



G B E N G A   O R I M O L O Y E  
solo exhibition at the saffron walden gallery



“Gbenga Orimoloye is a Nigerian painter. Several works by the artist have been sold at auction, including ‘ONIDIRI META’ sold at Arthouse Contemporary Limited ‘Modern & Contemporary Art’ in 2013.”

- *Mutual Art* [[www.mutualart.com](http://www.mutualart.com)]

Catalogue of the solo exhibition by Gbenga Orimoloye at The Saffron Walden Gallery.  
22nd March to 5th April 2014.

**The Saffron Walden Gallery**, 77a High Street Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1DZ.  
[www.thesaffronwaldengallery.com](http://www.thesaffronwaldengallery.com).

Photography and design by Gbenga Orimoloye.  
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[www.orimoloye.com](http://www.orimoloye.com)  
On twitter: <http://twitter.com/orimoloye>

My food is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.  
John 4:34

Cover: Caister Beach, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk (detail), 2014, oil on canvas, 36 x 26 cm

## DANIEL GBENGA ORIMOLOYE - MARCH 2014 EXHIBITION

When Daniel Gbenga Orimoloye first introduced himself to The Saffron Walden Gallery it was hard to see the artistic determination and passion which lies beneath the surface of this quiet, humble, man. It was only when we had the opportunity to view Daniel’s work that we realised we were dealing with a rare talent.

Daniel derives his artistic inspiration from a wide variety of sources and has a wide repertoire of subject matter. There are the wonderfully atmospheric, traditional Nigerian scenes in which the ambience of the essential fabric of the nation is captured in bright colours and texture.

Daniel paints in thick oils in the impasto style which makes his work instantly recognisable and forges a strong link to his more recent work of Saffron Walden and Cambridge which, although poles apart in terms of subject from Nigeria, still allow Daniel’s skill and creativity to shine through.

The Saffron Walden series of paintings are particularly interesting as they capture a traditional English town in a contemporary setting, often including 21st century urban features that other artists may sacrifice to produce a more quaint image. It is Daniel’s ability to reproduce views with great colour, perspective and texture which can turn the apparently mundane into a transfixing and compelling visual treat.

Daniel’s interpretation of light and colour is possibly at its most dramatic in his portrait and figure painting when light is used to model forms often with a very strong background colour such as red or green, then a few



Saffron Walden Town Hall. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



brief strokes of colour from the palette knife bring the subject to life and demand and hold one's attention. Bright colours juxtaposed often out of context but ultimately incredibly effective and quite natural.

Daniel has now found inspiration in the English countryside and will no doubt bring his unique interpretation and painterly style to this new subject. The results will almost certainly be dramatic and incredibly exciting and we, at The Saffron Walden Gallery, are delighted to be able to introduce this new direction to what is already an outstanding body of work.

One of Daniel's earlier exhibitions was called Ona, meaning road or way in Yoruba. Roads and rivers do feature consistently in Daniel's work perhaps symbolic of the journey he is on as an artist. We feel privileged to be accompanying him along his road. Daniel already has a long, prodigious and distinguished history as an artist and we, at The Saffron Walden Gallery feel very excited to have become part of the journey.

**Bill Tickner & Sara Horncastle**  
February 2014



Shekere, lemons and glass of water. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Upper Castle Street, Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm





High Street in the rain, Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Mathematical Bridge and Queens' College. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Church Street, Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Punts on the Cam. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Girl in orange. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Chesil Beach sunset, Dorset. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm





Market Hill, Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Market Hill (from Market Square), Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



King Street, Saffron Walden. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Caister Beach, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm





Girl in red. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Museum Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 62 x 46 cm



Oju (6). Oil on board, 2012. 123 x 82 cm

Old Hunstanton Beach, Norfolk. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm



Broadchurch Harbour, West Bay, Dorset. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm







Bridge of Sighs and St John's, Cambridge. Oil on canvas, 2013. 62 x 46 cm



Untitled. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm





April morning, King Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Cross Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Wells next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm



