



YISA AKINBOLAJI

artist, educator & youth advocacy
Lives and works in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
www.yisaakinbolaji.ca

List of Work/CV

EDUCATION

M.F.A - University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, USA in Studio Arts with minor in Art History (distinction) –	2005 - 2009
Advertising Art Diploma (Advertising Art/Graphic design) Red River College, Winnipeg, Canada. –	1997 - 2000
Higher Diploma (Major in Painting) Yaba College of Arts and Technology, Lagos, Nigeria. –	1984 - 1986
Diploma (General Arts) Yaba College of Arts and Technology, Lagos, Nigeria. –	1981 - 1983

TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

Fine Art Instructor, Lagos State Model College, Badore –	1988 - 1997
Adjunct lecturer of Painting & Drawing, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education –	1988 - 1992

GRANTS, AWARDS & HONOURS

Appointed, member of the Order of Canada –	November 14, 2023
Recognition at the Canadian Parliament Chamber of the Senate of Canada in Ottawa –	May 10, 2023
Manitoba Arts Council Art Leaders Program Grant Award –	March 2, 2023
Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal –	December 1, 2022
Recipient of the “Manitoba 150 Award” –	September 16, 2021
Yisa’s painting, “Wisdom Thread” featured in the Government of Alberta Education’s Curriculum –	since March 2021
Visual Arts Research, Canada Council for the Arts in the Established artists category on the project “Fusing Different Art Forms”, combining Remoglue medium by the artist to explore new creation possibilities to advance dialogue on social issues–	Sep 16, 2020
Yisa recognized at the Canadian Parliament Chamber of the Senate of Canada in Ottawa –	February 27, 2019
Yisa was recognized at the Manitoba Legislative Assembly –	April 12, 2018
Yisa Received Role Model Award from the Conflict and Resilience Research Institute, Canada. –	November 20, 2018
Travel Grant, Winnipeg Arts Council –	2012
McElroy-Edwards, Jackie Scholarship, USA –	2008
Travel Grant, Winnipeg Arts Council –	2003
Valerie Fostey Memorial Award, Canada –	1998

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

The Future of Black Artists in Manitoba, for the Canadian Black Artists United Inc –	2024
Black Artists Conversation and Contribution in Manitoba, Winnipeg Art Gallery –	2023
Panelist; Black Artists’ Integral Role in Canadian Arts, Winnipeg –	2022
Artist Talk – The journey to my Remoglue technique: curated by Mariana Muñoz Gomez for Martha Street Studio –	2020
UNESCO schools, Bairdmore Pembina Trails School, Workshop on UNESCO Peace Painting –	2019
Workshop on “The effect of removable glue”, Charleswood Art Group. –	2017
Art Talk, “Colour, Space, Time and Human Purpose”, at Grant Memorial Artist Group. –	2016
Watercolour Workshop, at Grant Memorial Artist Collective –	2016
Abstract - Multilayering in Acrylic with Local Colour Art Group, Winnipeg –	2013

RECENT COMMISSIONED PROJECTS

Peaceful Protest, the Dividend of True Democracy 4ft x 4ft (Metal Sculpture Installation) Winnipeg Art Council –	2023
Impact 2020, Commissioned installation 9ft x 6.5ft collection of Providence University College –	2021

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Who is In and Who is Out - MHC Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada –	2019
My Language Space - Gurevich Fine Art, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada –	2014
From My Black-Etched Pot - New Art Centre, New York, NYC, USA. –	2012
Unconventional - Gupta Centre CNIB, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada –	2011
Dignity Within - Empire Arts Center, Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA –	2009
Street Bound - Eugene Myers Art Gallery, University of North Dakota –	2009
Peace and Purpose – Artist Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba –	2007
Dance out of Injustice - Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre, Winnipeg –	2006
“Scenes of Hope” Gas Station Theatre, Manitoba, Canada –	Nov. 2005 – Jan. 2006
“Impressions” National Museum, Onikan, Lagos, Nigeria. –	1997
“Colours and Forms in Action” National Museum, Lagos. –	1994
“Direction of Perspective” Adeyemi Coll. of Education, Ondo, Nigeria –	1986

