

La Galerie du Jour agnès b. presents

J.D. 'OKHAI OJEIKERE

SCULPTURES FOR A DAY

01.03.24 - 05.05.24



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galerie du jour agnès b.

J.D. 'OKHAI OJEIKERE

SCULPTURES FOR A DAY

After several group exhibitions with other great names in contemporary African art, the fruit of the friendship between agnès b. and gallery owner André Magnin, **Galerie du Jour** presents *Sculptures for a day*, the first solo exhibition by Nigerian photographer **J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere**, bringing together his *Hairstyles* and *Headdress* series.

Born in 1930 in a rural community in western Nigeria, Ojeikere acquired his first camera, a Brownie D without a flash, in 1950. In a region where photography was still almost unknown, **J.D'Okhai Ojeikere** began his career during the transitional period when Nigeria gained its independence from Great Britain. His photographic work is thus marked by the social and cultural changes brought about by liberation.

Sensitive to all forms of art, but particularly those that were integrated into everyday life, Ojeikere began his *Hairstyles* series in 1968. This emblematic collection is rooted in the massive arrival of wigs in Nigeria in the 1950s. Initially ethnographic, then purely artistic, Ojeikere immortalised the ephemeral art of hairstyling worn by Nigerian women. These hair traditions, which in the end were only briefly threatened, go beyond mere fashion; they reflect the country's many creative facets and social structures.

"You can easily identify a woman by her hairstyle: a woman who has become an adult; a woman preparing for marriage or going through a circumcision ceremony. As for the royal families, they have exclusive rights to the shape of their hairstyle, which is passed down from generation to generation and cannot be imitated".

J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

The *Hairstyles* series, for example, brings together almost 1,000 prints of traditional Nigerian hairstyles collected across the country, and bears witness to the richness and artistic diversity of Nigeria.

His lesser-known *Headdress* series, which he began in the early 2000s, explores the country's different women's headdresses, highlighting the artistic skill and aesthetics of hand-arranging the fabrics.

Both series are the result of a collective effort, the headdresses and coiffures being made by one person, worn by another and captured by the artist in a tripartite search for beauty. The photographer's sculptural compositions, often focusing on photographs of the back, reveal the geometry, shapes and abstract power of the hairstyles.

Through his photographs, J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere transcends mere fashion to elevate hairstyles to the level of art, celebrating their complex patterns and sculptural dimensions. These *Sculptures for a Day* are immortalised by the photographer's lens, offering a discreet and coherent visual language, a veritable hymn to the ephemeral beauty of Nigerian hairstyles.

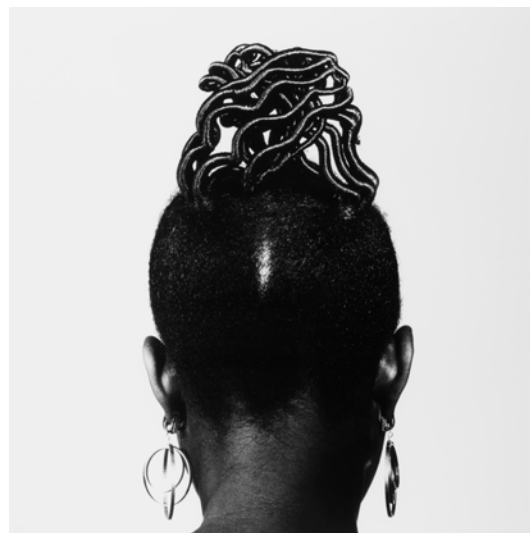
ROYALTY-FREE VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Pineapple Kiko

