

## The Vivification of Painting Practice After 2020

By

**John Oyedemi, PhD.**

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Jos, Nigeria

[johnoyedemi@gmail.com](mailto:johnoyedemi@gmail.com)

**Charity Ide**

Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State, Nigeria

[charyide@gmail.com](mailto:charyide@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Painting is a very viable aspect of the arts, and this paper gives an exposition on the re-awakening of the painting discipline, which was adversely affected during the time of global standstill. At the advent of the COVID-19 Pandemic, studios, galleries, museums, institutions and associations were shut down and all physical art events put on hold; this caused a major setback in the world of arts, but at the same time, art survival measures were invented. This article examines the string of recovery on the path of painting and the new developments established in the bid to be sustained in the new norm. The significance of this discovery in society is also discussed. This paper is the bedrock for a more intuitive perception of the practice of painting in our world today.

**Keywords:** Vivification, Painting, Practice, Post-pandemic.

### Introduction

In painting, many kinds of colours are selected and combined according to the artist's preference, and joined together with brush strokes in any way to reveal an idea that the artist begins to see coming out on the board. A painting is made of paint, fluids and stone and has its own logic and meaning (Elkins, 2005). The medium used in creating a painting also contributes to the theoretical summary of the work. It is a two-dimensional art that gives an illusion of a three-dimensional creation. Painting is the word that houses the creative part of art. It deals with colours and paints, having varied media for expression. Painting is the art of applying paint pigments on a surface with brushes or paint application tools. Oloidi (2016) stated that the art of using paint in a picture, as a protective coat or as

decoration, is called painting. In art, the word painting explains both art and the result of the action.

Although it is a two-dimensional art, painting is a vast and expressive genre of the visual arts. Painting offers a broader scope for expression, as it involves therapeutic colours. Abodunrin (2018) states that Painting, however, is not limited to being just an artistic endeavour, but also serves many health benefits. Its highly effective therapeutic and calming techniques, for one, can help increase mental and physical fitness. Painting transcends time, and it is universal as it dances around gender, people, cultures, class, religion and tribes. Painting has been a medium for communication and expression of creativity across people of all ages, all over the world. Over the years, painting has been used as an operative and effectual means of visual communication in disseminating messages, ideas, concepts and information of all ramifications to people.

Painting develops a sense of aesthetics like no other genre of art. It spurs man to appreciate the attributes of harmony and contrast in the arts and in the environment. The practice of painting, therefore, opens the intuitive perception and eyes of the painter to view life through the convex of art to express what is seen, perceived and formulated. Painting is also done to represent the environment as a reflection of the artist's mind.

The practising painter always thinks of the best possible way to portray his creativity in his artistic rendition. The ability to consistently visit the painting studio and put materials and media together to create a good representation that would convey a message and be appreciated is the bane of the painter. In the practice studio, experiments are extensively carried out with both conventional and unconventional media; an intentional push over the edge to see an outstanding result is applied in order to conquer new grounds. This is a pathway to discovery. A painter's studio, which is the pivot of practice, is a place where artistic inventions are made. Any event or occurrence that hinders an artist from going to his studio or that physically inhibits the artist from making art is a grave problem.

### **The Painter and the Covid-19 battle**

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the year 2020 caused a lot of damage in all areas of human life. COVID-19 is known as a disease caused

by the novel type of coronavirus, which affects the respiratory tract in people severely with high infection levels, especially in older age and individuals with various chronic diseases (WHO, 2020). It was a global tragedy that caused numerous deaths. These deaths aroused deep fear and depression that halted daily activities in countries, continents and the entire world. This adversely affected every facet of endeavours and brought the world's economy to a standstill.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), COVID-19 began in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China, in December 2019, and it infected millions of people all over the world. The lack of adequate data needed to ascertain its causes and attributes made it difficult for it to be properly diagnosed and for treatments to be accurately prescribed. These issues, coupled with the fact that it was highly infectious, made COVID-19 extremely deadly. That pain this occurrence inflicted on the health of the world, also shattered other aspects of life. Religion, Education, Financial institutions, businesses, enterprises, companies and art houses were shut down.

In the world of arts, it not only closed down galleries and cultural institutions and put art events on hold, but also easily erased the demanding schedules of many artists. Artists who had their homes far away from their work studios found it more difficult to access their studios since there were restrictions on movement. People were combating the pandemic and securing their health rather than chasing after art. This made the art scene experience a moment of slumber that would later require a lot of waking-up measures.

