



Development of Art Schools in the Nigerian University System 1961 to 2021

Razaq Olatunde Rom Kalilu

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria

Akinkunmi Olatunbosun Odeniyi

Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: In most human societies, there is a need for some training or formal study to become an artist. The formal and technical control achieved by the artist is learned over time and with practice in an art school. As such, the place of art school is vital in the training of artists. The degree programme in Nigerian art school commenced in 1961. Since then, the establishment of Nigerian art schools has witnessed significant developments. On record are tangible academic efforts in the documentation of pioneering Nigerian art schools. A systematic appraisal and holistic documentation of Nigerian Art schools is outstanding and significant. This study appraised art schools in Nigerian universities from 1961 to 2021. It identified twenty-eight art schools in twenty-six universities across twenty-three states of Nigeria and recognised painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, textile design, and Art History as areas of specialization in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Conclusively, the study provided the history of the establishment and development of the art schools in Nigerian universities and consequently enriched the art history of Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: Art school, Nigerian universities, establishment, appraisal, documentation

I. INTRODUCTION

Art school in this study refers to visual arts departments where students train for regular degrees in Nigerian universities. Chukueggu opined that what is often referred to as art school is not, since no style can be attributed to it (C. C. Chlueggu, personal communication, June 15, 2015). Egonwa (2007: 35) sharing a similar view with Chukueggu, suggested that it is more appropriate to refer to visual art departments as schools of Art rather than as Art schools. Contrariwise, Kalilu and Oladugbagbe (2013: 187)

observed that referring to the visual art department in an educational institution as an Art school is correct within the academic environment as it likened the various sections and sub-sections in the Visual Arts to other subjects in a larger educational setting. Moreover, they observed that much art literature refers to the visual art departments with facilities for various art sections and sub-sections in most academic institutions in Nigeria as art schools. As such, Art schools may refer to formal institutions, and in this case, universities where academicism and all rudiments of scholarship are taught with their distinctive visual ideologies.

The dawn of the 1950s heralded Nigerian Contemporary Art. The decade witnessed the establishment of the Fine Arts department in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The development of Modern Nigerian Art has been strongly influenced by the establishment and development of Art schools particularly in the universities. At the moment, Nigeria has 36 states and a federal capital territory. Each state has a federal university established by the federal government of Nigeria. Similarly, each of the state governments also established at least one state university in their states. Also worthy of mention are private universities established in Nigerian states. However, not all these universities have Art schools.

Tangible scholastic efforts have been made in the documentation of art schools in Nigeria. Conversely, the emphasis had been on the early generation of art schools. Later generations of art schools were scarcely focused. Also, the absence of a systematic, holistic, and chronological study of Art schools in Nigerian Universities is a significant gap. This study is an art historical appraisal of the establishment and development of art schools in Nigerian universities from 1961 until 2021. It spanned across visual arts departments



offering regular Bachelor, Master, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Fine Arts and in Applied Arts in Nigerian universities, excluding visual arts departments granting professional degrees in Fine and Applied Arts Education.

Substantial literature materials are available on the development of early-generation art schools in Nigeria. Mount 1973 discussed Art Schools in French-speaking and English-speaking West, East, and Central Africa. He opined that Art Schools in English-speaking West Africa are concentrated in Ghana and Nigeria. He recognized the Zaria and Yaba schools and the Workshop school at Osogbo in Nigeria. Mount's study did not focus on Nigerian art and art schools. Rather it focused on African art of which Nigerian art is a prominent part. He discussed early-generation Nigerian art schools. However, the art schools discussed were not particularly those of Nigerian universities.

Ecoma's (2005) paper examined the growth and development of the Nuskka Art School. It discussed the art culture system of the Nsukka Art School. Onipede's (2005) paper observed that Nigerian Art Schools have distinctive styles as a result of the philosophy underlying the founding of the schools, the artistic personality of their pioneers, the teachers, the location, the cultural facts of the locality, and years of continuous practice and experimentation. It noted a growing hybridization of the different styles of the various schools resulting in a "National" style stripped of sectional affiliation. Onipede discussed art schools' stylistic tendencies, and not their establishment and development.

Oloidi (2008) acknowledged that the contributions of various formal and informal art schools resulted in the growth and development of modern art in Nigeria. He described the nature of ideological and stylistic schools in modern Nigerian art as a triumvirate, mentioning and discussing the Aina Onabolu School of naturalistic representation, the Expatriate School of culturisation of art creations, and the Zaria Art School with their natural synthesis ideology. He concluded that all possible segments of stylistic situations in modern Nigerian art find their root in the stylistic trio discussed. Nevertheless, his study did not discuss formal art schools in Nigerian universities.

Oladugbagbe, Abodunrin, and Akintonde (2008) appraised the efforts of individual members of the Zaria Art School, particularly those who contributed to the shaping, redirecting, and realization of African identity in art. Their paper

focused on members of the Zaria art society whose stylistic influence has crystallized into groups or movements and examined the reflection of Zaria art society in formal Art schools at Nsukka, Ife, Yaba, Benin, and Auchi through form, style, theme, material, and technique. The paper focused on members of Zaria Art School and their influences on art development.

