NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

nganigeria

Newsletter

Quarterly Publication | APRIL EDITION | 2026

ART MEETS INNOVATION

NGA at the forefront of conversations shaping Art in the Age of AI.

Page 01

BUILDING THE ORANGE ECONOMY

Leveraging creativity, culture and innovation for sustainable national growth.

Page 05

YOUNG TALENT, BOLD FUTURE

Saturday Art Clubs across Nigeria nurturing the next generation of artists.

Page 06



Highlights of key engagements and collaborative initiatives led by the Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, in advancing innovation, digital creativity, and youth-focused artistic development.

STRONGER TOGETHER

NGA partners with NDPC, NIPPS and key stakeholders to promote innovation, privacy and capacity development.

Page 03, 04, & 05

HONOURING A LEGACY

REMEMBERING DR. PAUL CHIKE DIKE (OON), PIONEER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.

TRAINING PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION

Aligning NGA deliverables with Presidential priorities

www.nga.gov.ng | info@nga.gov.ng | Block C, 4th Floor, Federal Secretariat, Abuja

Editorial

A VIBRANT START TO THE YEAR

We warmly welcome you to the first quarter edition of our e-newsletter. Although the year has only just begun, it has already proven to be an exciting and eventful period for NGA, filled with impactful engagements, creative exploration, and meaningful collaborations.

One of the highlights of the quarter was the participation of the Director-General at the Art in the Age of AI conference, where insightful discussions were held alongside the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC). This engagement reflects NGA's commitment to staying at the forefront of conversations that shape the intersection of art, technology, and innovation in today's rapidly evolving creative landscape.

Across our out-stations, inspiring activities have continued to flourish. Notably, the Saturday Art Club has remained a vibrant platform for nurturing young artistic talents, providing them with opportunities to express themselves, gain visibility, and develop their skills in a supportive environment. In addition, the Information Services Department conducted in-house training themed PR, Crisis and incident communication in the organization, aimed at strengthening professional capacity and enhancing service delivery within the agency.

NGA also demonstrated its commitment to national initiatives by participating in the roadshow organized by the Nigeria Data Protection Commission during Data Privacy Week earlier this year. This engagement highlights the importance of data protection awareness and underscores NGA's role in promoting responsible digital practices within the creative sector.

Furthermore, we were honored to host participants of the Senior Executive Course 48 from the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS). This visit provided a valuable platform to explore how NGA can contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's economy through the Orange Economy—leveraging creativity, culture, and innovation as drivers of sustainable development.

As we move forward, we encourage you to stay connected with us. There is much more to come, and we remain committed to bringing you engaging updates, inspiring stories, and exciting developments from the art world.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHER: *Ahmed B. Sodangi*
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: *Emeka Odiari*
EDITOR: *Chinyere Nweze*
ASS. EDITORS: *Arike Obadimeji*
IT: *Segun Bodunde*
GRAPHICS: *Dominic O. Botoku*

CORRESPONDENTS: *Chidinma Iwuoha*
Cheta Ibiam
Ruth Byoma
Jamila Abdukarim
Ashedzi F. Andrew
Precious Oparaugo
Usman Ado Abdullahi

www.nga.gov.ng
info@nga.gov.ng
Block C, 4th Floor, Federal Secretariat, Abuja

DG's Activities

Since assuming office, the Director-General of the National Gallery of Art (NGA), Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, has continued to strengthen strategic engagements that promote innovation, youth development, and collaboration within Nigeria's creative sector. On 26th February 2026, the D-G participated in the "Art in the Age of AI" Conference alongside NCAC Director-General, Obi Asika, where discussions focused on the future of creativity and technology. In February, he also received the Miss Tourism Nigeria team to discuss collaboration on youth artistic initiatives. Earlier, on 7th February 2026 in Abuja, the D-G spoke at the joint launch of the media toolkit by AIDOS Creations and NGA, reaffirming the agency's commitment to innovation and creative industry development.



