



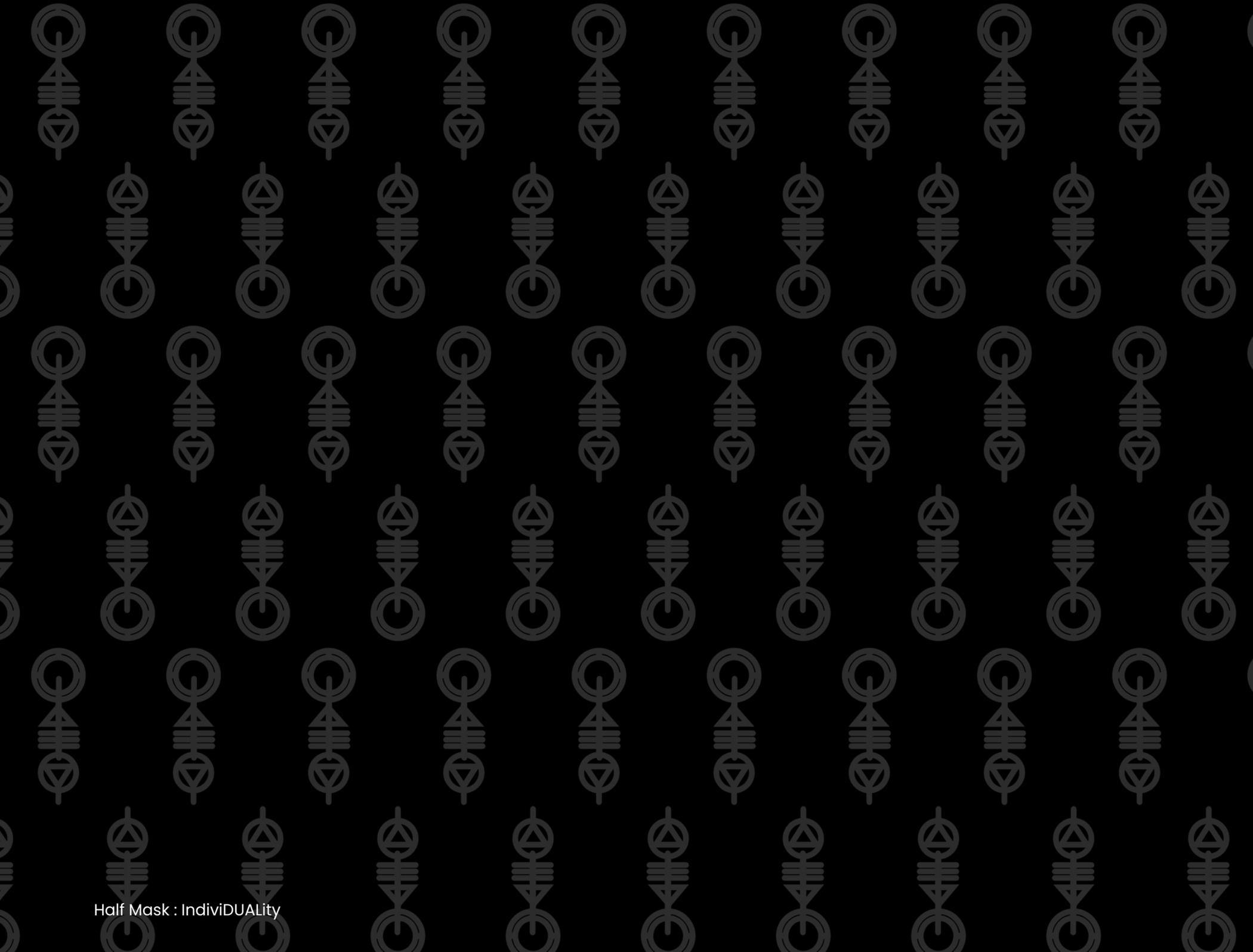
# HALF MASK

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IndiviDUALity

PHISHA

*Phisha*





**HALF  
MASK**

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**IndiviDUALity**

Drawing from a decade as a story spotter, storyteller, and visual artist, Phisha presents a unique perspective on human integration into society.

Amidst the chaos of modern existence, this exhibition unveils the delicate interplay between public personas and private vulnerabilities. It's a universal narrative, the struggle to project our best selves while concealing insecurities. Each piece in this visual symphony exposes the dual nature within us — fear juxtaposed with majestic strength, sadness underneath the joy we project and more.

These "half masks" are not deceptive veils, they are intentional presentations, shaped by the desire for connection, belonging, and understanding. We all harbor a need to integrate with others, to establish bonds that transcend the barriers of solitude.

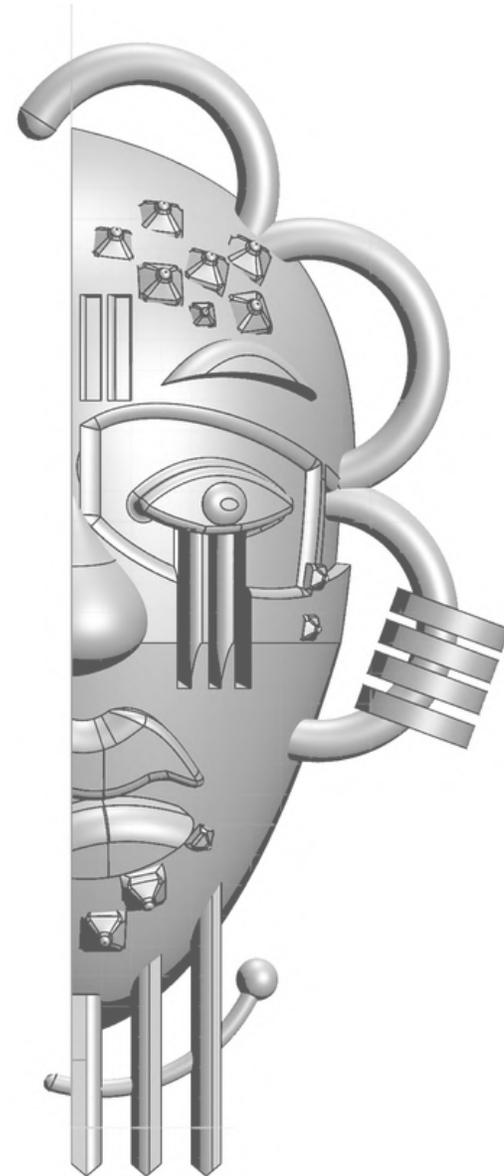
In crafting these partial personas, we navigate the delicate balance between revealing and concealing, offering glimpses of our true selves while sheltering the more tender, unspoken aspects that remain hidden behind the "half mask."

Utilizing his unique style of high contrast black and white photography/art, he invites us to delve into the nuanced layers of our existence and to boldly confront their challenges, fostering empathy and understanding in the collective journey of navigating life's hurdles.

This exhibition is a showcase of 30 artworks and each mask holds a meaning that is relevant to the central theme. As you wander through, consider the masks you wear, the personas you present, and the stories that lie beneath the surface.

Embark on a timely journey into identity, vulnerability, and authenticity at HALF MASK: IndividUALity - a compelling conversation starter for 2024. Enjoy the journey of exploration, connection, and introspection.

**Curated by:**  
**Adaora "Lumina" Mbelu**



**INTROSPECTION  
INTERNAL DIALOGUE  
REVELATIONS IN HUES  
HIDDEN HARMONIES**

# INTROSPECTION

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## Harmony: The Unveil

This artwork shows the artist's resolve that "half masks" are not deceptive veils, they are intentional presentations, shaped by the desire for connection, belonging, and understanding.

