

Lagosians, Luminaries Bask in Art X Lagos

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Yinka Olatunbosun

With the curtains drawn on the 2018 edition of West Africa's premier international art fair Lagosians still bask in the euphoria of the intrigues and artistic spectacle that made this third

From November 2 to 4, the venue, Civic Centre, Victoria Island was abuzz with art and emerging ones, who came in appreciation of contemporary art in Africa and diaspora, in a new the perks of waterfront beauty.

The special guest of honour, Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, was joined by a circle of royalties including the Obi of Onitsha, HRM Igwe Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, and other Access Bank, Herbert Wigwe, and the All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate Babajide Sanwo-Olu, amongst others.

One of the exciting moments of the fair was the opening night where Access Bank Plc, the Lagos, loaned to the fair, Ben Enwonwu's historical 'Tutu'.

This 1974 masterpiece had, earlier this year, been documented as the most valued work of Nri auction for £1.2 million (\$1.67 million).

The public display of 'Tutu' at ART X marked a hugely significant moment in Nigeria's art history

its first public display in Nigeria since 1975, when it was last shown in Lagos.

The keynote artist, Yinka Shonibare MBE's highly anticipated exhibition, exploring his career project of the fair.

He once again demonstrated the unique artistry he has become famed for, through his varied interests cultivated from history, politics, literature, philosophy and cultural identity.

On his homecoming, Shonibare remarked: "I feel fortunate. I know that I can make a contribu

Shonibare's appearance at the highly sought-after ART X Talks was an icing on the cake for th

Curated by Missla Libsekal on the last day of the fair, the extension room for the fair was fi the few technical glitches that interfered with the visuals mid-way into the session.

The talks saw key stakeholders in Africa's art economy in a series of exciting and engagin voices such as the Obi of Onitsha, Artist Aboubakar Fofana, with leading art historian, moderator.

The 18 participating galleries include Addis Fine Art (Ethiopia), Afriart Gallery (Uganda) (Nigeria), Artyrama (Nigeria), Bloom Art (Nigeria), Circle Art Agency (Kenya), Gallery 1957 (Nigeria), Nubuke Foundation (Ghana), Out of Africa Gallery (Spain), Retro Africa (Nig (Nigeria), SMAC Gallery (South Africa), SMO Contemporary (Nigeria), Stevenson (South Afric Pyramid (Nigeria) and Tiwani Contemporary (UK).

Curated by A Whitespace Creative Agency, the fair showcased a series of interactive project The Future," featuring diverse and exciting art installations across conductive art and virtu boundaries of contemporary African art.

The new age media invited guests to expand their horizons and enjoy new ways of contempor

The 2018 ART X Prize with Access winner, Bolatito Aderemi-Ibitola, wore warm smiles as project, 'Scraps from Mama's Floor' at this year's fair, capturing the attention of guests wi multimedia project.

With new age technology using cameras integrated into the performance piece, visitors were piece and see themselves as part of the artwork.

Speaking during the fair, Tokini Peterside, Founder and Director, ART X Lagos, expressed growth of the fair over the past three years.

"ART X Lagos was created for moments like this, to celebrate diversity, to bring people 1 continent and really to show African excellence and set an example for the world. Over 15 (here in this one space and I am so grateful you are all here to witness that," she said.

For the night crawlers, ART X Live! made a return on the Saturday night of the fair, at the Civi

The show relived the sounds of African Legends, creating a nostalgic feeling.

One of Nigeria's creatives, Odunsi the engine, was the creative director for the live show performances from BOJ, Teni the entertainer and Ghanaian singer Amaarae, all accompan from artists Chukwuka Nwobi, Tomisin Akins and Fadekemi.
