



“Hearing Melody With The Eyes”

An exhibition of paintings by
JUDE KATEETE

18th October 2013
Afriart Gallery, Kampala

“HEARING MELODY WITH THE EYES” by Jude Kateete

How does one hear with the eyes? In the exhibition “HEARING MELODY WITH THE EYES” I call to the mind the observation by F. Scott Fitzgerald; “The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.” Similarly, the evaluation of the art and craft of music is made possible through the intuitive or rational awareness of the regularity in the sound’s behavior, relating to the perceivable sensory experience. The paintings in this art exhibition present to the viewer expression marks which give spontaneous attention to the melody one oughts to savour. In order to perceive, one not only has to attend to what is going on around him/her, but one has to give meaning to the stimuli which reach one’s senses. For example, when someone says “I hear melody with the eyes,” one is giving meaning to the visual imagery of the musicianship in the painting which one sees. One is able to do so because in the past one has had the experience of hearing melody at the same time seeing the object which produces the auditory imagery of the harmonious tune. These experiences of sight and sound have become associated together in one’s mind, so that when one sees that painting, the feeling of “melody” immediately comes to the mind. The paintings have been executed in a minimalist way so as to aid perception whilst giving away little details and engage the viewer into preperception, that is, the awareness of what is present to the senses. The nearness together in space of seeing and hearing strengthens the association that builds memory of melody in the paintings and in the music of the paintings.



The extemporizing clarinetist
56 cm x 80 cm
Acrylic on canvas



The estatic harmonica player
60 cm x 72 cm
Acrylic on canvas

The violist playing the tarantella
123 cm x 91 cm
Acrylic on canvas





The cheerful songsters
122 cm x 92 cm
Acrylic on canvas

The solemn transporter blowing the recorder
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas





The pianist enunciating the sonata
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

Attending to the master's tune
138 cm x 106 cm
Acrylic on canvas





The flautist feeling how it sounds
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

Sight reading the conductor's motions
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas





Rattling the drumbeat
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

The tuneful transporter blowing the recorder
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas





The spirited oboist
100 cm x 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

ABOUT THE ARTIST.

I am Jude Kateete, a visual artist born in Kampala, 13/12/1974, but grew up in Kayabwe near the Equator. From 1988 to 1994 I attended St. Mary's College Kisubi where my formation as an artist began. While there, I had a much wider choice of paths to follow. I availed myself to them but my finger was on the pulse of the chisel and my eye on the brush. In my career choice I got support from my classmates Karoli Lwanga Ssemwogerere, William Blick, Muhoozi Museveni Kainerugaba, and Andrew Hakiza to mention but four. However, my math teacher advised me against a career in the visual arts, and his chain of reasoning was that the barriers to entry in art as a profession or trade in Uganda were far too high to take a risk. I objected to him and I stood my ground, it is now water under the bridge.

From 1994 to 1998 I studied at The Margaret Trowell School of Fine Art at Makerere University, majoring in Sculpture and Painting. From 2000 to 2004 I exhibited annually in The Discoveries at Tulifanya Gallery. In 2004 I joined The KANN Artists group, and in due course I enjoyed some great career moments with David Kigozi, Maria Naita, Henry Ssegamwenge, and George Kyeyune. In 2005 I returned to Makerere University for a Masters degree in Art History. In 2007 I joined the global campaign to control arms and in July that year I exhibited in New York City at Sankaranka Gallery of Contemporary African Art, Dumbo-Brooklyn under the theme "Facing up to the Arms Challenge." As a drawback from the armed conflict theatre I picked on the guinea fowls as a subject for my paintings. They are reminiscent of my bucolic life and, therefore, I use them to enhance the glory of peace in the pristine nature to beautify the inner character. In the hiatus of my academic work I have come up with "Hearing Melody with the Eyes."



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