Half Mask : IndiViDUALity

## Artwork Description

Title: Harmony: The Unveil

Size: 40 x 60"

Medium: Photo Art Print on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$4000

# INTERNAL DIALOGUE

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## The Path Within

This artwork serves as a visual metaphor for the cyclical nature of self-discovery, reminding us that no matter how far we venture into the external world, the key to unlocking our fullest potential resides in reconnecting with the inner self.



## Artwork Description

Title: The Path Within

Size: 30 x 38"

Medium: Acrylic x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$700

## Unseen Echoes

This artwork encourages an exploration of the symbiotic relationship between our internal dialogue and external manifestations. "Unseen Echoes" is an invitation to tune into the melodies of our internal world and to recognize the power we hold in composing the soundtrack of our own lives.



## Artwork Description

Title: Unseen Echoes

Size: 30 x 38"

Medium: Acrylic x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$700

## Rivers of The Mind

The central theme unfolds represented by intricate, flowing lines, weave and intertwine throughout the canvas, symbolizing the thoughts and words that silently mold the trajectory of our lives.



## Artwork Description

Title: Rivers of The Mind

Size: 30 x 38"

Medium: Acrylic x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$700

## Where Intense Currents flow

Let's be mindful architects of our internal currents, shaping them to foster balance and harmony within. When the currents of our thoughts and emotions flow smoothly, we find clarity in our minds. When the currents of our actions align with our values, our bodies thrive. When the currents of our intentions resonate with our higher purpose, our souls are enriched. And when the currents of our connection to something greater flow seamlessly, our spirits are uplifted.



## Artwork Description

Title: Where Intense Current Flows

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$700

## **A Visible Constellation I**

Just as a constellation tells a story in the night sky, the arrangement of our experiences, beliefs, and energies paints a narrative within our soul's orbit. Some events may sparkle with joy, while others may cast shadows of challenges and growth. The ebb and flow of these occurrences shape the constellation of our character, crafting a map that guides us through the vast cosmic expanse of our lives.



## **Artwork Description**

Title: A Visible Constellation I

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## **A Visible Constellation II**

Let us marvel at the beauty of our own celestial arrangement, recognizing that every twist and turn in our soul's orbit contributes to the unique constellation that is us.



## **Artwork Description**

Title: A Visible Constellation II

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print (Framed)

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

# REVELATIONS IN HUES

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## A Harmony of Self Understanding

*There exists a fascinating interplay between how we view ourselves and the reflections cast upon us by the impressions we leave on others.*

You may have a certain narrative about yourself, a script written from the vantage point of your own experiences, aspirations, and self-reflections. Yet, the true essence of who you are also emerges from the impact you have on others—the feelings, impressions, and emotions you evoke in those who cross your path. Life is colorful, when you can just BE.



### Artwork Description

Title: A Harmony of Self Understanding

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Acrylic x Photo Art Print on canvas

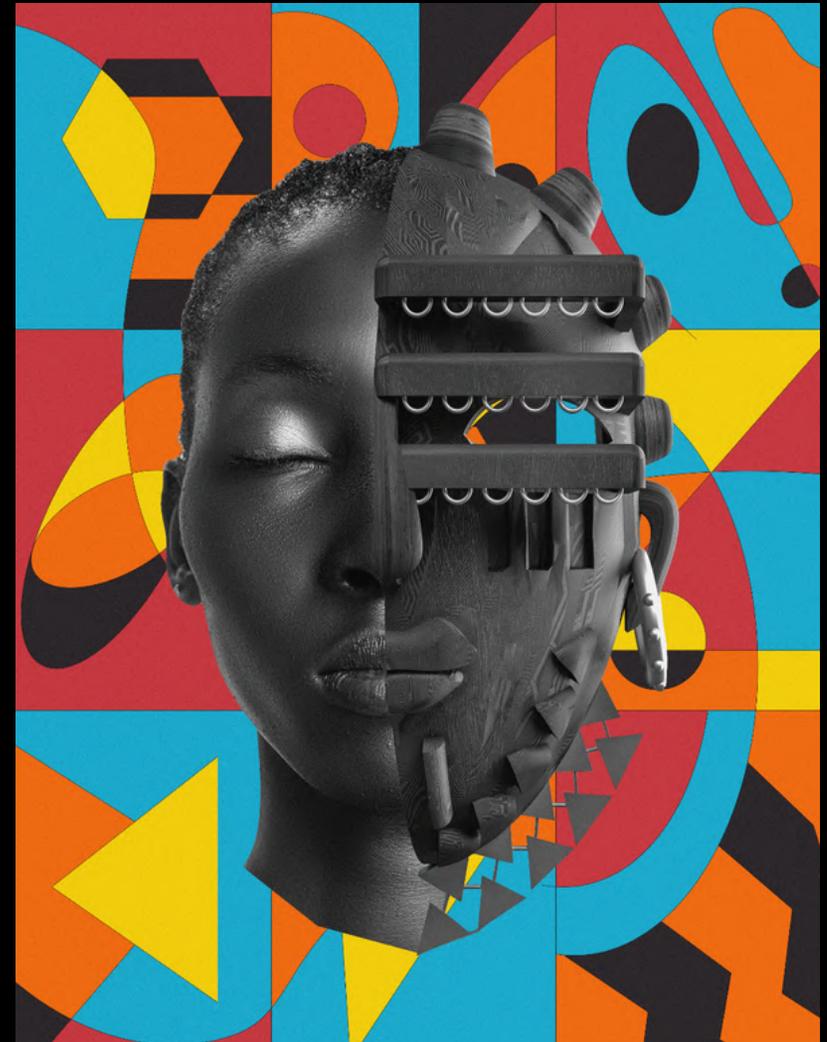
Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## **Nurturing The Garden**

*By honoring ourselves and tending to the weeds within, we fortify the foundation from which our external radiance can authentically flourish.*

"Nurturing the Garden" is a poignant and evocative artwork that delicately captures the essence of self-care and the imperative to cultivate our inner landscapes before extending our energies to others.



### **Artwork Description**

Title: Nurturing The Garden

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Acrylic x Photo Art Print on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1200

## Subconscious Strokes

*Every decision, every word spoken or unspoken, contributes to the evolving masterpiece that is our collective story.*

Even in the quiet moments when we believe our influence is dormant, the subtle strokes of our presence are still at work, coloring the world and shaping the experiences of others. May your strokes be mindful, your colors vibrant, and your masterpiece a reflection of the beauty you wish to see in the world.



## Artwork Description

Title: Subconscious Strokes

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Acrylic x Photo Art Print on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1200

## Inward Alchemy

*Life, is an alchemical journey—a perpetual transformation of the inner self into a more refined and enlightened being*

To be an alchemist of the self is to understand that the journey of transformation is ongoing. It is a commitment to evolving, adapting, and expanding the boundaries of our understanding. Lifelong learning becomes the catalyst that propels us forward, enriching our inner world with the alchemical gold of wisdom, empathy, resilience, and self-awareness.



