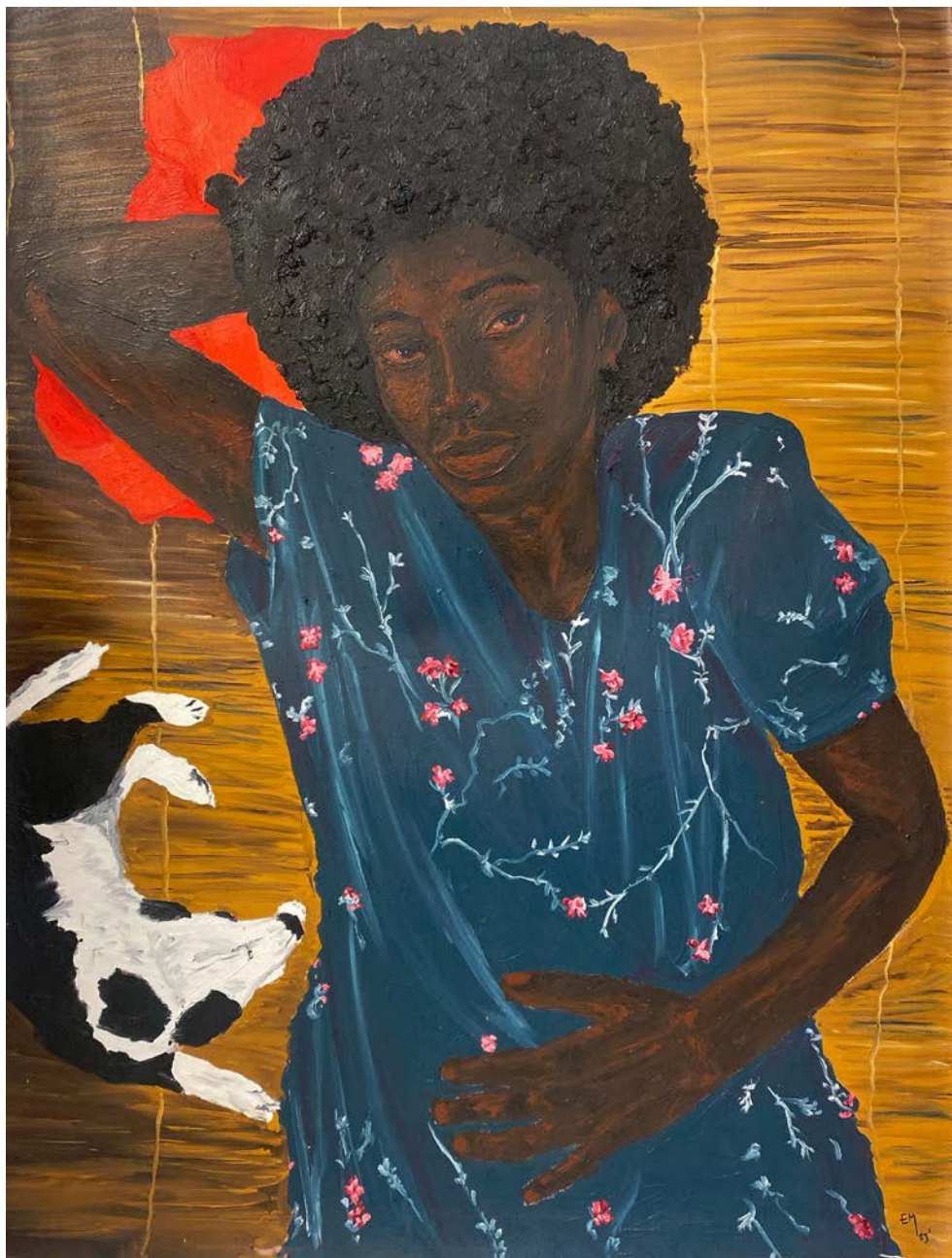
182x152 cm / 72x60 in



EXHIBITION VIEW

*Ukhurhe*, AFIKARIS Gallery, Paris, France  
March 2023

Photo Credit: Studio Vanssay



*TAKING FRESH AIR OUT IN THE YARD, 2023*  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
130x100 cm / 51x39 in

Produced during the 2023 presidential election, Matthew Eguavoen's new works reflect the anxieties and economic difficulties that the Nigerian population has been facing for several months. Through realistic portraits featuring his loved ones and capturing their emotions, the artist continues his reflection on political and societal issues. Taking fresh air out in the yard» evokes the need for people to detach themselves from recent events, and to release the heavy economic pressure that is rife throughout the country.