SELECTED GROUP JURIED EXHIBITIONS

Four Artists, One Voice, Different Experiences – Canadian Museum Human Rights –	2022
Honouring Canada's Black Artists - the Senate of Canada, Ottawa –	2021
Artist Juried Exhibition - Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery –	2018
Guest artist - Ottawa Artist Collective Exhibition - St. Elias Centre –	2013
MSA 110th Year Juried Exhibition - Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba –	2012
Multi-Layering Experience - The Artists Project New York, Pier 92, New York –	2011
Manitoba Juried Art Expo - Winnipeg Assiniboia Downs –	2010
Show Some Emotion - Sixth Street Gallery, Vancouver, WA. –	2010
Six Artists, One Voice - Joseph D. Carrier Gallery, Toronto, ON. –	2009
Invisible Dignity - King's University College, Edmonton, AB.. –	2008
“Invisible Dignity” John Fairbank Memorial Library, Booth College, MB –	2007
“Ethics & Aesthetics Series”, Salvation Army Centre, MB –	2005
“Manitoba Society of Artists 71st Juried Art Exhibition”. –	2003

SELECTED APPOINTMENTS & KEYNOTE ROLES

The Support Art Leaders assessment panel member - Manitoba Arts Council –	March 2022
Keynote: 2nd Participatory Peace Painting - Bairdmore School by CRRIC, Canada, Winnipeg. –	Nov 26, 2019
Appointed member of board, Manitoba Arts Council (MAC). –	2010 – 2019
Finance committee member of board, Manitoba Arts Council –	2017 – 2019
Equity committee member of board, Manitoba Arts Council –	2010 – 2019
Growing the Value of Originality and Teamwork, Creative Foundation, Canada –	May 11, 2017
Art advocacy committee member of board, Manitoba Arts Council –	October 12, 2010 - October 11, 2013
Keynote: Manitoba Council for International Education (MCIE) at the Legislative Building, Winnipeg –	2012
Jury Member, Artist in Community Residency and the Community Connection and Access - Manitoba Arts Council –	June 9, 2010
Leader and Roundtable host, Institute for Canadian Citizenship - initiative of Hon. Adrienne Clarkson –	July 25, 2009
President, Manitoba Society of Artists –	2001 - 2003

MEDIA POSITIONS/EMPLOYMENT

Art Director, Indian Life Ministries, responsible for supervising the production of all print media.. –	2001 - 2011
Graphic Designer, Fellowship For Print publications, Winnipeg, responsible for designing for all print media.	2000 - 2001
Illustrator & Graphic Designer, Cross River State Television Authority, Uyo –	1986 - 1987
Illustrator & Graphic Designer, Kolorgrafiks Studio Lagos Discography, Lagos –	1982 - 1983