## Artwork Description

Title: Inward Alchemy

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Acrylic x Photo Art Print on canvas

Year: 2024

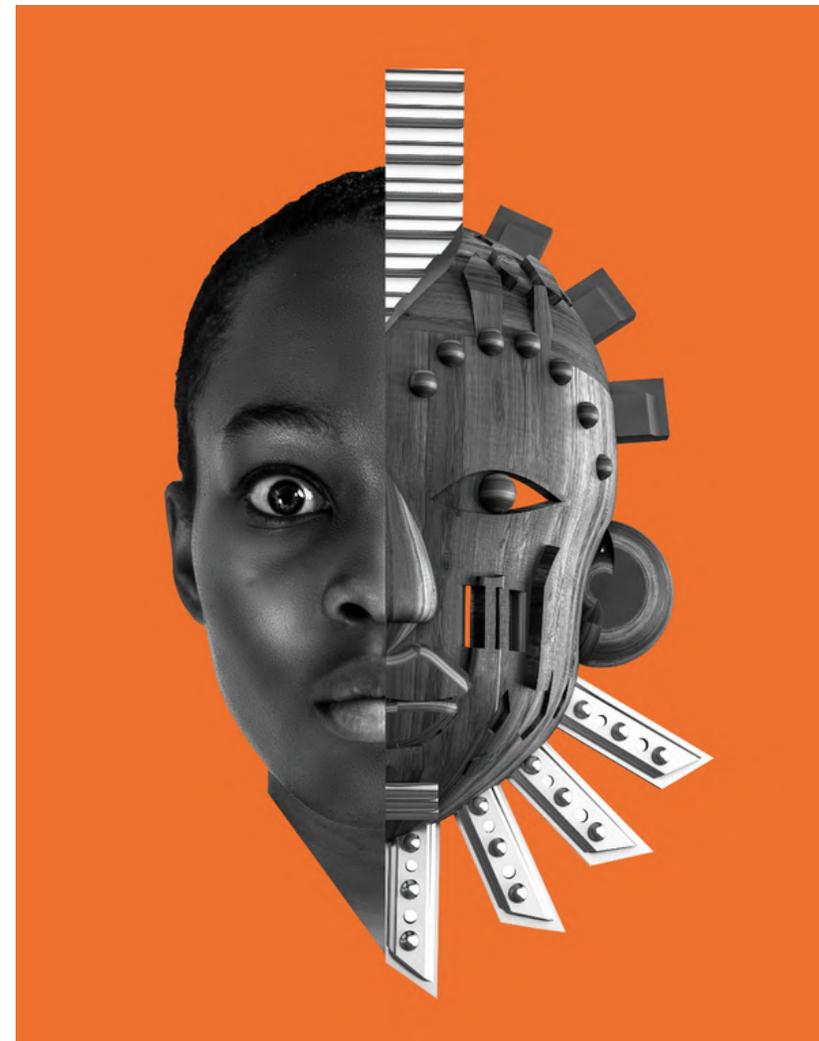
Price: \$1200

# HIDDEN HARMONIES

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## Colorful Confessions II

The challenge lies in finding a balance, a sweet spot where our words authentically reflect our thoughts without losing the vibrancy that makes communication an art.



### Artwork Description

Title: Colorful Confessions II

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## Unmasking The Ruler

***Our inner monarchy need not be hidden or diminished to serve others..***

In relationships and social dynamics, there might be times when we find ourselves tempering the regal aspect of our nature. We may showcase a more subdued, accommodating facade, fearing that the assertion of our royal authority may be misconstrued as dominance or strength that we hesitate to reveal. However, it's essential to embrace the truth that we can be both rulers and servants without compromising our essence.



### Artwork Description

Title: Unmasking The Ruler

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Photo Art on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$500

## Painting The Truth

***Is truth solely defined by collective consensus, or does personal belief alone validate its existence?***

As we navigate the complex terrain of truth, let us embrace the multiplicity of perspectives while staying anchored in our own authenticity. It challenges us to be mindful of the sources that inform our beliefs and encourages a deeper exploration of our own convictions.



### Artwork Description

Title: Painting The Truth

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Photo Art on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## **A Melody of Vulnerable Notes**

This piece invites viewers to embrace the profound beauty found in the fragility of the human spirit and to recognize the transformative power that lies in our shared capacity to be authentically, beautifully vulnerable.



### **Artwork Description**

Title: A Melody of Vulnerable Notes

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Photo Art on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## Firecracker

It's essential to recognize that being a firecracker is not synonymous with being brash or confrontational. These are the spirited souls unafraid to speak out, to stand up for themselves and others, igniting conversations that challenge the status quo. While they may be mistakenly typed as merely loud, these firecrackers are, in truth, empathetic advocates, passionate about fostering positive change.



## Artwork Description

Title: Firecracker

Size: 36 x 48"

Medium: Acrylic on Photo Art (print on canvas)

Year: 2024

Price: \$800

## Unseen Beauty

There are those individuals who move through life with a quiet grace, their presence often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of the world. They don't command attention when they enter a room, and their beauty and charisma may not be immediately apparent to those who only scratch the surface. Life has shaped them in ways that made them guarded, perhaps prompting a preference for understatement. Yet, this guardedness does not diminish the richness of their inner world.



## Artwork Description

Title: Unseen Beauty

Size: 17 x 24"

Medium: PhotoArt x Textured Paper

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## **Navigating The Inner Wilderness**

There are moments when we appear to be distant, lost in our own thoughts, and seemingly detached from the outside world. Others may cast judgment, interpreting our demeanor as nonchalant or indifferent, unaware of the intricate wilderness that unfolds within us.



### **Artwork Description**

Title: Navigating The Inner Wilderness

Size: 17 x 24"

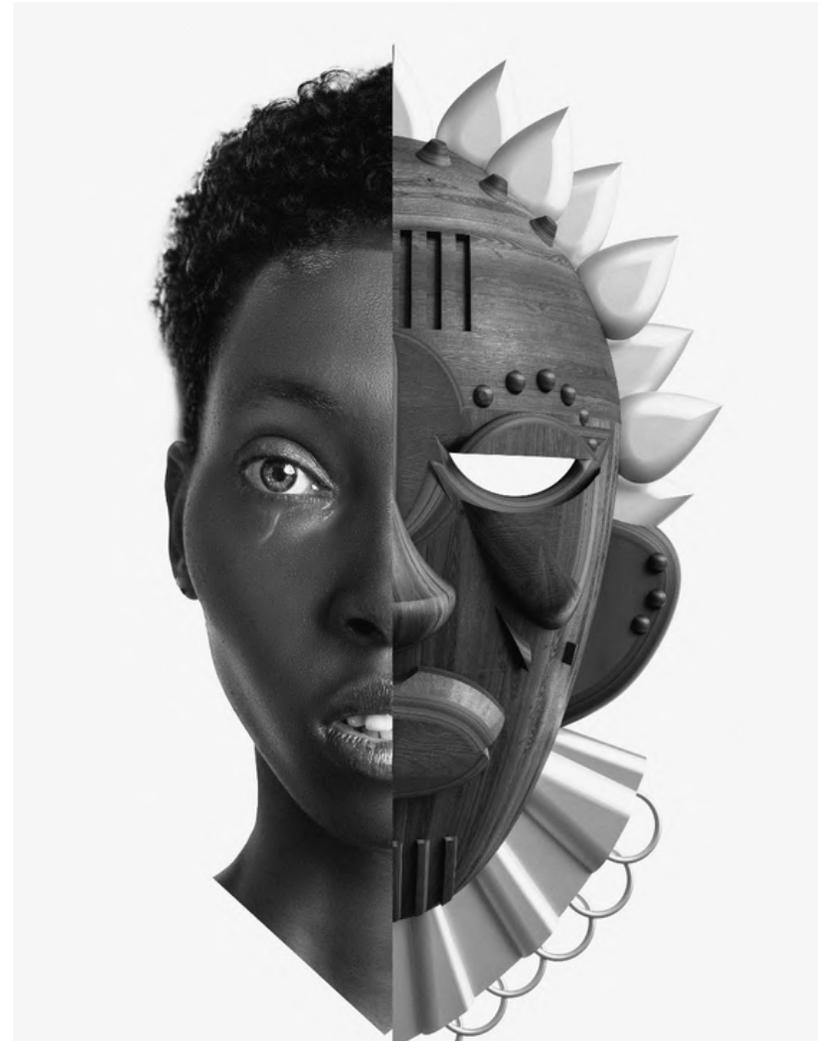
Medium: PhotoArt x Textured Paper

Year: 2024

Price: \$250

## Serendipity I

Amidst the serendipitous dance of life, lies the paradox of agency. While chance may set the stage, our responses, choices, and actions determine the direction in which we move. It is our capacity to adapt, to learn, and to seize the opportunities presented by serendipity that gives us a measure of control over our destiny. Life, then, becomes a collaborative effort—a dance between serendipity and our conscious choices.