The Director-General at the 'Art in the Age of AI' conference alongside D-G NCAC Obi Asika on the 26th of February 2026



The D-G received the Miss Tourism Nigeria team in February to discuss possible collaboration on youth artistic initiatives



D-G speaking at the joint launch of the media toolkit by AIDOS Creations and NGA on the 7th of February in Abuja



D-G with staff of the NGA and AIDOS Creations

Training/Workshop

NGA INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF 2026 WITH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION TRAINING

The Information Services Department of the National Gallery of Art (NGA) successfully conducted its inaugural in-house training of the year on March 16th and 17th, 2026. Held at the NGA Head Office Boardroom in Abuja, the two-day intensive workshop was themed "**PR, Crises and Incident Communication for the Organization.**"

The curriculum featured carefully selected topics aimed at sharpening the department's strategic capabilities:

- **Mrs. Jamila Abdulkarim** facilitated sessions on *Corporate Communication* and *Media Relations & Press Management*.
- **Miss Ruth Byoma** led discussions on *Crisis Communication* and *PR Planning*.
- **Mrs. Chetachukwu Ibiam** anchored modules on the *Foundations of Public Relations* and *Professional PR Writing*.

Mrs. Chinyere Nweze, Head of the Corporate Communications Unit, noted that the theme was strategically selected to ensure all personnel remain at the forefront of modern communication essentials.

Participants, drawn from the Information Services Department at the Headquarters and the FCT Office, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to refresh and enhance their knowledge of Public Relations.

The Head of Department, Mr. Emeka Odiari, commended Mrs. Nweze for organizing a well-structured and impactful training. He emphasized that such initiatives are vital not only for updating staff knowledge but also for strengthening synergy across all units for improved overall productivity. He reaffirmed the department's commitment to continuous professional development throughout the year.



Mrs Chetachukwu Ibiam during her training session



Information Services Dept. Leadership. L-R: Segun Bodunde (head IT unit), Chinyere Nweze (head corporate communications unit), Emeka Odiari (Dir. Information Services Dept.), Arike Obadimeji (head new media unit)

Training/Workshop

TRAINING WORKSHOP REPORT: ALIGNING NGA DELIVERABLES WITH PRESIDENTIAL PRIORITIES

On 16th March 2025, the Department of Planning and Research, National Gallery of Art (NGA), organized a capacity-building workshop for its staff at the Artivity Room, Federal Secretariat Phase 2, Abuja. The session focused on deepening staff understanding of the Federal Government's delivery framework, particularly the Ministerial Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tied to Presidential Priorities and their relevance to the Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy.

The workshop featured a presentation titled "Achieving the Presidential Priorities: Role of the National Gallery of Art in the Creative Industry." It highlighted how NGA's programmes and initiatives align with the government's eight priority areas, emphasizing the gallery's contributions to economic diversification, job creation, cultural development, and national identity.

Participants gained insights into the role of the Central Delivery Coordination Unit (CDCU) in promoting results-based performance tracking, as well as NGA's ministerial deliverables under the Renewed Hope Agenda. Practical examples demonstrated how NGA activities—such as exhibitions, festivals, and digital archiving—support multiple national priorities while creating measurable impact in areas like youth engagement, employment, and GDP contribution.

The session underscored the importance of capacity building in strengthening institutional effectiveness, improving service delivery, and fostering collaboration across Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and stakeholders.

Overall, the workshop reinforced the position of the National Gallery of Art as not just a cultural institution, but a strategic driver of socio-economic development within Nigeria's creative economy. Staff were encouraged to adopt a results-oriented approach in aligning their work with national goals, ensuring that NGA continues to deliver tangible outcomes in line with Presidential Priorities.



Participants, Albert Aribo and Sukai Danjuma at the training

Partnership/Collaboration

NGA ALIGNS WITH NATIONAL DATA PROTECTION EFFORTS IN 2026 PRIVACY WEEK

The National Gallery of Art (NGA) actively participated in the 2026 National Privacy Week, aligning with the Federal Government's ministerial agenda to drive sustainable growth, strengthen skills development, and foster public–private partnerships through effective governance and stakeholder collaboration.

As part of the week-long activities coordinated by the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), NGA staff joined key players across Ministries, Departments and Agencies, alongside stakeholders within the digital ecosystem, in a high-impact awareness roadshow held in Abuja. Led by the National Commissioner/CEO of the NDPC, Dr. Vincent Olatunji, the exercise underscored a shared commitment to promoting a culture of data protection and privacy in Nigeria.

The roadshow commenced at Eagle Square, proceeded through the Federal Secretariat and Unity Fountain, Maitama, before returning to its starting point. With over 200 participants, the initiative served as a visible demonstration of collective responsibility toward safeguarding personal data in an increasingly digital society.

The 2026 National Privacy Week was formally inaugurated during a press conference marking Global Privacy Day, under the theme "Privacy in the Age of Emerging Technologies: Trust, Ethics, and Innovation."