Brograve Mill, Norfolk. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm

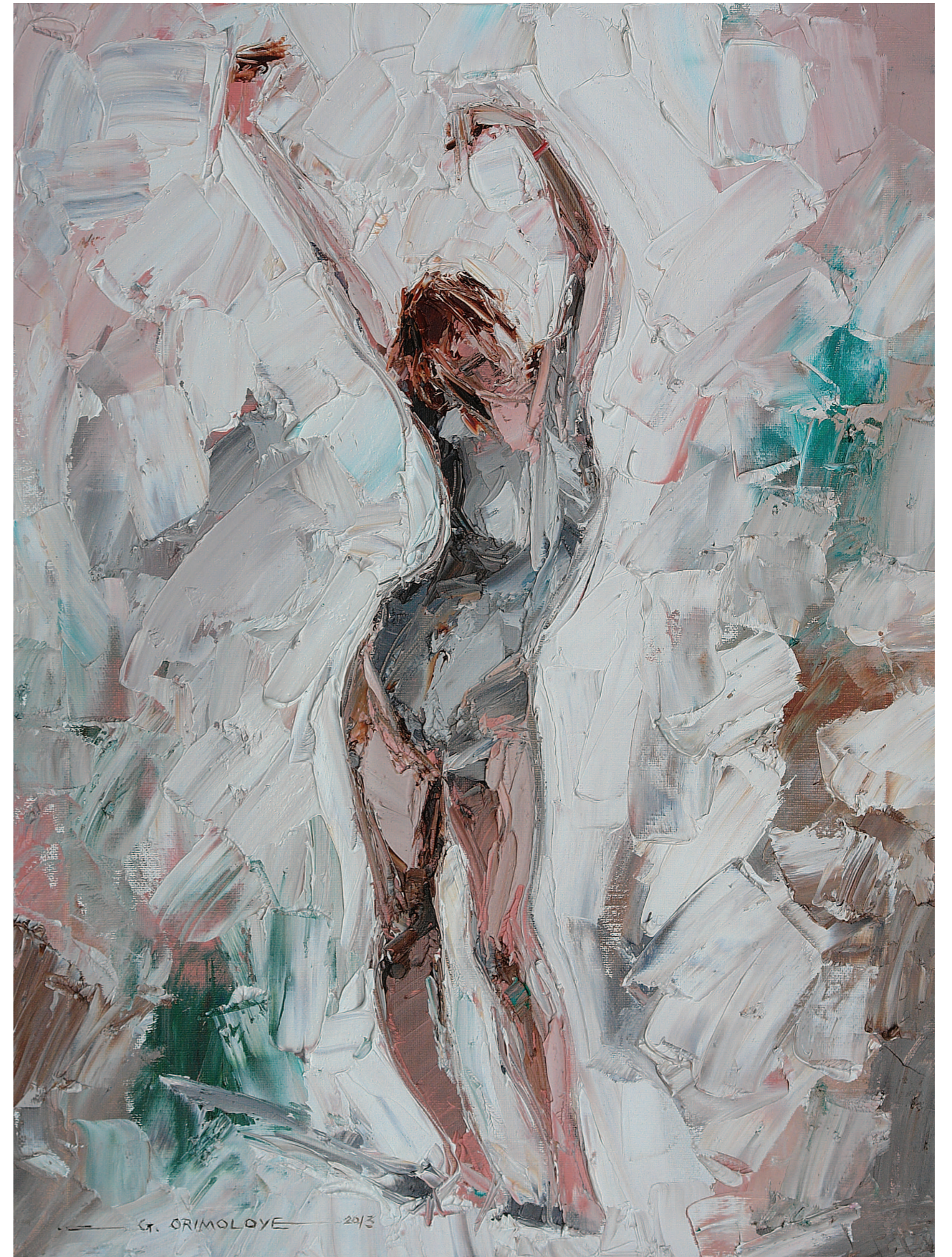


Field, Happisburgh, Norfolk. Oil on canvas, 2014. 36 x 26 cm





St John's College, Cambridge. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Girl in grey. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm





Castle Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



George Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Clare College from The Backs.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm



Early Morning Rain, High Street, Saffron Walden.  
Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm

## PROFILE

Place of birth: Lagos Nigeria, 26 November 1966.  
Married: three children.