### Artwork Description

Title: Serendipity

Size: 17 x 24"

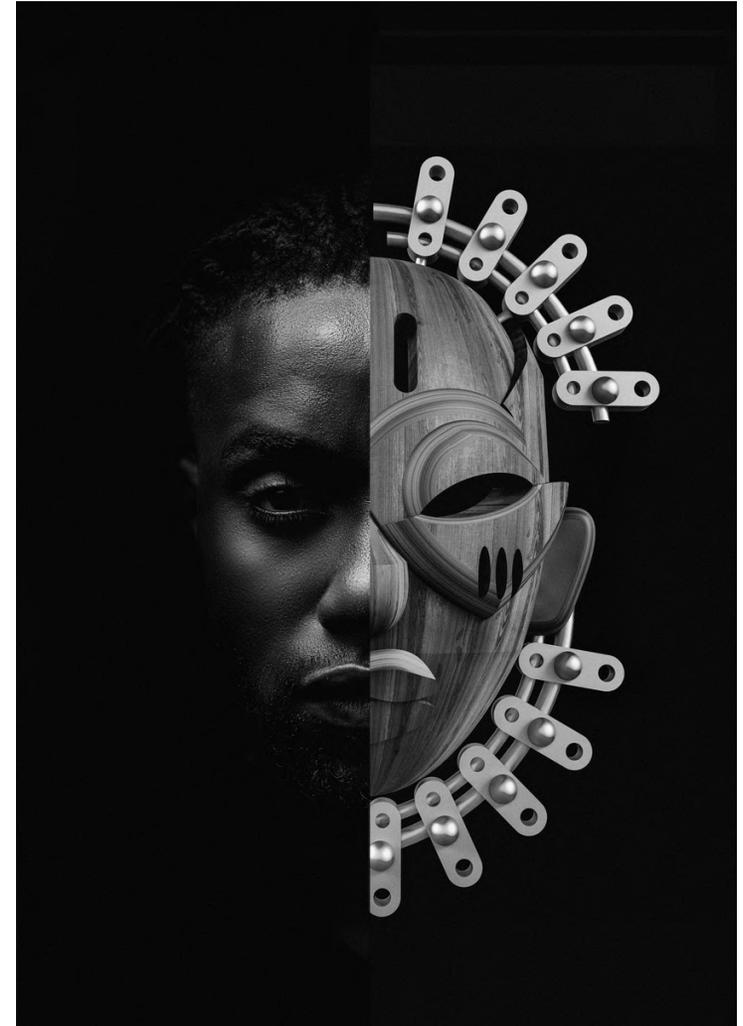
Medium: PhotoArt x Textured Paper

Year: 2024

Price: \$250

## Serendipity II

Amidst the serendipitous dance of life, lies the paradox of agency. While chance may set the stage, our responses, choices, and actions determine the direction in which we move. It is our capacity to adapt, to learn, and to seize the opportunities presented by serendipity that gives us a measure of control over our destiny. Life, then, becomes a collaborative effort—a dance between serendipity and our conscious choices.



### Artwork Description

Title: Serendipity II

Size: 17 x 24"

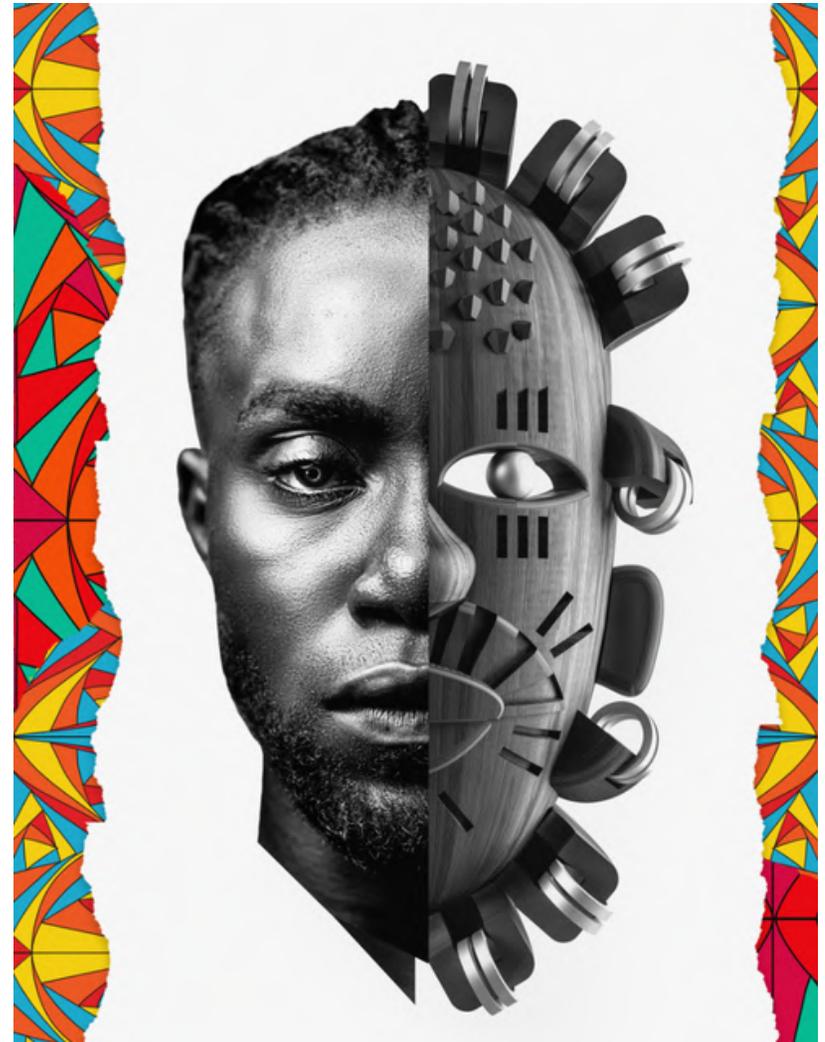
Medium: PhotoArt x Textured Paper

Year: 2024

Price: \$250

## Untamed Medley

Their testimonials are not only windows into the impact you have but also mirrors that can reveal new facets of your being. In the convergence of self-perception and external reflections lies a richer, more nuanced understanding of who you are. May your journey of self-discovery be enriched by the diverse perspectives that surround you.



## Artwork Description

Title: Untamed Medley

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print

Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## Odyssey

Life is a grand odyssey where the destination is not a fixed point but an ongoing discovery, a continuous evolution of who we are and how we navigate the shared spaces with those around us. We hold the keys to the ship, and can steer it in the direction that we believe that it needs to go in alignment with our beliefs (sometimes spiritual, other times logical).



## Artwork Description

Title: Odyssey

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print

Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## Fragments of Freedom

Amidst the serendipitous dance of life, lies the paradox of agency. While chance may set the stage, our responses, choices, and actions determine the direction in which we move. It is our capacity to adapt, to learn, and to seize the opportunities presented by serendipity that gives us a measure of control over our destiny. Life, then, becomes a collaborative effort—a dance between serendipity and our conscious choices.