Further reinforcing its objectives, the NDPC hosted a Data Privacy Summit at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, bringing together experts and stakeholders to examine the evolving dynamics of privacy in the context of emerging technologies. Discussions at the summit emphasized the critical role of trust, ethical standards, and innovation in building a resilient data protection framework.

Through its active engagement in these activities, the National Gallery of Art reaffirmed its commitment to responsible data governance and its role in supporting national efforts to promote digital trust and accountability.



NGA Staffs, Simput Semshak, Usman Ado Abdullahi with participants during National Privacy Week Roadshow



Group photograph of Commissioner/CEO of the NDPC, Dr. Vincent Olatunji with participants during National Privacy Week Roadshow

Partnership/Collaboration

NGA HOSTS NIPSS SENIOR EXECUTIVE COURSE 48, EXPLORES ORANGE ECONOMY POTENTIAL

The National Gallery of Art (NGA) today played host to participants of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 48, 2026, of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru. The visit aimed to explore ways NGA can contribute to Nigeria's economic diversification through the creative industries.

Director General, Ahmed Sodangi, highlighted NGA's initiatives, including talent hunts, art expos, and Saturday art events, which support skills development, job creation, and cultural promotion. He emphasized the importance of the orange economy in reducing Nigeria's reliance on oil and fostering sustainable growth.

The interactive session featured presentations, discussions, and Q&A, showcasing NGA's role in driving Nigeria's creative sector forward.



The Director-General in a group photograph with the Participants of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 48 2026 of The National Institute For Policy And Strategic Studies(NIPSS) Kuru and Management Staff of National Gallery of Art, Abuja.

Outstation Report

REPORTS FROM IGBOUKWU SATURDAY'S CLUB

The NGA Igboukwu Saturday Art Club is a vibrant platform for artistic expression, it was held on March 7th, 2026. As part of the National Gallery of Art's initiatives, this club fosters creativity and skill development among artists. The event likely featured engaging art exercises, such as exploring shapes and forms.

Participants probably delved into various art genres, honing their observational and drawing skills. The club's dynamic approach creates a supportive environment for artists to grow, making it an excellent opportunity for networking and learning.



Cross-sections of children for the art club and staff of NGA

NGA ENUGU CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY WITH INSPIRATIONAL ART TALK

The National Gallery of Art, Enugu, is set to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8th, 2026, with a special Art Talk featuring Dr. Mrs. Maria Mbelu, a renowned visual artist and Head of Department, Industrial Design at IMT, Enugu. The event aims to celebrate and empower women in the Nigerian Visual Arts sector. Dr. Mbelu will share her creative journey, inspiring younger female artists. The session takes place at NGA, Enugu, at 10:00am.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STRATEGIC VISIT TO KANO STATION

The Director General of National Gallery of Art (NGA), visited the Kano Station on January 23rd, 2026, despite his busy schedule. The meeting was fruitful, with staff gaining valuable insights from his experience and intellect. He reaffirmed his commitment to purposeful leadership, aiming to elevate NGA to greater heights.

NGA PORT HARCOURT BRINGS JOY WITH TEAMWORK AND SWAG

The National Gallery of Art (NGA) Port Harcourt is buzzing with excitement as staff and visitors alike are treated to an unforgettable experience. The station is filled with happy people, all praising the team's exceptional teamwork and style.

While there's no specific event mentioned, NGA Port Harcourt's reputation for excellence is evident. The gallery's efforts to promote art and culture in the region are likely contributing to the positive atmosphere.



Pictures from NGA Portharcourt event.

NGA LAGOS SATURDAY ART CLUB EXPLORES MURAL DRAWINGS

The National Gallery of Art Lagos Saturday Art Club recently delved into the world of Mural Drawings, with participants learning about this vibrant illustration technique used in wall paintings and textile designs. The session included a studio visit to showcase physical artworks, and children demonstrated their grasp of the concept, showcasing creativity and curiosity. Plans are underway for them to create their own mural drawings, applying learned concepts."