### Education:

University of Lagos Staff School (Primary).  
Govt College Ojo, Lagos / St. Finbarrs' College, Akoka Lagos (Secondary).  
The Polytechnic Ibadan (Eruwa Campus) Nigeria.  
Yaba College of Technology, Lagos Nigeria.  
University of Westminster, London.

### Qualifications:

National Diploma (Upper Credit) General Art. 1988.  
Higher National Diploma (Upper Credit) Painting. 1991.  
MSc. Interactive Multimedia. 2003.

### Awards:

1990. Academy Press Award for excellence in painting.  
1990. First prize, Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture Painting Competition.  
1991. First prize, Tower Aluminium Art Exhibition/Competition.  
1991. Lintas Award for best final year art student.

### Professional Experience:

To date: Studio practice.  
1999. Judge at The Annual Milldon Art Society Exhibition/Competition, Mill Hill, London.  
1998 Nov -1999 Apr. Watercolour painting Lecturer, Adult Art Classes, Triumph Press Art Club, Edgware England.  
1992-1994. Lecturer in Life Drawing, General Drawing and Painting, Yaba College of Technology, Lagos.  
1989. Illustrator, Graphic Advertising and Associates Ltd, Lagos Nigeria.  
1987. Sculpture apprentice, Art Studio, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Lagos.

### Membership of professional body:

Founding member, Nigeria Art Society UK.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### 2013 - Nigeria Art Society U.K, Winter Art Exhibition

WAC Gallery, 14 Baylis Road, London - 2nd to 21st December 2013.

### 2013 - Autumn Group Art Exhibition

The Saffron Walden Gallery, Saffron Walden, Essex - September 2013.

### 2013 - The Gallery, Cork Street, London.

Cork Street juried exhibition - 9th to 16th August 2013.

### 2013 - "Oju"

Solo exhibition of paintings hosted by Terra Kulture Gallery, Lagos Nigeria - 4th to 9th May 2013.

### 2012 - "Ona"

Solo exhibition of paintings hosted by Terra Kulture Gallery, Lagos Nigeria - May/June 2012





**2012 - A Parent's Eye View, 'Education' and 'Cheltenham'** - Exhibition of paintings by Cheltenham Ladies' College Parents. The Parabola Arts Centre, Bayshill Rd. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England - May 2012.

**2012 - IMFFA Winter Art Exhibition.**

At the International Monetary Fund (IMF) HQ1, Washington DC, United States - February 2012.

**2011 - "Iwa"**

Solo exhibition of paintings hosted by Nike Gallery, Lagos Nigeria - July 2011.

**2005 - A Tale of a Continent; Africa.**

Exhibition of Contemporary Art - June 2005. North York, Ontario Canada.

**2005 - Millinery Works Gallery, Islington**

Exhibition of Contemporary British Art, Islington, London - January 2005.

**2004 - Rainbow Art Exhibition** (40th Anniversary, African Development Bank Group - September 2004 ).

African Development Bank Headquarters, Rue Pierre de Coubertin BP.323 - 1002 Tunis Belvedere, Tunisia.

**2002 - "Iya ni wura" Didi Museum, Lagos.**

Exhibition of paintings and drawings.

**1998 - "Africa at Whiteley's" London.**

Exhibition of paintings and African sculpture, The Atrium, Whiteley's, London, United Kingdom.

**1997 - "Colourful Moments" Didi Museum, Lagos.**

Solo exhibition of drawings & gouache paintings.

**1995 - Texaco Exhibition, TOPCON Building, Ikoyi, Lagos.**

Exhibition of paintings and drawings.

**1993 - Private show at The Syrian Club, Ikoyi, Lagos.**

Solo exhibition (Salon) of paintings.

**1992 - "Vivid Impressions" Russian Cultural Centre, Lagos.**

Solo exhibition of paintings and drawings.

**1992 - The Artist Now, National Museum, Lagos.**

Exhibition celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA).