### Artwork Description

Title: Fragments of Freedom

Size: 24 x 36"

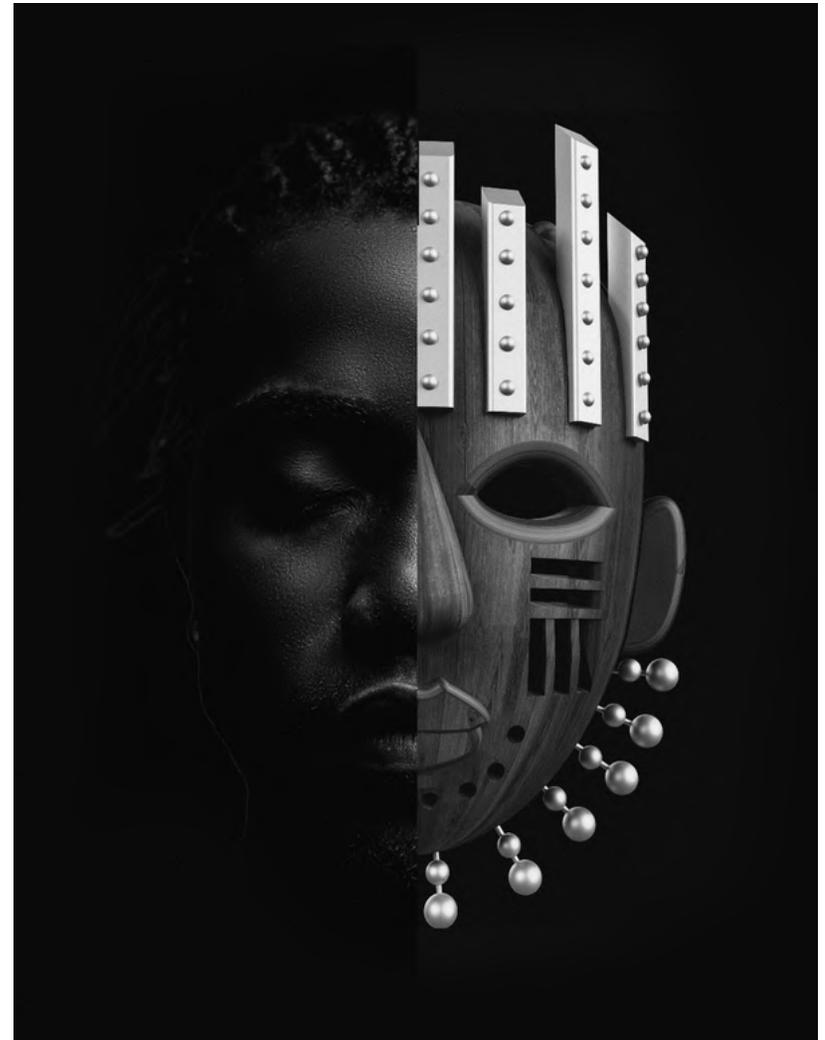
Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print

Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## Contours of Consciousness

The more one becomes conscious of their own being, the more attuned they become to the shared experiences of others. This heightened awareness acts as a bridge, fostering empathetic connections and a natural inclination towards integration with those around us.



## Artwork Description

Title: Contours of Consciousness

Size: 36 x 48"

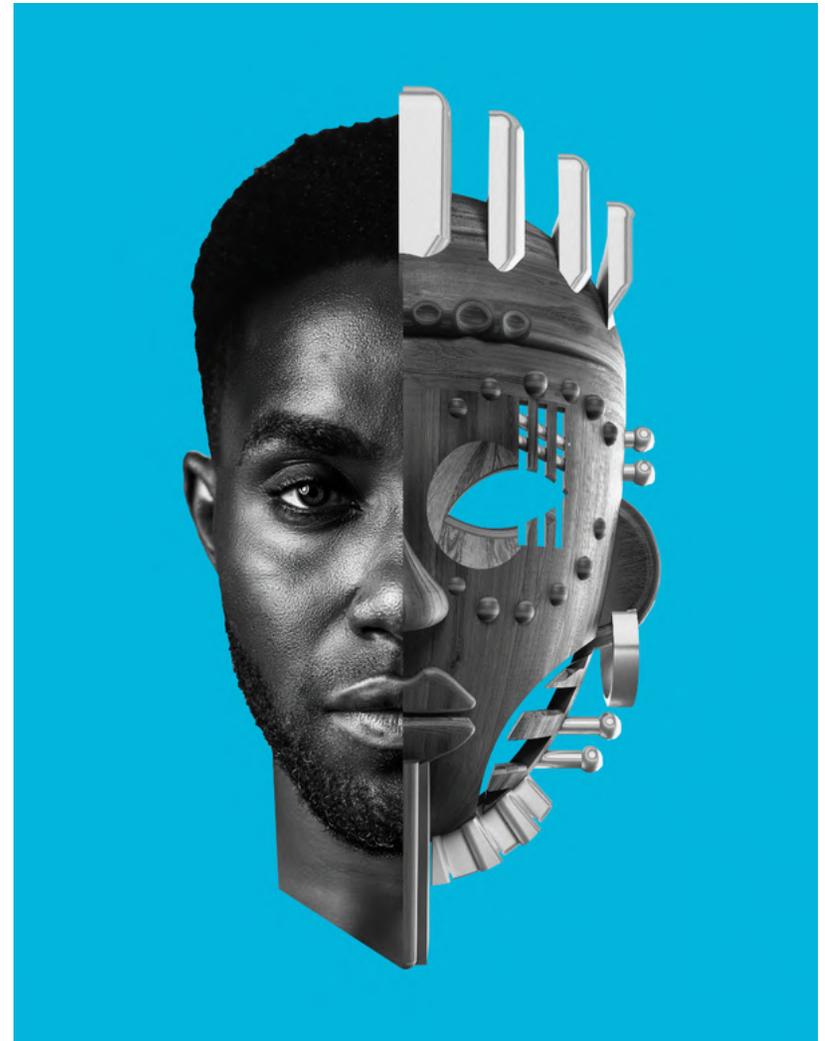
Medium: Photo Art on canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## Colorful Confessions I

It's not uncommon to find ourselves embellishing our words, adding a dash of color or flair to make an impression or to be perceived in a particular way.



### Artwork Description

Title: Colorful Confessions I

Size: 24 x 36"

Medium: Photo Art x Matte Print

Year: 2024

Price: \$400

## Peeling Layers I

Layers of intricate masks, each a metaphor for societal expectations and personal facades, are delicately peeled away, revealing the raw, authentic essence beneath.



