CHIOMA OBIEGBU

Chioma Obiegbu is a New York-based painter working across portraiture and conceptual form.

Her practice explores identity, heritage, and ancestry — creating works that pull from the past to ground the present. Through natural materials and layered symbolism, her paintings function as both image and artifact.

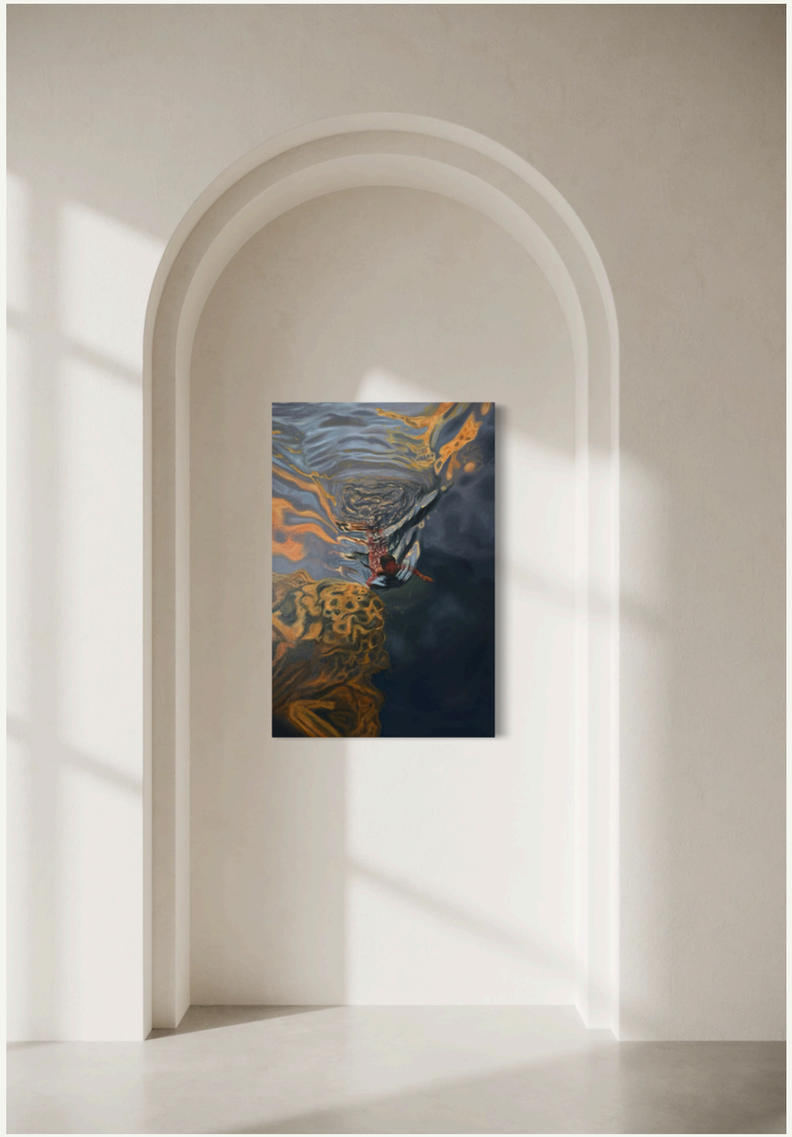
Working through a lens of imaginary realism, her work reflects on existence as something felt — shaped by memory, spirituality, and connection. Imaginary realism, as she practices it, is not fantasy. It is the visual rendering of what is deeply felt but cannot be photographed: presence, memory, longing, and consciousness given form.

Each piece acts as a quiet meditation on identity, perception, and the layers of the human experience.

COLLECTION START: 2024
COLLECTION END: STILL CREATING

BE-ING

Be-ing acknowledges that existence is not fixed, but continuously unfolding. The work reflects on what it means to be, to feel deeply, and to move through the world with awareness. Through introspective compositions, the collection invites viewers into moments where inner and outer worlds meet — where experience becomes something observed, felt, and remembered.



