

2-10-2018

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "BFS News Online" (2018). *Art Department News Blog*. 20.
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Exhibition shares artist's connection to history, spirituality and family

February 10, 2018

STATESBORO, Ga.—“In Search of Communication” features a series of paintings created by Master of Fine Arts candidate [Usman Oladeinde](#). The exhibition will be on view at the Center for Art & Theatre’s University Gallery from Feb. 23 – March 2. A reception will be held on March 2 at 5 p.m.

Oladeinde uses his artwork to integrate Arabic text into imagery, by altering it into unclear shapes that viewers must interpret from their own perspective. With the use of acrylic paint and images, Oladeinde creates these shapes on backgrounds similar to landscapes, which portray an artistic element retreating into space.

“My process is deeply grounded in intuition, then resolved with a slower, more reflective approach,” said Oladeinde. “As an artist who lived and was raised in Lagos state, Nigeria, Africa, I wake up to the Athan to solat (which means the call to prayer) from the mosques and worship voice from churches in my neighborhood. Having traveled far from home, my connections to my history, spirituality, and family is tested and seems to be fading because I don’t hear this Athans (call) anymore.”

Oladeinde creates his artwork to ideally represent Qibla, the direction of the sacred building in Mecca that Muslims turn to at prayer. He uses the elements of family, spirituality, and history to connect to his artwork, to create an aesthetic space of contemplation within a culture bombarded by information. However, Oladeinde allows his artwork to communicate with viewers without restricting them to one topic.

The landscapes in his artwork pique his interest in how opposite qualities can be represented at the same time, such as chaos and calm. There are also shapes that are utilized in his artwork to portray centeredness and memory.

“Oladeinde’s paintings tackle multiple painterly problems at once,” says Jason Hoelscher, the BFSDoArt Gallery Director. “The abstraction of textual forms that are already fairly abstract to begin with, at least to those not literate in the language, suggests the *idea* of communication, without communicating any one particular idea—without forcing on the viewer a particular message, in other words. The work is highly participatory in a way, like a choose-your-own-adventure book heavily abstracted and rendered into an image. The paintings are highly compelling, comprising dense fields of lush mark-making that operate at the midpoint between the alphabetic symbol and the painterly brushstroke.”

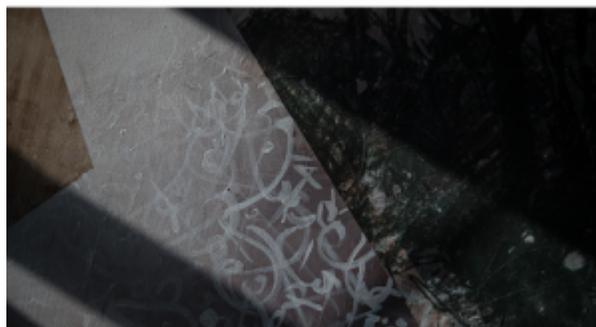
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USMAN OLADEINDE

In Search of Communication



FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 2, 2018

Center for Art & Theatre • Statesboro Campus

Graduate exhibition explores the strength of the human mind

February 10, 2018

STATESBORO, Ga.—Using the fields of cognitive psychology and neuroscience as inspiration, Master of Fine Arts candidate [Glenda Militano](#)'s upcoming exhibition, "Resilience," focuses on the complexity and beauty of the brain. Using color, shape, and mixed media to examine internal mental processes and the nerves and tissues related to behavior and learning. The exhibition will be on view from Feb. 23 – March 2 in the Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre. A closing reception will begin at 5 p.m. on March 2.

"I wanted to know why people make certain decisions, and how to make better decisions," said Masters of Fine Arts candidate Glenda Militano. "The more educated I became about the decision-making process and how it affects our emotions, the more research I did on the human brain."

Militano relates the human brain to a computer, where information is received and the brain works to generate a response. The process of creating Militano's work consists of multiple materials such as wood, paper or fabric along with numerous layers of paint and inks. Through the multiple layers of material and laborious process, Militano's work aims to illustrate the resilience of the human mind, its beauty and its vulnerabilities.

In her artwork, Militano depicts intense conflicts that humans encounter today through a mixture of fragmented images of technology and the human figure. Through endurance, Militano is adamant that anyone can overcome any situations or life choices they have made, if they never give up.

"Glenda has taken on a big task with commingling aspects of psychology and neuroscience with her work. That these are both fairly abstract topics to begin with lends them a type of potency when translated into abstract imagery," says BFSDoArt Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "The dynamism and layers in Militano's work is a nice visual echo of the processes at work within the viewer's mind."

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