

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Communion of Traditions

May 31 - June 27, 2014

YEMA GALLERY

540b Freeman St., Orange, NJ 07050

Opening reception: Saturday May 31, 2014

Time: 6-9PM, Artist Talk at 7:30PM

Curated by Toni Thomas

Yema Gallery is pleased to present **A Communion of Traditions: The Art of Ibou Ndoye and Rahmon Olugunna.**

An exhibit in recognition of the art practices and traditions of artists from Nigeria and Senegal.

In 2010, ARTS ETC began the Indigenous Artist Initiative to give recognition and support to artists that work in a traditional art form or style from the Americas, Africa and the Caribbean. **Rahmon Olugunna** was the first recipient of our award in 2011.

Rahmon is an Oshogbo artist. The Oshogbo artistic style originated in the Oshogbo region of Nigeria in the 1960's. The style incorporates elements from Western art, Yoruban beliefs fused with Oshogbo culture.

Rahmon is among the second generation of Oshogbo artists who were taught the style by the first generation artists. His teacher and mentor was Rufus Ogundele, one of the known originators of the style. Rahmon holds dear to the Oshogbo tradition with familiar cultural themes about ancestors and family. His compositions in this exhibit are filled with pastel hues and subdued colors applied with the palette knife technique common in Oshogbo painting. What results are texture-rich compositions filled with stylized shapes that are both organic and geometric and produce interesting, abstracted figurative groups that illustrate touching portrayals of family and kin.

Ibrahim (Ibou) Ndoye, an accomplished contemporary artist, draws upon an old tradition introduced to his country of Senegal during the 19th century. It is the tradition of reverse glass painting where the image seen has been painted in a reverse method much like a woodcut relief print is carved. The technique is widely practiced throughout Dakar, Senegal where Ibou grew up. Ibou's use of the reverse glass painting technique is also based on a local practice of artists in Dakar of using discarded glass pieces to make decorative picture frames for black and white photographs. It is this practice Ibou has taken and developed into his own. He creates compositions that go beyond the glass painted image. In several works shown he surrounds the image with built up shapes to frame the central figure. The work becomes a sculptural product that is vividly painted with an eclectic mix of shapes, patterns and colors that say, "Yes, Africa!"

His compositions tell stories and reflect everyday life in Dakar with a postmodern twist. He intentionally disrupts the flow of the work by breaking the glass, or attaching pieces of glass together to create a seemingly visceral effect. What Ibou masters is re-imagining a discarded product into a painting that gives you glimpses into a culturally rich world. Once you stop and really look at the work you can become absorbed in the complexity of what may seem like a simple composition. We are happy to show the work of these phenomenal artists as part of our recognition of indigenous artists.

Yema Gallery is located in the Valley Arts Section of Orange, New Jersey. Gallery hours are Saturdays from 12 - 5PM and by appointment. For more information visit our website: www.artsetcnow.org or call 973-699-3269.