Circa 1970



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Suku sinero kiko

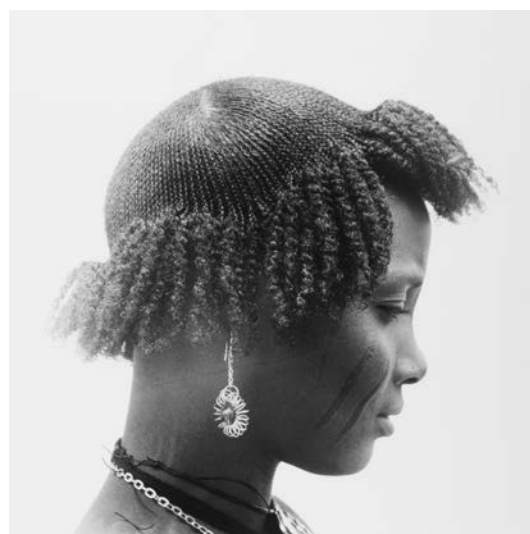
Circa 1970



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Oluveri, série Headdress

Circa 1970



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Shangalti

Circa 1970

ROYALTY-FREE VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



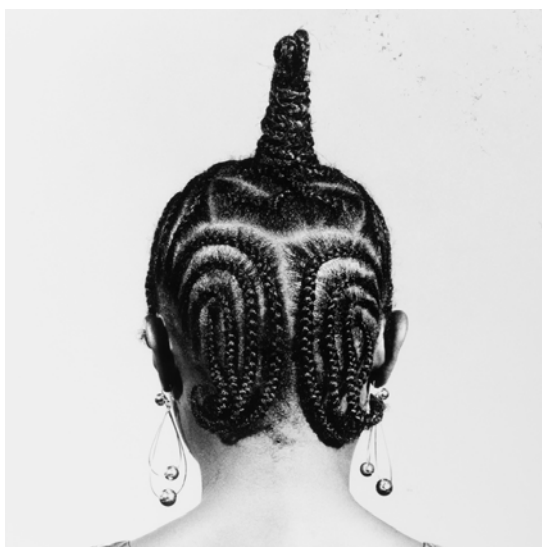
J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Banke, serie Headdress
Circa 2000



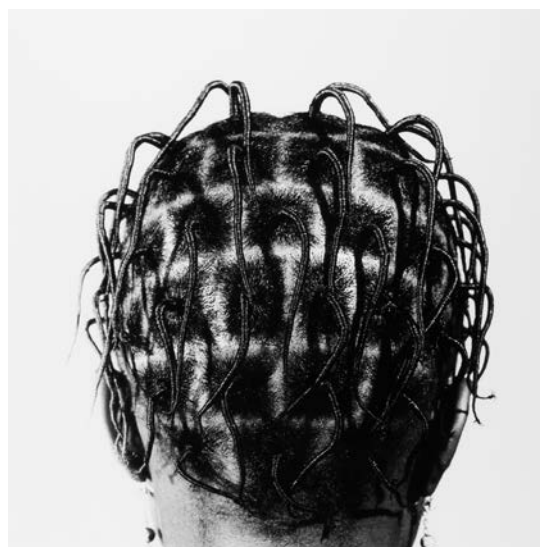
J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Ito Itozi
Circa 1970