BIBLIOGRAPHY, MEDIA PREVIEWS & REVIEWS

2 longtime Winnipeg arts leaders appointed members of the Order of Canada by Ozten Shebahkeget, CBC News – Dec 29,	2023
“Empty Playground, Silent Battlefield” painting published on pg 357 “Western Voices In Canadian Art”, by Patrica Bovey –	2023
“Stolen Identity” painting published on pg 309 “Western Voices In Canadian Art”, by Patrica Bovey –	2023
United in their craft, Black artists making their mark; CMHR ... highlights diverse works. by Emmanuel Nwaneri –	July 4, 2022
Why it's important that Canada's Black artists are honoured at the heart of government, by Patricia Bovey –	March 4, 2022
Art is an Engine for Canadian Society, Gallerieswest, by Patricia Bovey –	March 22, 2021
Senate of Canada: A project to honour Black Canadian artists - THE SOURCE forum of diversity –	October 6, 2020
New Senate art display is the first ever to feature Black artists, by Laura Ryckewaert, The HILL TIMES cover page. Sept. 30,	2020
CHVN Radio, Immigration and Art in Winnipeg, by Mariel Roehr –	May 6, 2019
“Within Reach” painting for the cover of Contemporary Verse 2, Vol. 42 Issue No1 –	Summer 2019
IMAGO Arts E-Magazine and print Volume 16 Issue 2, “Yisa Akinbolaji - Visual Artist” by Ogami –	January 18, 2018
Winnipeg Free Press, Community News, Envisioning the future with visual art by Sunday Olukoju –	May 24, 2017
Envisioning the future with visual art - Winnipeg Free Press, by Sunday Olukoju –	May 24, 2017
Growing the Value of Originality and Teamwork - CTV News 6:00pm, of the Creative Foundation Inc, Canada –	May 11, 2017
Winnipeg Free Press, Community News, “Making art brings people, cultures together” by Sunday Olukoju –	November 7, 2016
CJOB, Winnipeg by Dahlia Kurtz –	May 25, 2016
Community News Commons, Creating Harmony Through Artistic Expression by Genevieve Henderson –	March 24, 2016
Winnipeg Free Press, Celebrating Yoruba art, music, storytelling by Carol Sanders –	May 8, 2015
CTV News, Coverage of My Language Space –	May 12 - 13, 2014
Redemptive Art in Society page 152 - 153, by Dr. Calvin Seerveld. –	2014
CTV News ,Coverage of My Language Space –	May 12 - 13, 2014
Finding Contemporary African Art at Toronto Art Expo by Uwera –	April 13, 2014
Oh won't you color me some Ottawa, by Samantha Ammoun, Ottawa Star Ottawa Star - Volume 1 Issue 10 page 3 - Nov. 7,	2013
“...colour me some more Ottawa”, by Samantha Ammoun, Ottawa Star Vol. 1 pg. 3. –	Nov. 7, 2013
Cover and page 30 “TOP Emerging Artists” - by Jennifer M. Wood, Art Business News, New York. –	Nov/Dec 2011
Sharing the journey with Yisa Akinbolaji, by Leigh Patterson, STYLE MANITOBA. –	Nov. 22, 2011
Donated mosaic celebrates peace, human purpose, by Matt Prepost, Metro, Winnipeg Free Press. –	October 26, 2011
“Yisa Akinbolaji: Layers Upon Layers of Paint” by Cassie Behle, Empty Easel –	June 1, 2011
“Six artists, one voice... Nigerian art thrills Toronto audience”, Guardian Newspaper –	September 22, 2009
“Art show focuses on streets” by Sara Tazel –	April 28, 2009
CTV News by Caroline Barghout, –	September 22-23, 2007
Shaw TV Winnipeg –	September 22, 2007
“Invisible Dignity: Multimedia project combines art, music, prayer” by Brenda Suderman, Winnipeg Free Press –	Sept. 16, 2007
“Students learn to apply creative abilities to daily life”, Staff Writer, Winnipeg Free Press –	June 01, 2006
“Editor's Choice” by Brad Hughes and Lindsay Duke, Winnipeg WHERE Magazine –	May/June 2006
News Now by Krista Erickson, CBC TV, reported by Barbara Brunzell –	April 24, 2006

French News reported by Louis-Philippe Ouimet, CBC Radio-Canada –	April 13, 2006
City TV Winnipeg –	April 6, 2006
“Art show offers ethical alternative”, Staff Writer, Winnipeg Free Press –	May 18, 2005
Shaw TV News, Winnipeg –	April 13-14, 2005
The Herald Community Newspaper, Winnipeg –	March 16, 2005
A-Channel TV Big Breakfast, Winnipeg –	March 11, 2005
“Light Talk”, by Greg Musselman, - Trinity Television –	Aug. 2000
“Canada Day National News”, by Krista Erickson, CBC Television –	July 1999
“Africa art serves up a sumptuous treat”, by Garth Buchholz, Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg –	Feb. 1998
“Sharpening the mind through art”, by Maurice Archibong, Sunday Times –	June 1997
“Creative Foundation discourse”, by Steve Ayorinde, The Guardian Newspaper –	June 1997
“Yisa Akinbolaji’s works mirror society”, by Aloy Ibeabuchi, Lagos Weekend –	July 1994
“Model memorabilia”, by Taofik Akanni, The Guardian on Sunday –	April 1994
“Seminar on creativity”, by Gabriel Dike, Sunday Times –	Jan. 1994
Creative Foundation kicks off”, by Awawa Bassey and Eka Ekan, Punch Newspaper –	Jan. 1994
“Akinbolaji’s Norms, Forms and Actions”, by Aloy Ibeabuchi, Lagos Weekend –	1990
“Creating Awareness”, by Kodinlinye Obiagwu, Times International –	1990
“A harvest of culture”, by Augustine Njaogwuani, The Financial Post –	1988
“Prime Message”, by J. O. S. Edigbe, Megastar Magazine –	1988
“The verve of a sapling”, by Chuzzy Udenwa, The Guardian Newspaper –	Sept. 1984