### Artwork Description

Title: Peeling Layers I

Size: 17 x 24"

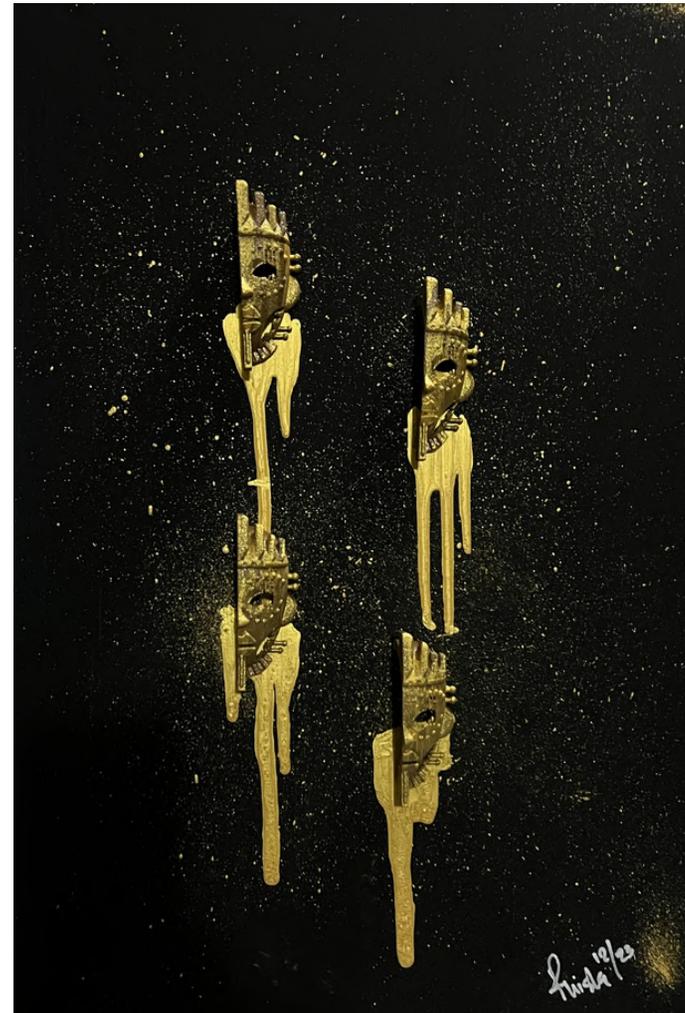
Medium: 3D Mask and acrylic on Canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## Peeling Layers II

Layers of intricate masks, each a metaphor for societal expectations and personal facades, are delicately peeled away, revealing the raw, authentic essence beneath.



### Artwork Description

Title: Peeling Layers II

Size: 17 x 24"

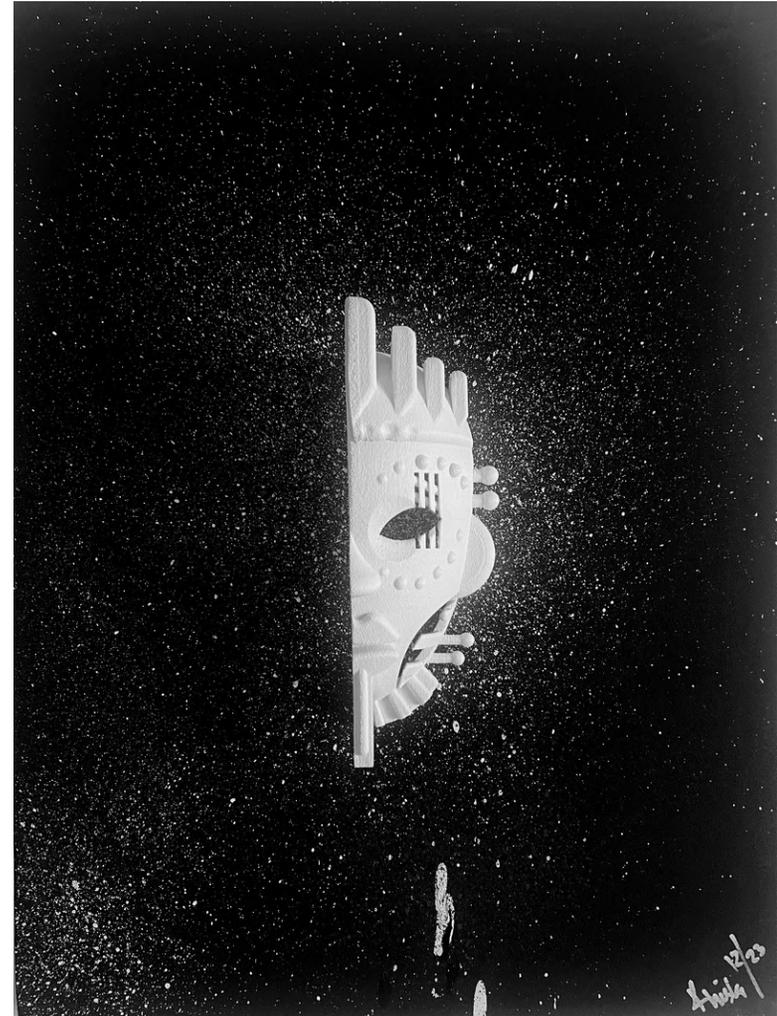
Medium: 3D Mask and acrylic on Canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1500

## **Insight: A Mindful Quest Inward**

Gaining a profound understanding of our thoughts allows us to navigate the complex landscapes of our minds. It's about peeling back the layers, discerning the patterns that shape our perceptions, and unraveling the narratives that influence our decisions. In this exploration, we find the power to mould our thinking, fostering positivity, and cultivating a mindset that aligns with our aspirations.



### **Artwork Description**

Title: Insight: A Mindful Quest Inward

Size: 17 x 24"

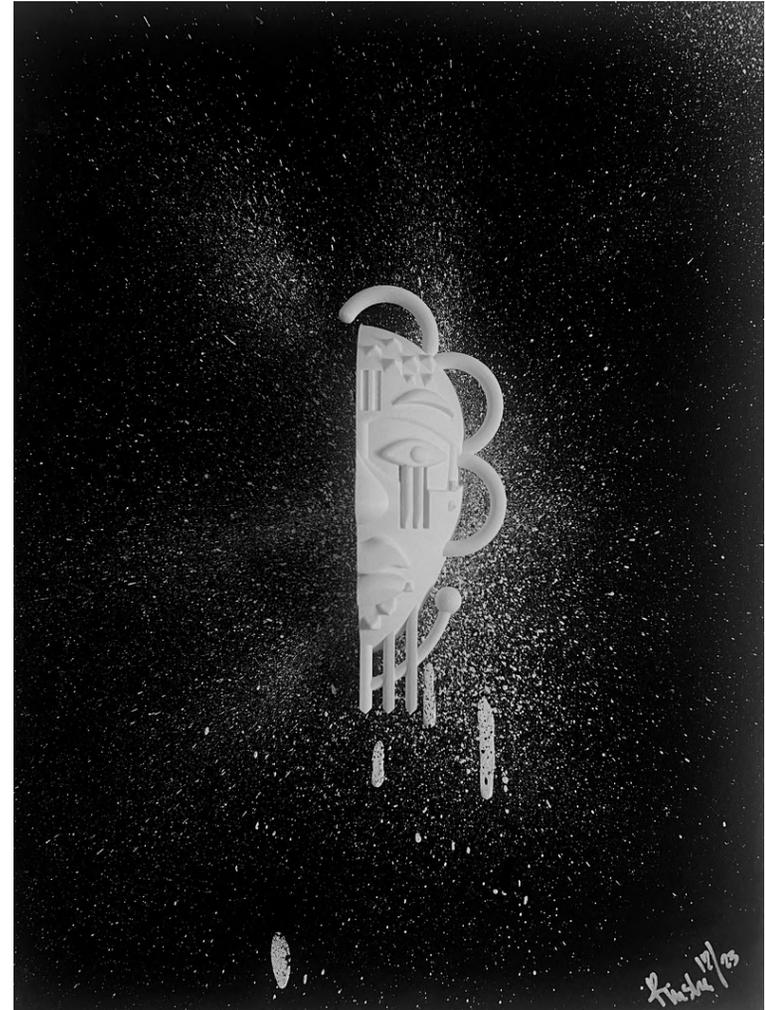
Medium: 3D Mask and acrylic on Canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1000

## **Intentionality: Journey with Purpose**

Self-reflection is not a passive endeavor, it's an active engagement with our inner world. It involves listening attentively to our intuition, observing the flow of our emotions, and discerning the motivations that drive our actions. In this intentional act of self-exploration, we create the space for personal growth, resilience, and the alignment of our choices with our authentic selves.