Social Diary

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. PAUL CHIKE DIKE

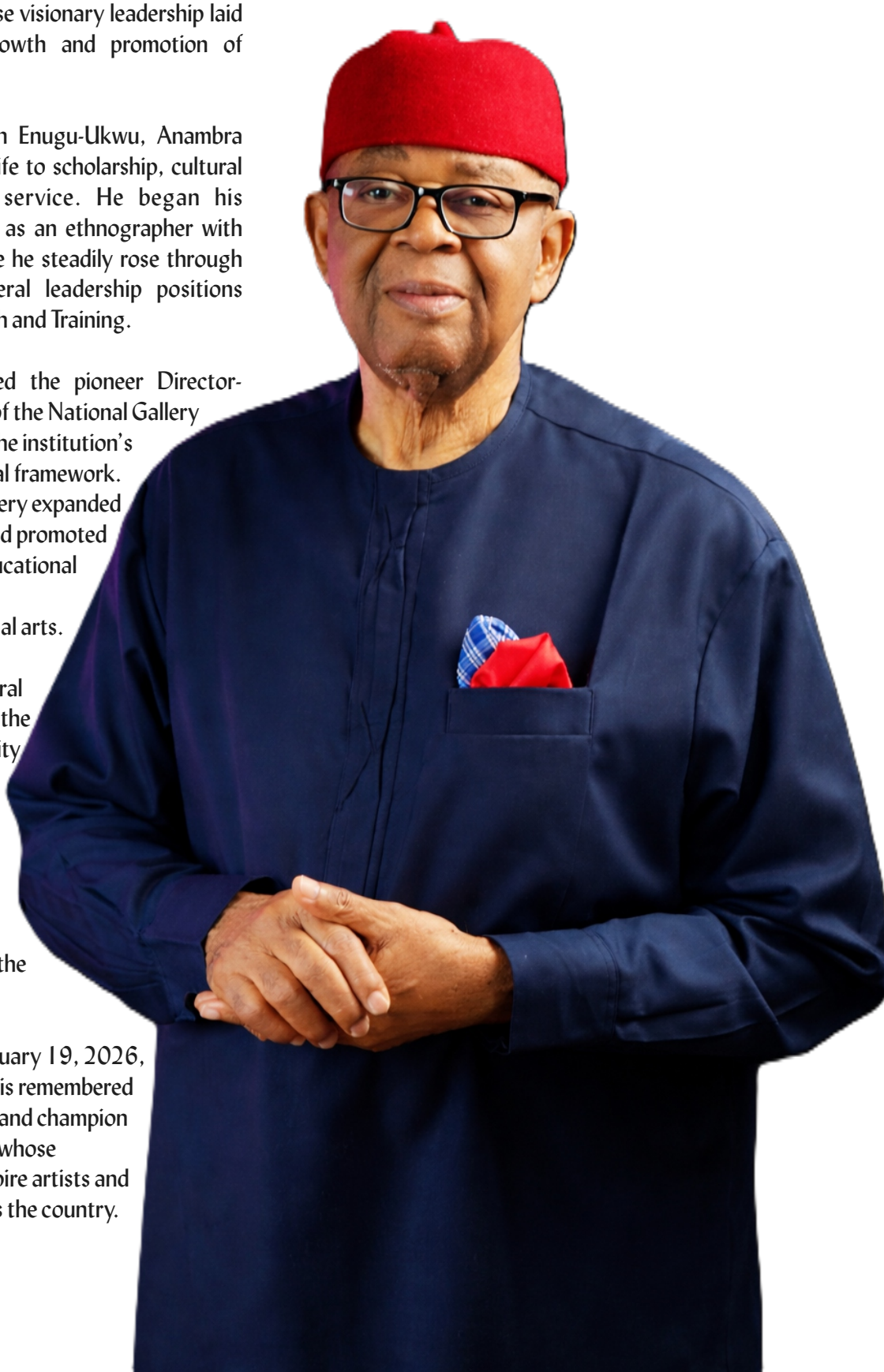
Nigeria's art and cultural community continues to honour the life and legacy of Paul Chike Dike (OON), the pioneer Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, whose visionary leadership laid the foundation for the growth and promotion of Nigeria's visual arts sector.

Born on June 12, 1944, in Enugu-Ukwu, Anambra State, Dr. Dike devoted his life to scholarship, cultural preservation, and public service. He began his professional career in 1971 as an ethnographer with the National Museum, where he steadily rose through the ranks, serving in several leadership positions including Director of Research and Training.

In 1993, he was appointed the pioneer Director-General and Chief Executive of the National Gallery of Art, where he established the institution's administrative and operational framework. Under his leadership, the Gallery expanded its presence across Nigeria and promoted exhibitions, research, and educational programmes that advanced appreciation for Nigerian visual arts.