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

<i>Peaceful Protest, the Dividend of True Democracy</i> 4ft x 4ft (Metal Sculpture Installation), Winnipeg Art Council –	2023
<i>Impact 2020</i> , Commissioned Art Installation 9ft x 6.5ft Collection of Providence University College –	2021
<i>Empty Playground, Silent Battlefield</i> (W64” x H44”) Acrylic, oil, conté with remoglue medium, Collection of the artist –	2020
<i>Within Reach</i> , (W22” x H28”) Acrylic, aided with remoglue medium on canvas, Collection of the artist –	2019
<i>Watchful</i> ; (W64” x H44”) Acrylic, oil, conté aided with remoglue medium on canvas – Private Collection, Michigan, USA	2018
<i>Wisdom Thread</i> ; (W36” x H40”) Acrylic aided with remoglue medium on canvas – Private Collection, Michigan, USA	2016
<i>Worthy Treasure</i> ; (W40” x H30”) Acrylic and Charcoal aided with remoglue on canvas – Private Collection, Winnipeg,	2016
<i>Strong and Free</i> ; (W40” x H40”) 2013 Acrylic and oil aided with remoglue on canvas – Private Collection, Michigan, USA	2016
<i>Atlantis</i> ; W20 by H20 Acrylic on canvas – Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	2014
<i>Knowledge Flows 1</i> ; (W20” x H20”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Private Collection, Ottawa, Canada –	2013
<i>Knowledge Flows 2</i> ; (W20” x H20”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Private Collection, Ottawa, Canada –	2013
<i>Invocation</i> ; (W24” x H24”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Private Collection, Ottawa, Canada –	2013
<i>Colours and Forms</i> ; (W20” x H30”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	2013
<i>Longevity</i> ; (W40” x H40”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Collection of the Govt of Manitoba –	2012
<i>Light on The Way</i> ; (W36” x H36”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Collection of the Govt of Manitoba –	2012
<i>Untitled</i> ; (W40” x H40”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Collection of the Govt of Manitoba –	2012
<i>Through The Mist</i> ; (W30” x H30”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Collection of Canada Life/Great West Life Insurance–	2012
<i>In Red and Blue</i> ; (W30” x H30”) Acrylic with remoglue on canvas, Collection of the Govt of Manitoba –	2012
<i>Not a perfect square</i> ; (W24” x H24”) Acrylic and mixed-media on board Private Collection, New York. –	2011
<i>Find A Treasure</i> ; (W24” x H24”) Acrylic and mixed-media on board, Private Collection, New York. –	2011

<i>Excellency</i> ; (W24" x H24") Acrylic and mixed-media on board, Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	2011
<i>With All Pleasure</i> ; (W24" x H24") Acrylic and mixed-media on board, Private Collection, New York –	2011
<i>Colour Festival</i> ; (W20" x H20") Acrylic and mixed-media on board, Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	2011
<i>Dancing Stars</i> ; (W30" x H30") Acrylic on canvas Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	2010
<i>The Gateway</i> ; (W24" x H24") Acrylic on canvas, Private Collection, Manitoba, Canada –	2010
<i>Where We Have Not Visited</i> ; (W20" x H20") Acrylic/Mixed-media on canvas, Private Collection, Ottawa, Canada –	2010
<i>The Hope Within</i> ; (W15.5" x H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the University of North Dakota –	2009
<i>We Are All Able</i> ; (W15.5" x H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the University of North Dakota –	2009
<i>Living by Faith</i> ; (W15.5" x H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the artist –	2009
<i>Sound In Colour</i> ; (W20" x H24") Acrylic and mixed-media on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg. –	2009
<i>Woman Waiting</i> ; (W22" x H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the artist. –	2009
<i>Mirror of Existence</i> ; (W22" x H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the artist. –	2009
<i>Cherish and Protect</i> ; (W30" x H40") Acrylic and oil aided with remoglue medium on canvas, Collection of the artist. –	2007
<i>Free To Roam</i> ; (W18" by H24") Monotype Printmaking/Ink on paper, Collection of the artist. –	2007
<i>Illegal Arrest</i> ; (W22" x H18") Conte on paper, Collection of the artist. –	2007
<i>Opon Ayo</i> ; (W24" x H20") Acrylic and mixed-media on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg –	1997
<i>Peace Dance</i> ; (W36" x H24") Acrylic and mixed-media on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg –	1997
<i>Acrobatic Dance</i> ; (W24" x H30") Acrylic and mixed-media on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg –	1997
<i>Livelihood</i> ; (W79" x H34") Acrylic and oil on canvas, Collection of the artist, –	1997
<i>The Wind of Destiny</i> ; (W53" x H34") Acrylic on canvas, Collection of the artist, –	1997
<i>Water Scarcity</i> ; (W36" x H24") Oil and acrylic on canvas, Private Collection, Winnipeg, Canada –	1996
<i>Wine Tapper</i> ; (W24" x H24") Oil and acrylic on canvas, Collection of Cargill Inc, Winnipeg, Canada –	1996