

Affinity

UP & BELOW

21 September – 25 October 2025

Victor Ubah



Victor Ubah, *Beneath the stars*, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 122cm x 91cm

Affinity Gallery is pleased to present *Up & Below*, a solo exhibition by Lagos-based artist Victor Ubah, opening on Sunday, September 21 at 2 PM. Presented as part of the gallery's fifth anniversary program, the exhibition brings together 11 new paintings, an art film, and an installation.

In *Up & Below*, Ubah explores the dualities that shape common life experience – aspiration and descent, hope and despair, spirit and flesh. He continues his exploration of Cubism, reimagining the movement's fractured geometries as vessels for contemporary expression. His figures emerge as layered personalities, their faces both fragmentation and wholeness. Each gaze, naturalistic and piercing, anchors the viewer within a delicate balance of ascent and descent.

Drawing on personal and ancestral symbolism, Ubah incorporates forests, animal forms, and shamanic references such as cowrie shells which are emblems of prosperity, royalty, and spiritual passage. These elements act as bridges between visible and invisible realms, echoing his conviction that there can be no elevation without grounding, no awakening without descent. Ultimately, *Up & Below* is less about choosing between heaven and earth than about acknowledging the invisible gravity that connects them both.

About the Artist

Victor Ubah (b. 2000, Lagos, Nigeria) lives and works in Lagos, where he has developed a painterly language rooted in Cubism yet distinctly his own. Working in acrylic on canvas, he merges dreamlike, dimensional grounds with geometric forms inspired by the early 20th-century avant-garde, reframed through a contemporary Nigerian lens. His portraits render subjects as multifaceted beings ragmented yet whole where naturalistic gazes meet cubist elements.

Ubah has held solo exhibitions at Wunika Mukan Gallery, Lagos (Harmony, 2023), Ojiri Gallery, London (Hypnagogic, 2022), and Bill Brady Gallery, Miami (Life is a Beach, 2021). His work has featured in group shows at Quint Gallery, California (2025), Fragment Gallery, New York (2022), Arushi Gallery, Los Angeles (2022), Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Los Angeles (2021, curated by Kehinde Wiley), and ICA Miami (2021). He has participated in major international fairs including Frieze London, FIAC Paris, Felix LA, Art Basel Switzerland, and Johannesburg Art Fair, with residencies at Breeder Gallery, Athens and The Fores Project, London. His works are held in prestigious private and institutional collections worldwide.

His work is held in major international private and institutional collections such as Matthew Kennedy Collection (Minneapolis), Arndt Collection (Australia), Hamama Collection (Italy), Kim Gi Bum (South Korea), Omer Tiroche (London), Onassis Foundation (Athens), Emergentes Art Foundation (Beirut), Safa Collection (Beirut, Paris, Monaco & London), Victoria Collection (USA & Israel), Harmony Collection (Paris), Mr. Wu Meng Collection (China), as well as in the collections of Mashonda Tifrere, KAWS, and Arushi Kapoor.

For interviews, images, and comment, please contact:

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Exhibition Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm

Sundays are by appointment only.

Affinity Gallery

Unit 2, 1-7 Muri Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

www.galleryaffinity.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Affinity Gallery is a Contemporary gallery dedicated to the promotion and celebration of African artists who are passionately sharing the African narrative with their works. The gallery functions as a beacon to educate and preserve Africa's rich and diverse culture in a bid to inspire the next generation of young Africans.

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