A respected scholar and cultural advocate, Dr. Dike studied at the University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and University of Oxford. His work significantly strengthened art education and cultural institutions in Nigeria, earning him the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).

Dr. Dike passed away on February 19, 2026, in Abuja at the age of 82. He is remembered as a visionary leader, scholar, and champion of Nigeria's cultural heritage whose contributions continue to inspire artists and cultural administrators across the country.



Social Diary

MRS. JANE FRANCES ADAURE GBUJIE RETIRES FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

Mrs. Jane Frances Adaure Gbujie, Director in the Education Services Department of the National Gallery of Art (NGA), formally retired from public service on 24 February 2026 after about twenty-four years of dedicated service to the institution.

The occasion was particularly significant as it coincided with her 60th birthday, marking both a personal milestone and the culmination of a distinguished career in the federal civil service.

Mrs. Gbujie joined the National Gallery of Art on 2 November 2002 and served in several departments including Research and Education, Hall of Fame, Special Duties, and Education Services, where she rose to the position of Director.

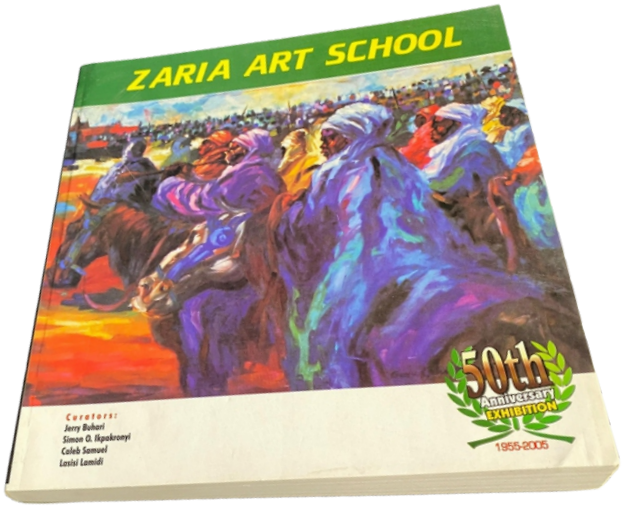
Reflecting on her career, she described her time at the Gallery as a fulfilling journey shaped by teamwork, mentorship, and shared achievements. She expressed appreciation to colleagues for the spirit of cooperation that defined her years of service.
While handing over the baton, Mrs. Gbujie encouraged staff to sustain the culture of unity and teamwork within the institution, noting that it would continue to strengthen the Gallery's growth and reputation.

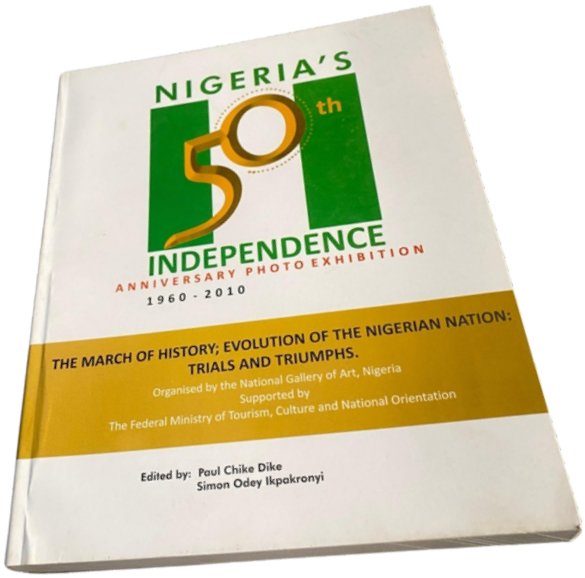
Colleagues and friends celebrated her contributions and wished her a fulfilling retirement as she begins a new chapter of life.