### **The re-awakening of the painting practice**

The burning desire to express creativity and the passion to paint did not allow the painters to sleep for long. In the midst of the chaos, they devised means to continue their art. The only possible way was to display their art without allowing distance to be a barrier. Artists adopted the virtual platforms as the medium through which they exhibited their works. Online exhibitions started becoming the order of the day. Soon, online art sales began to boom as people could cut off the stress of going to physical galleries to view artworks before buying them. Art collectors were furnished with details of the works they intend to purchase. They could

view a two-dimensional work in a three-dimensional way with 3D virtual viewing applications. Most of the artworks created conveyed visual messages addressing the pandemic situation, which was very relevant at that time. Painters all over the world tried to use the therapeutic effects of colourful paints to ease the psychological challenges caused by the pandemic.

Painting as a product of colour and form can perform chromo therapy function through the use of colour. Amidst the fear and worry, painting was used as a tool to amplify emotional assignation with visual messages that enhanced social learning patterns and recovery. In painting, numerous media, varied subject matter, techniques and styles are implemented to accomplish various degrees of creative expression, which is of utmost significance to society. Painting as an expression of creative ideas is a ready medium for a painter's craft, whether physically or digitally. In the situation of total lockdown, when artists could not get art materials, the computer was used to paint. Many materials available were explored and experimented with to create mixed media paintings. The artists did find ways to express and preserve their ideas in their created art in spite of the chaos the pandemic brought.

A lot of artists were funded to create art; exhibitions were also funded in some parts of the world. A lot of palliative love was shared around, and the painters were not left out. Grants were given, and organisations dared to sponsor the most creative people who, despite the challenges, didn't see the need to quit.

In the field of painting education, virtual training sessions were conducted, papers were presented, and practical sessions were held. Caglayan (2021) stated that, before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, distance education, which had progressed in line with schools' future visions and technical infrastructure, assumed various forms and became compulsory for all countries. Other countries worldwide have implemented multiple measures during the pandemic to continue the educational process. Most of these solutions were virtual-related.

## **The New Era: Paintings now in the 2020s**

The Zoom sessions, Google Meet, and other virtual interaction platforms that were maximally utilised during the pandemic have been sustained to a considerable extent. Websites and social media now form the wings of many careers, including those in the arts. Painting, in its display of colour, can be considered a two-dimensional art form within the online space. A photograph of a painting can be sent to another part of the world via the internet; a high-quality print of that painting could be produced and professionally framed.

Whether through lines, shapes, colours or textured surfaces, paintings convey messages that can be mass interpreted by different people. According to Abodunrin (2018), Painting, as an aspect of visual art, is a form that conveys messages, codifies them, and allows the spectator or viewer to decode and interpret their hidden meanings. Therefore, painting is not only a tool for recording human history but also a means of conveying a wide range of stories, emotions, feelings, and the inner world, symbolically or in a hidden mode that may be therapeutic. The therapeutic effects of paintings can be experienced both online and on-site; consequently, online painting exhibitions in virtual spaces have not been discontinued, even as the pandemic has ended. Instead, it has claimed its own authentic place in the affairs of art worldwide. As a result of this discovery, we now have more online galleries, art exhibitions, catalogues, and art sales platforms through which artworks are sold without physical intermediation.

The transition to virtual life for art in general and painting in particular began gradually in the 2000s, and in 2020 it accelerated dramatically because people were left with no other choice. According to Rusyada (2021), transformation or change is ubiquitous across all aspects of life, including the arts. Transformation is inevitable for every generation and reflects the renewal of science and human intellect. There may be the challenge of rapid intellectual theft, as some ideas and works are stolen far beyond the artist's reach, but even this problem has a solution.

Virtual life in the arts has further evolved into the era of artificial intelligence, with a wide range of fields to be explored. Knowledge has increased, and art has also undergone a drastic transformation from

physical to virtual forms. According to Zylinska (2020), art goes beyond aesthetic experience and the sense of 'fun' often associated with technology-driven art. It considers art's role in demystifying new technologies while highlighting socio-political issues, but it also explores the limitations of art as a debunker of techno-hype. In recent years, after the pandemic experience, painting has evolved to the point where a painter must be technologically proficient in addition to physically painting in the studio.

## Conclusion

The role of painting in our society is enormous, as evidenced by its impact on the development of modern art in Nigeria and globally. Amidst the chaos of dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic, painters have continued to experiment in their practice of art by exploring new vistas, ideas, styles, techniques, materials, processes, and platforms available to the art industry. The online platform is a vast field that has been embarked upon. Its benefits outweigh its flaws when well managed.

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