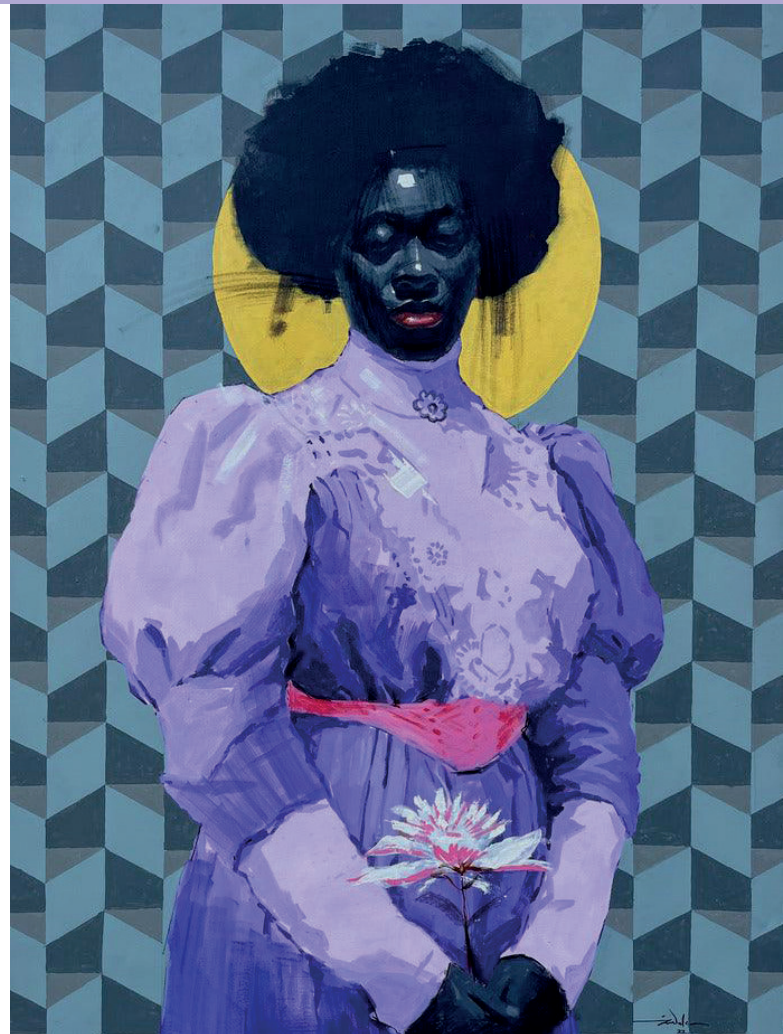




Akindele John

Tricks and tips from Akindele John



The artist's studio: is a separate space necessary for productive work? What are the absolute essentials in your working space? What advice would you give to emerging artists in terms of setting up a studio/working space?

For a visual artist, having a dedicated space can greatly enhance productivity, and it's basically about surrounding yourself with your art and creative resources which help fuel inspiration and minimize distractions.

The absolute essentials in my working space are ample space for canvases and easel, good ventilation for solvent fumes, natural light, storage for paints, brushes, and solvents, a water source for cleaning, palette and mixing area, an easel (studio or tabletop), rags and paper towels for spills, comfortable seating for long sessions.

Schedule a dedicated studio time, experiment, explore and take risks; don't worry about perfection, document process; track progress, make it a sanctuary to inspire creativity.

Earning a living from art: what steps are necessary to make a living selling artwork? Please share your experience of developing a website/social media pages, communication with wider audience and potential buyers, working with online and offline galleries, etc.

The necessary steps are:

- Develop a consistent style,
- Build an online engagements (website, social media),
- Network with galleries, collectors, and fellow artists,
- Create a pricing strategy (consider materials, time, and value),
- Engage with potential buyers (shows, events),
- Continuously produce new, high-quality work,
- Stay focused, persistent, and patient.

Developing a website was quite challenging for me because I was having technical difficulties while creating design for functionality. My aim was to keep design clean, simple, and mobile-friendly and to use high-quality artwork images, and also connect the website to popular social platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and so on.

Staying inspired: please tell us what you do to keep being an inspired creative. Is it necessary to take breaks from your work? How can an artist maintain their creative curiosity? Does your inspiration come from within or outside?

To stay inspired explore nature, visit museums, galleries, exhibitions and read art books. Nature and good music spark my creativity. Taking breaks is important, it allows the mind to wonder and that's healthy for a visual artist to explore more.

An artist can maintain creative curiosity by constraints, challenging oneself, practicing mindfulness, meditations, surrounding oneself with inspiring people, learning from failures and staying open to new ideas. I derive my inspiration from within and outside, and would not let any of it out in my executions.