Title: Encounter
Dimensions: 36" x 24"
Year: 2026
Medium: Oil on canvas
Price: $20,000

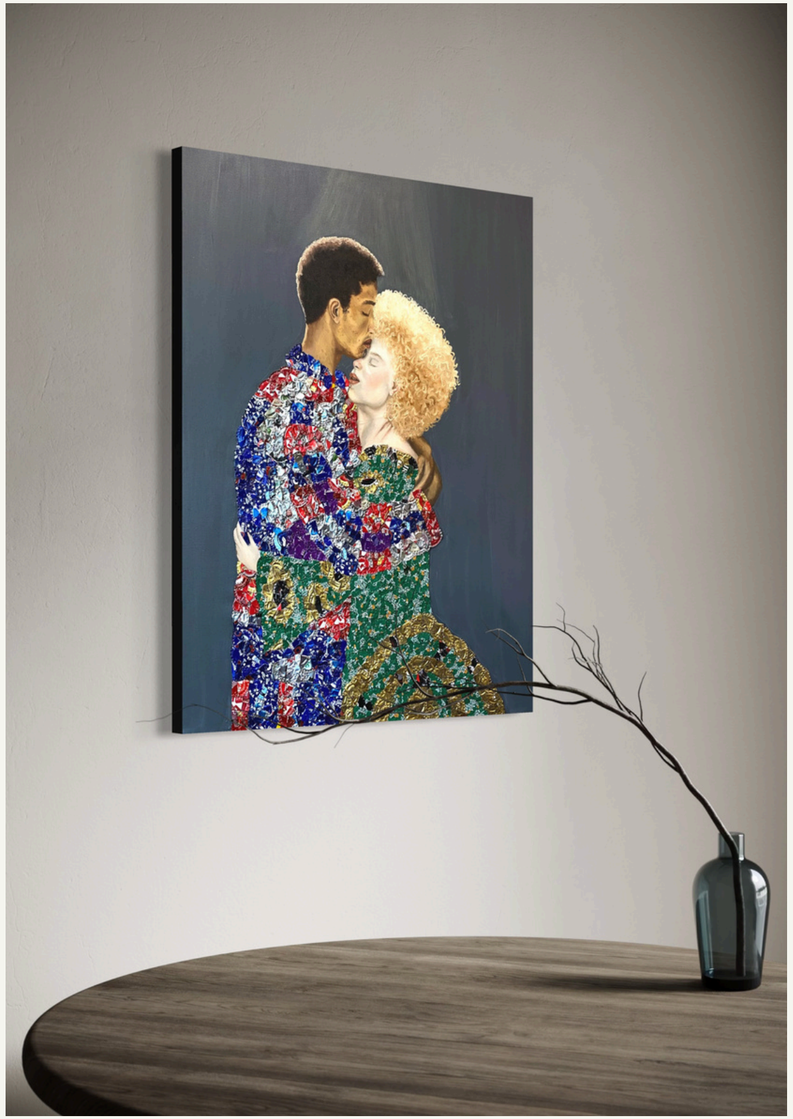
Meeting the self at its innermost depths is an encounter with what lingers beneath the surface; ambiguous forms rippling between reflection and recognition. Rooted in the process of shadow work, this piece explores the parts of ourselves that remain submerged yet ever-present. The aerial view gestures toward a particular kind of awareness — witnessing one's inner world while simultaneously experiencing it. Looking at myself do the work as I do the work.

Title: Eternal Peace
Dimensions: 30" x 40"
Year: 2024
Medium: Oil on canvas
Price: $35,000

What began as a celebration of nature — lush, paradisiacal, abundant — became something far weightier as the work evolved. This painting is a meditation on the cruelty of the world, a lament for its injustices and a tribute to the innocent children taken by war, chaos, and starvation. The figures carry the traces of their earthly lives: one bears the signs of hunger, the other the mark of a fatal wound. In offering them this garden, this piece extends a kind of visual consolation — an imagining of peace so complete it exceeds anything known to those who yet draw breath. A realm beyond human understanding, more beautiful and abundant than the world that failed them.

Title: Transcendence
Dimensions: 36" x 36"
Year: 2024
Medium: Oil on Canvas
Price: $30,000

Inspired by philosophy and spirituality, this painting traces a gradual ascent from human consciousness into spiritual awareness — a liberation of the mind from societal subservience toward alignment with the self. It tells the story of two sisters who emerge from loss and mental captivity into clarity, spiritual oneness, and bliss. Their sheer clothing speaks to openness and surrender, while the textures and colors of the clouds mirror their lived experience — bright and dark, soft and heavy. This is a meditation on psychological and spiritual liberation; a glimpse of awakening, and the quiet, luminous beauty of a consciousness breaking free.



Title: The Last Embrace
Dimensions: 36" x 24"
Year: 2025
Medium: Oil, acrylic and bottle caps on canvas
Price: $15,000

The meeting of two vessels has long been a symbol of affection — two separate worlds converging, both physically and spiritually. Obiegbu has long been drawn to the sensation of physical touch — its capacity to make a fleeting, intangible feeling into something that can be held and experienced. Here, two individuals share a world that belongs only to them. Broken bottle caps clothe them as fragments of a fractured whole, frozen in time — imperfect, complete, and revealed within an embrace of acceptance. To hold and be held, without condition, is its own kind of home.

