The Scrapbook

By Folu Oyefeso

Vol II Collection Catalog

Artist Biography



Folu Oyefeso is a Nigerian photography artist and creative entrepreneur whose work aims to capture the beauty, diversity, and resilience of Nigerian and African people. Through photography and storytelling, Oyefeso challenges stereotypes and assumptions about the continent, and presents a more nuanced and authentic portrayal of the landscape and its people.

Oyefeso's work often focuses on the rich cultural traditions and heritage of Nigeria and West Africa, as well as the daily experiences and challenges of its people. His imagery, articles and videos capture the vibrant energy and spirit, as well as highlight the beauty and diversity of landscapes, cultures, food, architecture and communities.
His efforts since 2020 have resulted in a rich tapestry of experiences which are archived on his personal website - **www.foluoyefeso.com**. This collection of short stories and pictures has grown into an online cultural repository with a steady stream of visitors from all over the world who use it for planning tourist trips, historical research and much more.

Oyefeso's goal is to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of Nigeria and Africa, and inspire viewers to see the continent and its people in its rightfully positive light. He is passionate about improving the tourism landscape and the longevity of small and medium sized businesses, to promote economic growth and wealth building for the continent

A collage collection from the tourism archives of photography artist, Folu Oyefeso (2020 - 2026)

Available as canvas prints
Editions of 3

Dedicated to my family, and friends that have become family.

Follow links in the element key to learn about the people and places that make up these works of art.

Slice of My Heart, 2025



I like to watch things grow —
slowly, quietly, like seedlings curling through red earth.
It’s one of my favorite things to do.
Most times, they bloom on their own,
but sometimes they need a little help —
a small gesture, a quiet offering.
So I cut a piece of myself,
a slice of my heart,
and lay it at their roots.
Maybe that’s what it needs.
Maybe that’s how love grows. 🪴

Element Key
Orange Seller, Ibadan
Crush Rock Mpape, Abuja

Old Trees still Dance, 2025



The man, the tree, the architecture “agbo ile”—aged but not fragile.
Seasoned by the time in their bones and wisdom in their posture.
There’s no urgency here. No need to perform.
Only the quiet confidence of things that have endured.
Rooted. Weathered. Unshaken.
They still move. They still dance. And they still teach.

Element Key
Old man from Ojude Oba Festival, Ogun State
Agbo Ile from the Salami Agbaje Estate, Ibadan

Up Like Sun, 2026



No matter what shifts, no matter what breaks or what confuses - I rise.
Not because everything is aligned or smooth but because it’s morning.
Up Like Sun.
Inevitable.

Element key
Tailor from Ikoyi, Lagos
Salt Village, Benin Republic

Beauty and The Loom, 2025



I often wonder - the ease with which her hands weave beauty, as if it flows effortlessly from her fingertips. Where does she end and where does the beauty begin? Perhaps it’s simply her inner world, gracing us with its presence.

Element Key
Woman on Loom from Design Week, Lagos
Flowers from The Botanical Garden, Ibadan
Mushrooms from the University of Ibadan Zoo

Vantage Point, 2025



To those who rise above the noise.
To the ones who sit still enough to hear what the world tries to hide.
To the elders, the crazies, the wise ones whose minds drift through realms most fear to touch.
To those who find clarity in chaos, who pay attention, who embrace the whimsy of brilliance.
This is for you - may you float in freedom.

Element Key
Wise elder from Osun Osogbo Grove, Osogbo
Ibadan Cityscape

Chosen, Guided, Protected, 2025



There are hands you do not see, but feel them steadying your steps. Windows and doors larger than you that swing open upon your arrival. Your flowers bloom not by chance, you were chosen. Guided through shadows, with whispers of “má bẹ̀rù/don’t be afraid”, protected by prayers sewn into your name. So speak boldly everywhere you go, you’re not there by chance 🗣️ you are chosen, guided and protected.

Element Key

Friend from a hiking trip, Erin Ijesha Falls, Osun State

The Weight is a Gift, 2025



The weight is a gift
and what we carry teaches us how to stand.

Element Key

The Hinderer House, Ibadan
Girl from Osun-Osogbo Festival

Soft Mountain, 2026



Inspired by a lover and while on the topic of reincarnation, she told me she would want to come back as a mountain. As an ode to her, and in my impatient nature, I didn’t want us to wait till after we died before she knew she was already a mountain. A lesson in patience, softness and in strength.

Element Key
Woman from the Egungun Festival, Ibadan
Chaine de Lama Mountain range, Togo

Self Portrait V - I Am Nothing, 2025



Inspired by Yggdrasil 🌳 central sacred tree in Norse cosmology ✨ Exploring the duality of being everything in my universe, but also being nothing in the grand scheme of things. Peeling back the layers of self and discovering what makes me tick, and the insignificance that somehow makes me whole.