**1991 - Tower Aluminium, Indian High Commission, Lagos.**

Exhibition of paintings and sculpture - November 1991.

**1990 - Young Masters Art Trust, Quenelle, Lagos.**

Exhibition of paintings, sculpture and drawings.

**1990 - Exhibition of sculpture and painting** at Master Craft Surulere, Lagos.

- *More info on exhibitions available at [www.orimoloye.com](http://www.orimoloye.com)*

#### WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS / OTHER NOTABLE INFO

Shell, Chevron / Texaco, Statoil, Tower Aluminium, Lagos State Government, The Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham Gloucestershire plus several other public and private collections all around the world.

-Two paintings featured in McDougal Littell Literature book (hardback, ISBN-13:978-0618-98379-7 /



ISBN-10: 0-618-98379-1), published in the United States. Orimoloye's paintings are featured on pages 899 and 903 respectively.

#### ART AUCTIONS WITH WORKS SOLD

2013 (May). Art House Contemporary, Lagos.  
2011 (November). Art House Contemporary, Lagos.  
2011 (March - "Africa Now"). Bonhams, New Bond Street, London.  
2010 (November). Art House Contemporary, Lagos.

#### SELECTED NEWS FEATURES

- The Ways of a Genius – Arts, Books & Culture, Thisday, Saturday Newspaper, May 12, 2012.
- Ona.. a metaphor for life's journey – The Guardian, Sunday, May 20, 2012.
- For Gbenga Orimoloye, it is journey back with Ona - Saturday Independent, May 26, 2012.
- Orimoloye brings ONA to Terra Kulture - The Moment On Sunday, May 27, 2012.
- The Narrow Road - Arts & Review, Thisday, Sunday, June 3, 2012.
- Character in the beauty of Art – Arts & Culture supplement, Next on Sunday, 26th June 2011.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

[www.orimoloye.com](http://www.orimoloye.com)



Social networking. Oil on board, 2013. 82 x 62 cm

As an artist I am fascinated by mankind's inherent transient nature, along with realities which can stand as allegories of life. This perhaps best explains the figurative and narrative that is often prominent in my work.

Born and raised in Nigeria, and residing in the U.K, I feel blessed to have two very rich, distinct, and in some instances, very different cultures to draw from. A vibrant multi-heritage finding its way into my art, figuratively or narratively.

My medium of choice is oil, but I occasionally make use of watercolour, gouache, acrylic and, for sculpture, modelling clay. My method, I believe, is as painterly as it gets; piling on the paint nice and thick. I do not like to get bogged down rendering minute detail in my work. Of greater importance to me, is for the movement and manner of my hand to be apparent to the viewer; for the strokes, texture and the feeling of the thickness of paint to come across. Eventually the viewer must then retreat from the work in order to see it all come together. From this point onwards, what is grasped visually is then up to the viewer based on their context and location.

I use colours and tonal variations in creating tensions between opposites, abstract and realistic insertions in order to dramatise visual and focal impact. My metaphors are encapsulated more in my titles than in my colours.

I have preferred and worked predominantly with the palette knife instead of the brush since the very early nineteen nineties. My preoccupation with this way of applying paint has grown to include the use of a stripping knife. Its rather broad flat tip lends itself nicely to my present creative temperament and how I like to work. I sometimes use it interchangeably with a bonafide palette knife.

#### Gbenga Orimoloye

March 2014

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Almighty Father, thank you for abundant life. Grace, favour and all good things come from you.

Dearest Gloria, thank you for being my lovely wife and for your constant encouragement. I love you. Zoe, Oluwajomiloju and Faith; I love you too. More hugs coming your way!

Thank you Bill Tickner and Sara Horncastle of The Saffron Walden Gallery. I deeply appreciate your warmth, professionalism and friendship.

My dear family, friends, art lovers and collectors. Once again my sincere gratitude for your kind encouragement and support over the years.

Gbenga Orimoloye





Cyclist on Trinity Lane, Cambridge. Oil on canvas, 2013. 61 x 46 cm