### **Artwork Description**

Title: Intentionality: Journey with Purpose

Size: 17 x 24"

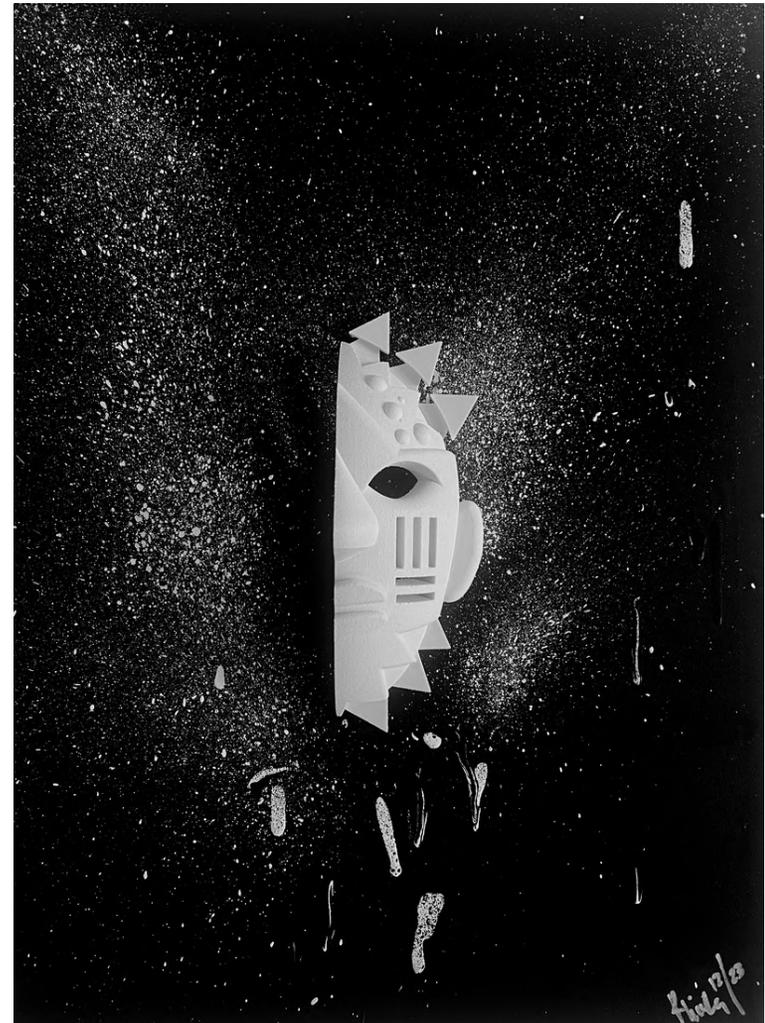
Medium: 3D Mask and acrylic on Canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1000

## **Integration: A Symphony of Connection**

In the grand scheme of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the pinnacle is self-actualization, but a key part of this pursuit is the yearning for social connection and community. Introspection, when aligned with the goal of integration, propels us toward fulfilling this fundamental need. It empowers us to contribute meaningfully to the people and communities we are a part of, fostering a sense of interconnectedness that elevates our human experience.



### **Artwork Description**

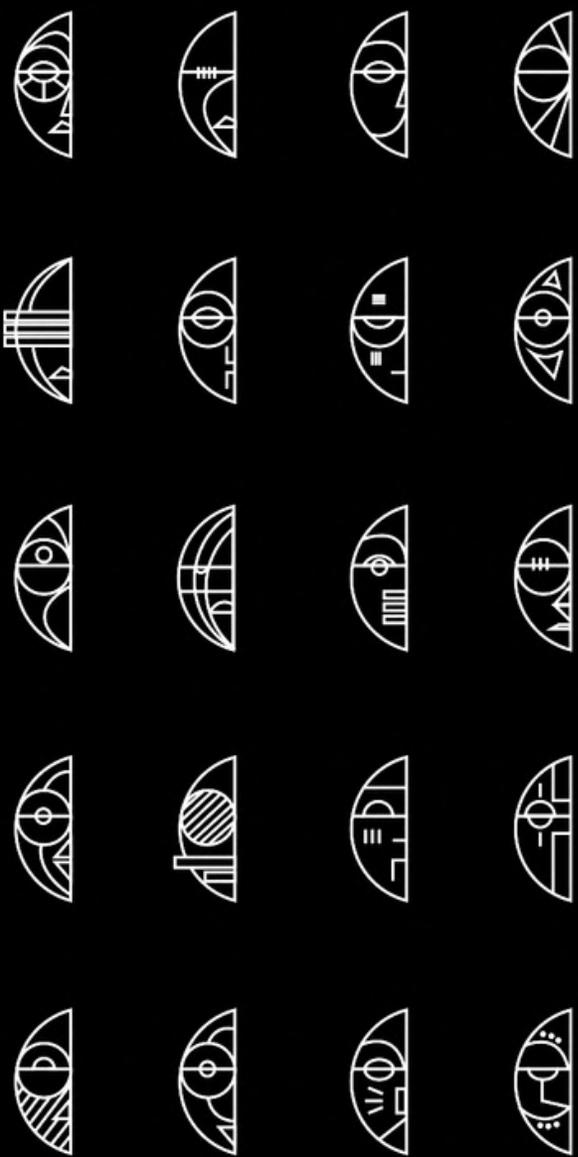
Title: Integration: A Symphony of Connection

Size: 17 x 24"

Medium: 3D Mask and acrylic on Canvas

Year: 2024

Price: \$1000



# Unmasking IndiViDUALity:

## A Conversation with Phisha

### How does your identity and personal experiences inform your artistic choices and subject matter?

Over the past five years, I've embarked on a transformative journey of self-awareness and consciousness. This introspective path exposed the influence ego had in my life and how it often acted as a barrier to my growth and self discovery. Disarming my ego was a pivotal step in this process. I suddenly became at peace and more attuned to the intricate dynamics of human emotions and experiences. I've always been a keen observer of the world around me. However, as I became self-aware and embraced the stories of others, a beautiful revelation emerged. Beneath our different experiences and backgrounds, there exists a shared human essence. We are, at our core, more alike than we are different. My art serves as a conduit to expressing these findings. My choice of style is guided by the emotions I want to evoke as I show others what I see. I want my viewers to feel too. Each piece is a narrative born from my personal experiences which then resonates with many who view them. My hope is that a portion of these viewers are converted into owners as they begin to see these stories as theirs.

## **In what ways do your design principles intersect with your other artistic practices?**

At the core of my design ethos lies my love for repetitive patterns and motifs. I believe these elements not only convey rhythm but also project what feels familiar with the African culture. Also the intentional use of white space or negative space is paramount in my creations. It allows elements to resonate without overwhelming the viewer. This draws attention to the subtle nuances within the piece. Furthermore, I firmly believe that design is never an entity unto itself. It must never be seen in isolation of the environment it is situated. This principle emphasises the importance of context, ensuring that each piece complements its surroundings and brings harmony. With all of these considered, my artistic practice becomes a dance of storytelling that viewers call different but super engaging because of the layers of messages it carries.

## **How do you navigate the challenges of maintaining coherence when working across diverse mediums?**

For me, the journey of crafting a story is as important or pivotal as the narrative itself. There's an authenticity that emerges when the manner of storytelling aligns seamlessly with the story being told.

This is not to say I leave everything to chance and go anywhere the canvas goes. Before embarking on any project, I immerse myself in rigorous repetition. I dedicate countless hours to mastering specific techniques or ideas to the point that I can intuitively and effortlessly create. I've cultivated a deep faith in my heart and mind's ability to navigate projects once I begin. This trust enables a flow where my chosen mediums interact organically, even if bringing multiple mediums together initially seems unconventional. For certain stories, I believe that one medium isn't adequate and does not offer the viewer enough angles or textures to truly feel the story. So I push myself to merge diverse mediums. It is not always coherent but each piece comes out unique and powerful.