Element Key
Baobab from northern Togo
Storage Chest from Adebisi Idikan Mansion, Ibadan

Become a Bridge, 2025



A step out of the small self and how we each plug into the larger tapestry. Every small deliberate action we take makes a pathway for others. You are the means, the connector, and the link 🔗

Element Key

Bridge at The Cultural Center, Ibadan
Potter from Lagos Design Week

The Forest Exists Within, 2025



Renewal begins from within, it’s like a seed. Even when the world around us is stripped bare, memory, spirit, and imagination can replant what was lost. The forest we carry within is not decoration, it is living inheritance in our DNA. What we nurture inside will one day take root, sprouting new forests for those who come after us 🌱

Element Key
Large Potter from Abeokuta
Small Potters from Dada Pottery Village, Kwara State

Count your Blessings, 2025



Like the leaves of a forest, the abundance the universe holds is infinite but this is something we often forget. Being stuck in survival mode, we overlook the things that are going well, and neglect the gratitude required to keep them flowing. We are stuck in the worry, the rat race and the pressure and this is a reminder to take a step back and count what we already have.

Element Key
Bead seller from Tarkwa Bay, Lagos
Trees from The Botanical Garden, UI, Ibadan

Offerings in Indigo, 2025



From seed to cloth, the process of locally produced fabric is a prayer. Backs bent in careful reverence when sowing, spinning, stitching, and coloring. Fabric as offering, indigo dye as blessing, and art as product and beauty as harvest — every act of creation is devotion.

Element Key
Dye pits from Nike's textile factory, Oshogbo
Statue of Osun, Osun-Oshogbo grove

South of Togo, Lomé Teamwork, 2025



Togo stood out to me for many reasons but I think the most paramount one is the teamwork the Togolese people employ in building and maintaining their society. You see it in the way they build, drive and speak to each other. Nobody gets left behind and everyone pulls their weight.

Element Key
Palais De Lome, Togo
Men fishing at Lome beach, Togo

North of Togo, Batammaribe Pride, 2025



To wrap up what was a magical trip through Togo, I combined the people and homes of the Batammaribe tribe and the magical elephant encounter to summarize what Northern Togo reinforced in me - a profound connection to the earth and wildlife. Find out the details on my blog.

Element Key
Woman and Building from the Batammaribe tribe, Togo
Elephant from Djamde Elephant Park, Togo

Self Portrait VI - Solar Return, 2026



I turned 33 in February and it was a moment of mixed feelings. I am extremely blessed to be here and I am grateful, but at the same time I look around me and everything is on fire. My country Nigeria bleeds, burns and decays and I am a speck in the middle of it all. I face the situation with all the bravery I can muster, but it is such a jagged mountain to climb.

Element Key
Horse from Ojude Oba Festival, Ijebu Ode
Chaine de Lama Mountain range, Togo

All This Fire, 2026



fire warms us on cold nights
fire cooks our favorite meals
fire protects us from the dark
fire 🔥
fire burns things to ashes
fire consumes without asking
fire does not negotiate
fire 🔥
fire purifies the gold from the ore
fire is what will awaken us
fire is how we will evolve

Element Key
Gas attendant from gas land, Ibadan
Flowers are Canna Lilies

Cows with Guns, 2026



Cows with guns is an interpretation of the insecurity crisis Nigeria currently faces. What is made to look like intertribal disputes over farmland and grazing areas, has darker undertones, and in the middle of this theatre is us, both the audience and the actors.

Element Key
Private Farm, Ibadan
Cows from all over the South-West

Unbreakable Peace, 2026



Unbreakable peace is a state of mind one has to learn to inculcate particularly in uncertain circumstances. Your inner world has to become fortified enough to block out the noise, and your sacred spaces need to be guarded with ferocity.

Element Key
Lake and Wood carver from IITA, Ibadan

POV: Building in Nigeria, 2025



The process of building anything in Nigeria, more often than not, feels like a precarious task. It always feels like one is standing on unstable ground. Several factors stand in your way, and the very society meant to prop you up, adds to the discomfort. You stay trying to balance multiple factors while you, the builder operates must stabilize your mental state to keep things standing.

Element Key
Clock tower from Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan

Guided, Unseen Hands, 2025



This collage speaks to the invisible hands that guide our paths. We commune with them through prayer, offerings and veneration in return for direction, protection and elevation.

Element Key
3-layered rock from Idere hills, Oyo State
Old lady venerating from Benin Republic

Hands Build, Hearts Create, 2025



The concept of creation goes beyond the physical act of combining materials. True art comes from the heart, channels through our hands and then into the materials we use. The contagious effect of this is also worth noting, as it travels through each member of the team. This is the distinguishing factor between a regular production and a work of art.

Element Key

Building is the Dominican Chapel, Ibadan

In Case of Covid, 2025



The concept of masks is of keen importance to African societies, and one that begs deep introspection. Through masks, we channel higher forces, many of them protective and “in case of covid” is a play on spiritual and social viruses, directed our way.

