



# Olawale Ololade

## Photographer

### PORTFOLIO

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## Artist Statement

My work explores the intersection of spirituality, identity and the human condition, drawing deeply from my Yoruba heritage and personal encounters with the intangible. Through photography, I attempt to reveal unseen dialogues-between light and shadow, form and formlessness, the present and ancestral memory.

## Biography

Olawale Ololade is a Nigerian artist whose work is rooted in the visual poetics of the spiritual and the human. His photographs often engage with Yoruba cosmology and explore how bodies become vessels of memory and unseen forces. He has exhibited internationally, and his work appeared as the cover art for 'Years of Blood' by Adedayo Agarau, published by Fordham University Press.

1. Ololade Olawale, Echoes, 08/24.

2x3 in.



# Realms

A photography project exploring the world of the 'known unknowns' through traditional prayer items from my religious background and Nigerian beliefs. The project focuses on the high spirituality of items like candles, incense, and lanterns, which are believed to carry prayers to another world where they are answered. Realms imagines the unseen dimensions behind these items as prayer vessels in a spiritual realm.



2. Ololade Olawale, The Pilgrim,

09/24. 2x3 in.



3. Ololade Olawale, Labyrinth,

09/24. 2x3 in.



4. Ololade Olawale, Soul's Quest,

09/24. 2x3 in.



5. Ololade Olawale, Silent Echoes,

09/24. 2x3 in.





## Oju Orun (Eyes of the Heavens)

A portrait series shaped by Yoruba spirituality and the quiet weight of cultural memory. In Yoruba cosmology, Orun is the realm of ancestors, spirits, and unseen forces. These portraits are not meant to illustrate mythology but to reflect a kind of nearness to it, showing figures as vessels, grounded in their form yet open to the intangible. Their garments, beads, and gestures are not performative symbols, but visual languages passed down through generations, part of a larger spiritual code. The work approaches the human body as a shrine, something sacred, composed, and attuned. Not all that guides us can be named. But it can be felt in breath, in cloth, in bearing.



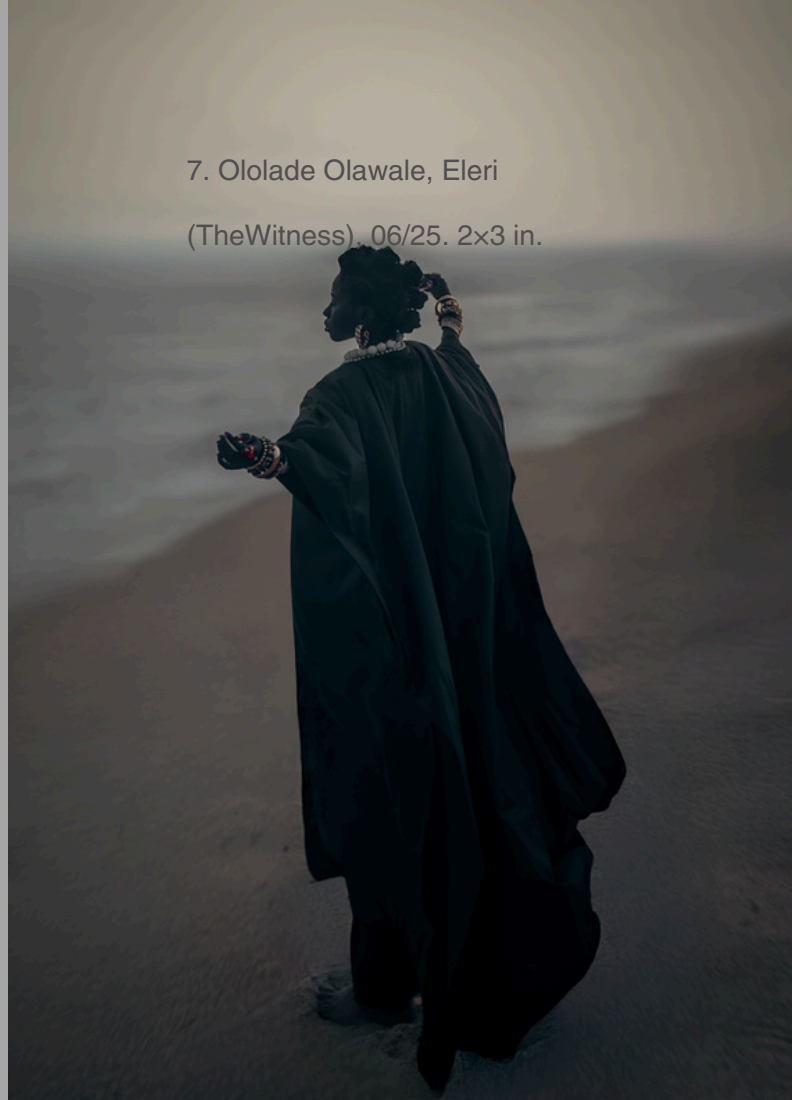
6. Ololade Olawale, Alagbase

(Bearer of Authority), 06/25. 2x3 in.



7. Ololade Olawale, Eleri

(TheWitness), 06/25. 2x3 in.



