

KUNLE'S MASTERY OF PRINTMAKING

By

Sam Ovraiti (MFA Painting 1999)

University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

Kunle Adeyemi is another master of the Benin art School. The First lecturer in printmaking at the Yaba College of Technology, he is a unique artist who believe in supporting his print exhibitions with workshops.

Kunle Adeyemi has been known to me since the early eighties when his paintings featured prominently in the Nigerian art scene. His works put together, can be described as a mosaic of elements which include oil on canvas, gouache and mixed media, combining beads and other solid materials. His notable mixed media *Procession of Elders* was a chat buster before he traveled to Germany and the United States of America.

On his return from the United States, Kunle diversified into a new art form. He started printmaking based on his desire for what I would call exploratory art. Shortly after, he met Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya who is acclaimed to be the Nigeria's originator of modem process of printmaking. According to Kunle in his submission at the 3rd Ovuomaroro Harmattam Workshop Feb. 27th - March 11th 2000, "the woman I abandoned has finally become the bride". Despite his initial disdain for the works of Dr. Bruce Onobrakpeya, his indepth knowledge of the modem methods of printmaking changed his opinion and since then Kunle has continued to explore the printmaking, process as an art form with a masters

degree in printmaking, passing through the tutelage of the likes of Late Prof. Irene Wangboje and Mr. Dan-Ikhu Omovbude, coupled with a reasonable experience gained at all three Ovuomaroro Harmattam Workshops with a special bias for printmaking, there is no doubt that this Exhibition and workshop will go a long way to helping the Benin School achieve her aim in molding a Philosophical and Stylistic base for the future of great Benin art School.