COLLECTION START: 2025
COLLECTION END: STILL CREATING

NZUKỌ

Nzukọ explores Pan-African lineage through collective memory and ancestral form. Meaning “gathering” in Igbo, it functions as both a conceptual framework and a living archive — where cultures are carried across time, distance, and shared experience. Each work is created on natural tree bark, positioning the surface as both material and symbol — holding memory, lineage, and continuity.

Title: Ada Anyanwụ
Dimensions: 11" x 13"
Year: 2025
Medium: Oil on tree bark (walnut basswood)
(SOLD)

Ada Anyanwụ, meaning “Daughter of the Sun” in Igbo, captures an imagined memory of a secondary school girl returning home in her uniform, pausing for a photograph beneath the harsh afternoon sun, and wearing the earrings her mother gave her – a tender gesture held within the moment. The work reflects on memory as something both lived and constructed, shaped through tenderness and time.

Title: Ubax
Dimensions: 15" x 10"
Year: 2026
Medium: Oil on tree bark (walnut basswood)
Price: $4,200

Inspired by the women of Somalia, Ubax holds a quiet but profound tension — between surface and history, between visible beauty and unseen suffering. She is soft and she is resilient, and the painting refuses to separate the two. Named after the Somali word for “flower,” this work is an act of honoring — dedicated to the women and girls who have endured profound pain and subjugation, from FGM to forced marriage and other forms of control visited upon their bodies and lives. The bark beneath her is not incidental; it is chosen. It roots her. It says she was here, she persisted, and she is worth remembering.

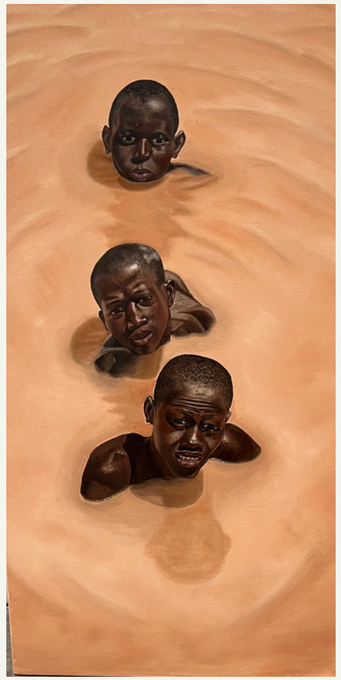
Title: Odum
Dimensions: 17" x 10.5"
Year: 2026
Medium: Oil and acrylic on tree bark (walnut basswood)
Price: $3,800

Drawing from the visual languages of the Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania, the Ndebele of South Africa, and the Akan of Ghana and Ivory Coast, Odum brings multiple African traditions into a single, composite presence. Elements of adornment, hairstyle, and form speak to strength, lineage, and cultural continuity — not as separate inheritances but as one unified identity, rooted and expansive at once. Named after the Twi word for “oak,” Odum speaks to resilience, stability, and enduring memory, like the surface it rests on.

EXPLORATIONS

Experiments, practices and studies.

Title: THREE BOYS
Dimensions: 18" x 36"
Year: 2024
Medium: Oil on canvas
(RESERVED)



Inspired by a photo captured by
Denisse Ariana Pérez

Title: She Wore Her Heart
Dimensions: 16" x 12"
Year: 2025
Medium: Oil on canvas
(SOLD)

Inspired by a photo captured by
Tofjan and Aleksandra G R

Title: Clothed
Dimensions: 12" x 12"
Year: 2023
Medium: Oil on canvas
(SOLD)

Inspired by a photo captured by
Jacq Harriet

Title: Gateways to the Soul
Dimensions: 12" x 18"
Year: 2024
Medium: Oil on canvas
Price: $1,500

Eyes hold truth.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a sensitive human, I often find myself in deep introspection, moving through life with a keen sense of awareness and wonder — more inward than outward by nature, always observing. Within my world, memory and identity are recurring concepts that pull at me. Who are we outside of labels? How does heritage shape the person standing here today? Without memory, are we non-existent?

Living in the African diaspora, and having lost a significant portion of my early memories, I am guided by a persistent pull toward home. My work is an act of returning — of seeking, remembering, and preserving that which would otherwise be lost. To paint is, for me, to recover and to bear witness; to document life as it unfolds; to leave proof that it happened at all.

EXHIBITIONS

Copeland Gallery, London, 2024
Gallery 90220, Los Angeles, 2024
Neuberger Berman Headquarters, NYC, 2023
Rockefeller Center, NYC, 2021
FIT Museum, NYC, 2020

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