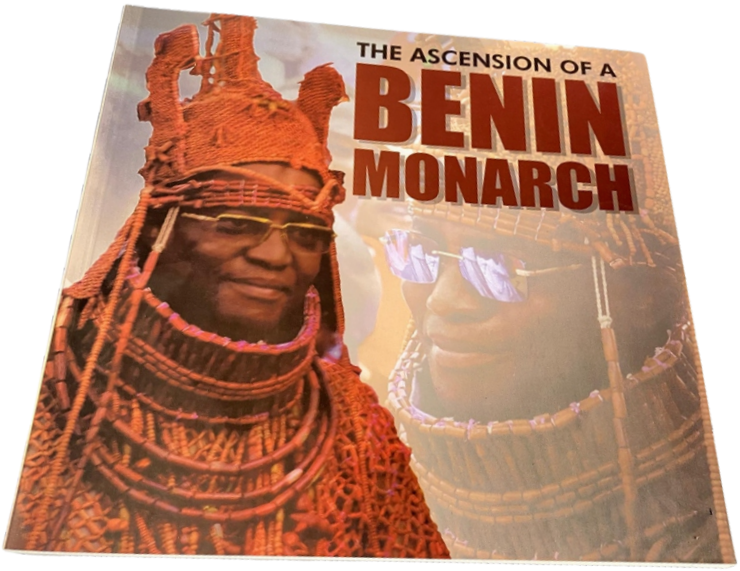


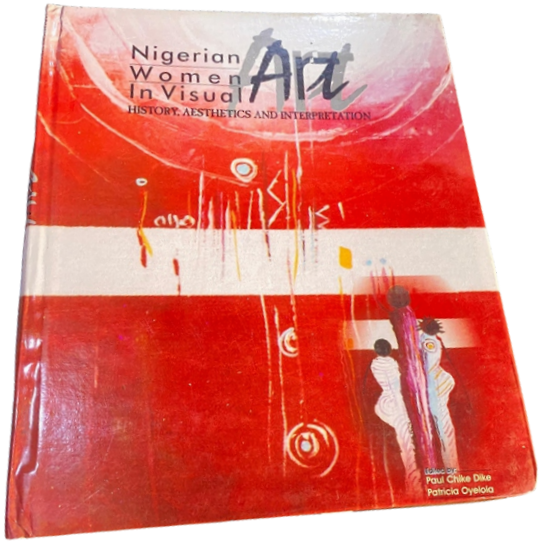
Some Publications of

National Gallery of Art, Nigeria

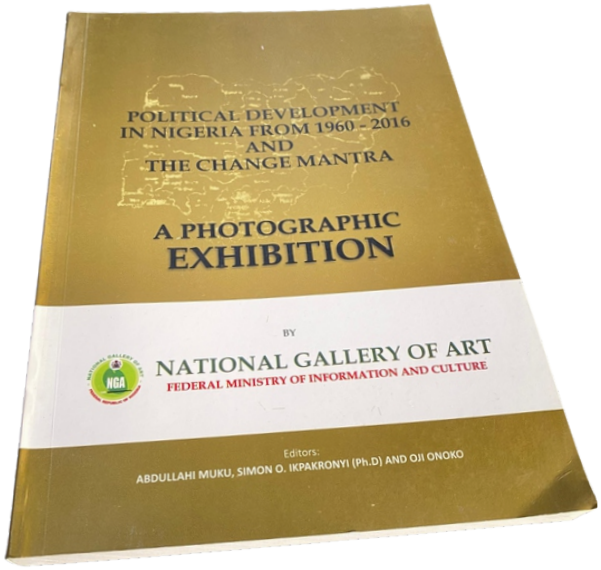












Repository of Nigeria's Creative Spirit!

The National Gallery of Art is the custodian of Nigeria's rich artistic heritage. It is a home of wide range of treasures from the best of painting, sculptures, drawings, Photography, Textiles Designs, Jewelry, Architectural Designs, Pottery/Ceramics, communication designs and other works of Art. It is the repository of Nigeria's creative spirit.

We are poised to become Art treasure Island in Africa and global destination for Visual Art. With 25 offices across Nigeria, the welcome is warm, the education enduring and the experience awesome.

OUR PROGRAMMES

- NGA Mast Festival and Awards
- International Art Fair Abuja
- International Art Fair Lagos
- Rainbow Art: Unlocking Creativity
- Art Workshop Benin
- Art Fair Enugu
- Art Fair Jos
- Annual Children's Day Art Competition/Exhibition
- Annual Distinguished Lecture/ Symposium
- Stakeholders Forum
- Special Exhibition (Local and International)
- Art Fair



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART HQTRS
Ministry of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy
4th Floor, Block C, 8th and 9th Floors, Block E,
Federal Secretariat Phase II, Central Area, Abuja.
PMB 456, Garki-Abuja.

OUT STATIONS
Abakaliki, Abeokuta, Bauchi, Benin, Calabar, Enugu, FCT, Gombe, Gusau, Igbo-Ukwu, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lafia, Lagos, Lokoja, Maiduguri, Makurdi, Minna, Osogbo, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Umuahia and Uyo.

... Custodian and Promoter of Modern Nigeria Visual Art!