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

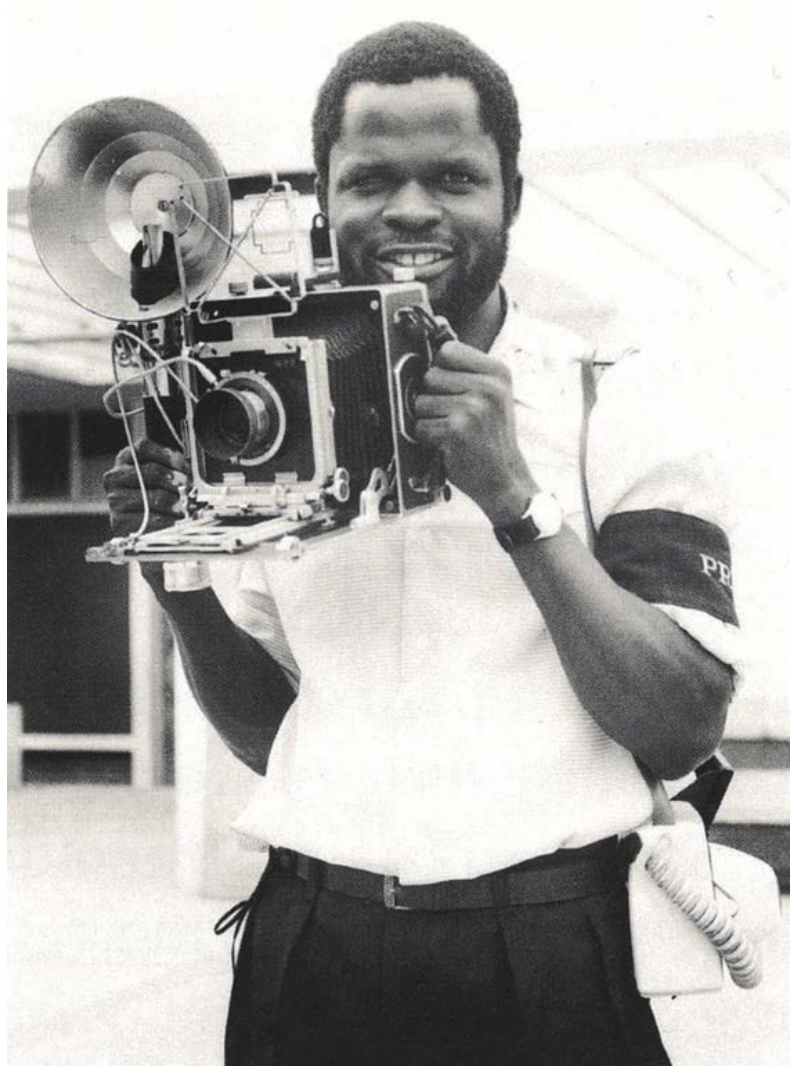
Ife Bronze
Circa 1970



J.D 'Okhai Ojeikere

Pineapple
Circa 1970

J.D 'OKHAI OJEIKERE



Born in 1930 in Ovbiomu, Nigeria

Died in 2014 in Lagos, Nigeria, where he lived and worked.

At the age of nineteen, J.D. 'Okhai Ojeikere bought a modest Brownie D camera on the advice of a neighbour who taught him the rudiments of photography. His talent led to him being approached by West Africa Publicity, for whom he worked full-time from 1963 to 1975, when he set up his own studio, Foto Ojeikere. At a festival in 1968, he took his first photographs of Nigerian culture, always in black and white, using a 6x6 Rolleiflex. From then on, and for the next forty years, he continued his thematic research throughout the country. Hairstyle, with almost a thousand photographs, is his most extensive and most accomplished. Ojeikere systematically photographed the hairstyles of Nigerian women every day in the street, at the office and at parties, from the back, sometimes in profile, and more rarely from the front. As well as being an aesthetic project, his work constitutes a unique anthropological, ethnographic and documentary heritage.

ABOUT LA GALERIE DU JOUR AGNÈS B.

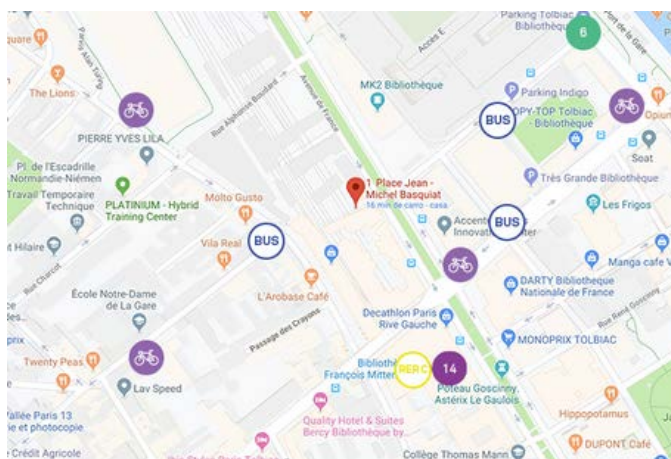
After its creation in 1983 on rue du jour, next to the historic agnès b. boutique, and twenty years of activity on rue Quincampoix, galerie du jour is now located on the first floor of La Fab. in the 13th arrondissement of Paris. Five exhibitions a year take place in a modular space of around 200m2. Through its exhibition and sales activities, the gallery continues to discover and support French and international artists.

ACCESS TO LA GALERIE DU JOUR

Galerie du Jour / La Fab. - Place Jean-Michel Basquiat - Paris 13e

Wednesday to Saturday 11am - 7pm / Sunday 2pm - 7pm

-  Ligne 14
Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Ligne 6
Chevaleret
-  RER C
Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Lignes 25, 61, 62, 71, 89, 325
-  Vélib
rue Paul Casals, rue du Chevaleret



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devenons amis !!

@ galerie du jour