## **How do you invite viewers to engage with and interpret your work, especially in a multi-dimensional context?**

I am telling stories that are human and even though they are born out of my perspective on life, they are stories that anyone can find themselves in. For every time I showcase my pieces, I want those moments to be seen as invitations to the viewer to consider what their version of the story is and if they connect enough to desire to become owners. I am ultimately

on a search for the owners of my pieces. People for whom Phisha - the style within the art piece and the story have become one entity.

**How do you know when a piece is finished, especially when working with multiple layers and forms?**

This answer is the simplest of them all. My gauge for completion is intuitive yet profound. Whether it's after hours of meticulous adjustments or merely three minutes, I recognize its finality when a distinct feeling resonates in my gut. It's as if a voice whispers, 'This is it, done.'"





## about the artist Phisha

Akinlabi Akinbulumo also known as “Phisha” is an artist, visual storyteller with a lot of heart. An ardent follower of the Sun Tzu philosophy, Phisha is constantly driven by the maxim: “The true product of a people, regardless of their race or skill set, is the quality of their thinking”.

He has been at the helm of developing creative ideas in the Nigerian business and Information technology landscape. In 2006, he joined Nakachi Consulting, a management consulting company where he was a part of the team focused on driving ministry and agency reforms.

He moved to Guaranty Trust Bank in 2009 to further his career in brand management and development. At GTBank, he was a critical part of the brand management team, which over the period of his stay developed a robust digital engagement platform and the most effective cutting-edge brand communications in the industry.

His discipline as a Chemical Engineering graduate of the University of Technology Minna, has been essential to his drive in ensuring that process flow sits at the heart of his strategy development.

Upon leaving employment, he started his brand strategy and design agency, Gr8an which evolved into Dreaminterpreters - a company actively involved in interpreting the dreams of Large corporations, SMEs, Entrepreneurs, Athletes, Creatives, Brand custodians, Students, Politicians, Captains of industry, Pastors and Young professionals.

In 2022/2023 He pivoted into becoming a Visual storyteller and artist where he became known as Phisha and uses a unique style of photography, art and videography to build and tell real and passionate stories. Amongst his various projects is ATAP, Another Time ... Another Place, which is a photo-art project that consists of over 50 pieces that have been showcased in a variety of exhibitions across Nigeria between 2021 and 2022. Each piece of ATAP is an Afrofuturistic story told in his strong black and white art style about his predictions of a powerful Africa post-covid. He also produced and filmed "Genii" a mini documentary series focused on telling stories of ordinary people who give themselves wholly to ideas that make them become truly extraordinary. The first season features celebrity guests including Praiz, Osa Seven, Darey Art-Alade and Mai Atafo.

He is the author of PHINC! a book aimed at getting readers to think in a way that produces great results and offers guidance on living life on purpose.

He is also a co-founder at Socially Africa, a non-profit organization on a mission to Be Good, Do Good, and Inspire Good.



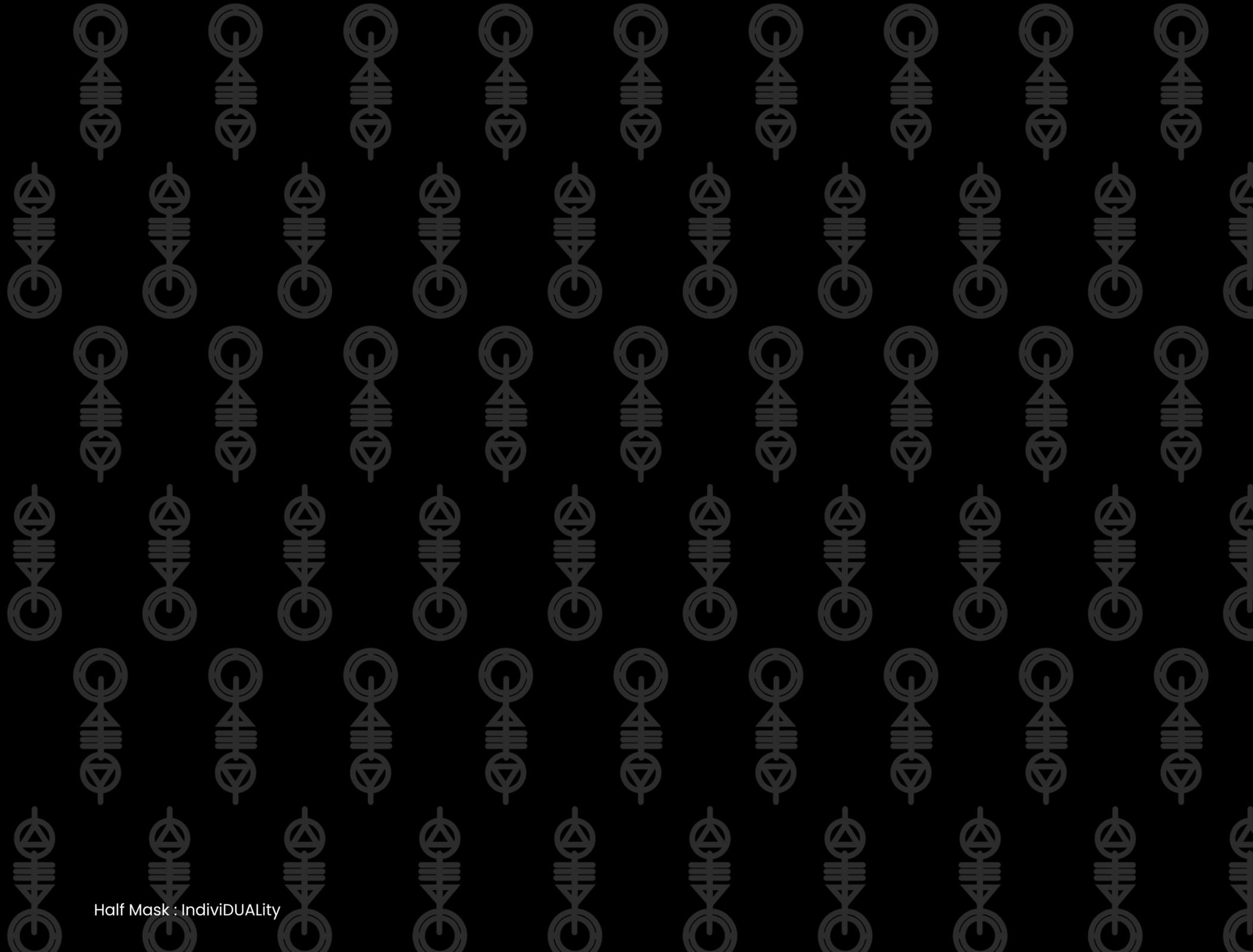
# about the Gallery



Kokopelli Gallery is a modern and contemporary Art gallery dedicated to showcasing ingenious Artists who have mastered the art of storytelling.

Established in 2021, the gallery is presenting a platform for creatives who engage in the line with intentions to foster a tradition and dialogue of storytelling. A multi-roomed setting with a space dedicated for meditation. The grotto is an immersive space that interprets literally a roomful of stories.

The gallery has proven to be an experimental space with an extemporaneous approach to the evolution of the Art space where raconteurs and aesthetes converge for related engagements.



Half Mask : IndividUALity



**HALF  
MASK**

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**IndiviDUALity**

To enquire about artworks from the exhibition.

please contact:  
**08079666668, 09030528660**  
**gallery@kokopelliafrica.com**