8. Ololade Olawale, Opa Ase

(Staff of Authority), 06/25. 2x3 in.



9. Ololade Olawale, Ajoji Orun

(Heaven's Emissary), 06/25. 2x3 in.





# CV & Press

## Selected Exhibitions:

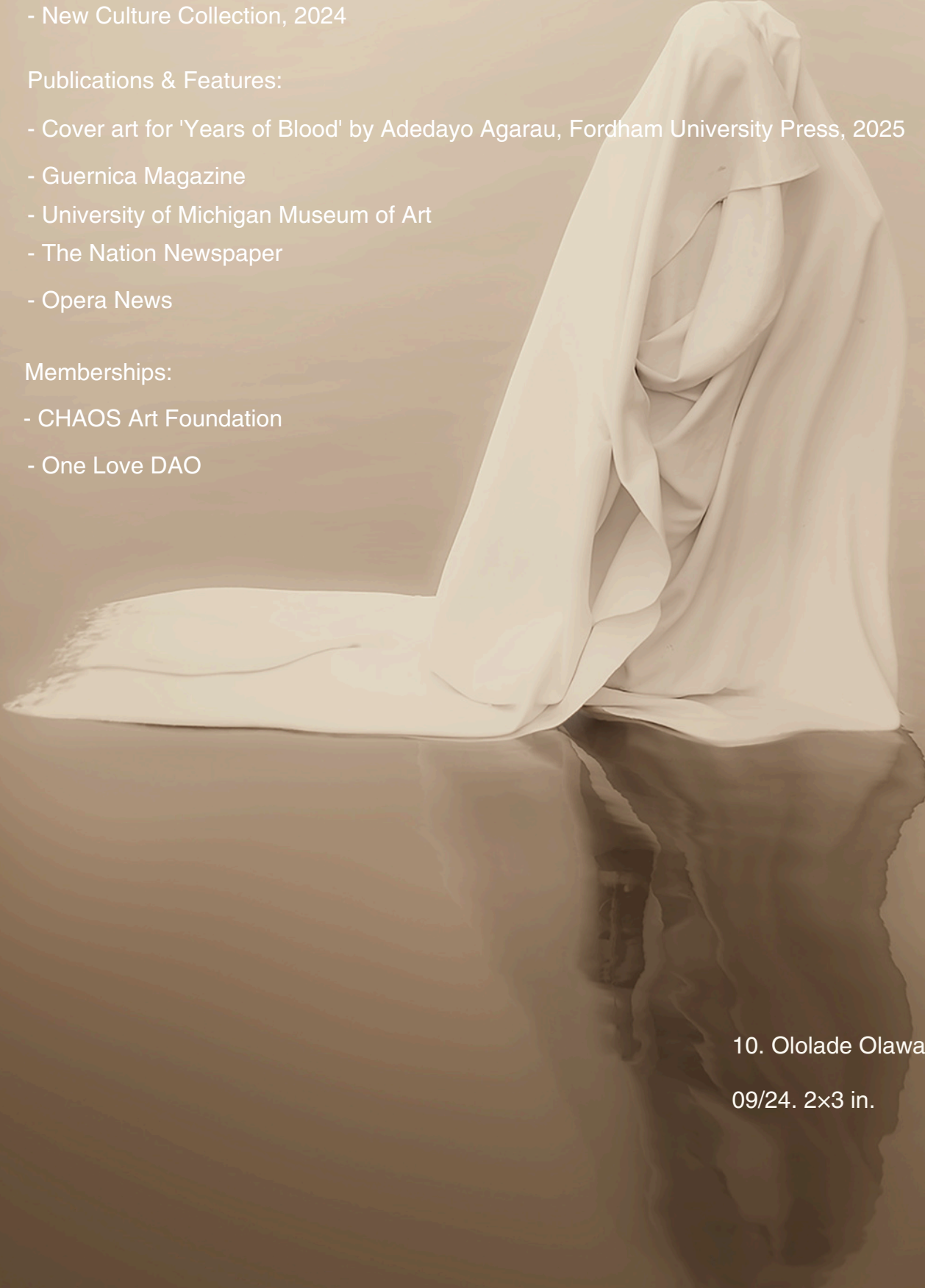
- Primavera Digitale Residency Exhibition, Florence, Italy, 2025
- Art is Not Dead Group Exhibition, 2025
- The Oculus, New York, organized by ITAN, 2024
- New Culture Collection, 2024

## Publications & Features:

- Cover art for 'Years of Blood' by Adedayo Agarau, Fordham University Press, 2025
- Guernica Magazine
- University of Michigan Museum of Art
- The Nation Newspaper
- Opera News

## Memberships:

- CHAOS Art Foundation
- One Love DAO

A white, draped fabric sculpture, possibly a shroud or a piece of art, is positioned on a dark, reflective surface. The fabric is gathered and folded, creating a complex, organic shape. The surface it sits on is highly reflective, mirroring the form of the sculpture. The background is a solid, light beige color.

10. Ololade Olawale, Pilgrimage

09/24. 2x3 in.