

UCHE OKEKE Art in Development – A Nigerian Perspective

Uche Okeke's *Art in Development – A Nigerian Perspective* is the most important publication by the founding father of Nigerian modernism. Originally published in 1982, the book compiles texts, interviews, concept papers and other material from the late 1950s until the 1980s, containing such important texts like the "Natural Synthesis" manifesto of the Zaria Art Society from 1960.

Having been out of print for many years, this re-edition by iwalewabooks wants to bring these texts back to life for artists, academics and an interested public.

Uche Okeke was born on April 30, 1933 in Nimo, Anambra State, Nigeria. He was one of the leaders of the Zaria Art Society, 1958–1961, which changed the course of Nigerian art since the late fifties. He founded Asele Institute (Nimo) in 1959. From 1962 to 1963 he studied in Munich while travelling in Germany and visiting art schools, academies, museums, and theatres. Coming back to Nigeria, he joined with the Mbari Club and his centre became the Mbari Art Centre under his directorship. After the Civil War, Uche Okeke was invited to join the Department of Fine Arts (now Fine and Applied Arts) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and he subsequently served as department head and developed the art collections and documents of Asele Institute at its permanent headquarters in Nimo. Uche Okeke has exhibited extensively in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas, and has also travelled in Africa, Europe and the United States.

This book is a re-edition of the original book published in 1982 by Asele Institute, Nimo, Nigeria and the African American Cultural Centre, Minnesota, USA.

A collaboration between Documentation Centre, Asele Institute, Nimo and iwalewabooks, Bayreuth.



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ART IN DEVELOPMENT
— A NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE



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Art in Development – A Nigerian Perspective

preface for the second edition
by Ijeoma Loren Uche-Okeke

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This book is part of the series "scholar", where we publish academic texts, such as master's and doctoral theses, as well as re-editions of older texts, primarily by authors from the Global South.