Chukueggu (2010) traced the origin and development of art study in Nigerian institutions of higher learning to the establishment of Art departments. He chronicled the establishment of formal Art schools in Nigerian universities by mentioning the schools in Zaria, Nsukka, Ife, and Benin in order of establishment. He summarily acknowledged the existence of other Art schools apart from the ones mentioned. Chukueggu's work contributes to the history of Nigerian art schools. The study discussed art schools in Nigerian universities, polytechnics, and colleges of Education.

Egonwa (2011) analyzed Nigerian artistic traditions in historical development and Nigerian art of the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. It discussed emergent modern Art transformation and examined art schools and their contributions. New-generation formal Art schools such as those in universities at Maiduguri and Akure were mentioned alongside earlier-generation formal Art schools. Also, mention was made of notable Art Educators from the Art department in universities at Akwa, Owerri, and Port-Harcourt among more popular formal Art schools. It documented the Fine and Applied Arts Department at Delta State University, Abraka.

Kalilu and Oladugbagbe (2013) focused on garden sculptures and sculpture gardens in art schools in Nigerian Tertiary institutions. It attempted a study of the antecedence and morphology of garden sculptures in the Zaria and Yaba art schools. In another study, Oladugbagbe and Kalilu (2013) examined sculptures made of metal alloy in Zaria, Nsukka, Yaba, and Auchi Art schools. The paper looked at changes that had occurred to the sculptures as a result of weathering and oxidation over time and offered preventive strategies for the metalworks.

Abokede 2017 analyzed development in painting, specifically on material usage and its impact on morphology and styles. His study considered the origin, typology, development, changes, and classification of painting styles by analysis of paintings produced by selected artists from different but selected Nigerian art schools. Art schools selected and researched comprise four



polytechnics and eight universities across Nigeria. Similarly, Noserime (2018) examined changes in painting practice between the years 2000 and 2015 in Nigerian formal art schools. The formal art schools involved in the study are two polytechnics at Yaba and Auchi and three universities at Zaria, Nsukka, and Ife; which the study regarded as the first set of Tertiary art institutions in Nigeria.

Valuable as all the literature materials reviewed are, their emphasis is on pioneer Art schools and not later-generation Art schools. They discussed art schools in tertiary Nigerian institutions generally and not particularly in universities. Their discussions were majorly on stylistic tendencies, and artists rather than establishment, development, and chronology. The study employed a direct field survey method. Data was sourced via direct observation, analysis of art historical writings, key informant interviews, questionnaires, and literature materials. It analysed its data qualitatively and presented its results in texts and a table, relying on both primary and secondary data sources.

DEVELOPMENT OF ART SCHOOLS IN THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Fine Arts Department was established at the Nigerian College of Art, Science, and Technology (NCAST), Ibadan in 1953 but later moved to the NCAST, Zaria, in 1955. It initially ran a four-year Diploma programme but by 1961 the Diploma programme was converted to a Degree programme. When the University of Northern Nigeria now Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was established in 1962, the degree programme of the Fine Arts Department at the NCAST, Zaria was transferred to the university system (Babalola 2009: 129). Simultaneously, the Department of Fine and Applied Arts (known then as Enwonwu College of Fine Arts) was established at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1961 (University of Nigeria 2021). Art schools in Nigerian universities with degree programme established between 1961 and 2021 are tabulated below.

Table 1: Visual Art Departments in Nigerian Universities

S/N	University	Faculty / College / School	Department	Year of Establishment of Degree Programme / Department
1	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State	Environmental Design	Fine Arts	1961
2	University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State	Arts	Fine and Applied Arts	1961
3	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun state	Environmental Design and Management	Fine and Applied Arts	1975
4	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State	Environmental Design	Industrial Design	1977
5	University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State	Arts	Fine and Applied Arts	1978
6	University of Uyo, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State	Environmental Sciences	Fine & Industrial Arts	1983
7	University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt, Rivers State	Humanities	Fine Arts & Design	1987
8	Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State	Arts	Fine and Applied Arts	1992
9	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Oyo State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	1992
10	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Akwa, Anambra State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	1992
11	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State	Environmental Technology	Industrial Design	1992



12	Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State	Environmental Technology	Industrial Design	1994
13	Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	1996
14	Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State	Environmental Sciences	Industrial Design	1997
15	University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State	Arts	Creative Arts	1997
16	Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	1997
17	Abia State University, Uturu, Abia State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2000
18	Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Amasoma, Bayelsa State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2000
19	Cross River University of Technology, Calabar, Cross River State	Environmental Sciences	Visual Arts and Technology	2002
20	Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ibogun Campus, Ogun State	Environmental Technology	Fine and Applied Arts	2003
21	Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State	Arts	Visual and Creative Arts	2012
22	Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2012
23	University of Jos, Jos, Plateau State	Environmental Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2013
24	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Borno State	Environmental Studies	Fine Arts	2014
25	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Borno State	Environmental Studies	Industrial Design	2014
26	University of Calabar, Calabar, Cross River State	Arts	Fine and Applied Arts	2015
27	Mountain Top University, Makogi Oba, Ogun State	Humanities, Management, and Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2020
28	Kwara State University, Maleta, Kwara State	Humanities, Management, and Sciences Sciences	Fine and Applied Arts	2021

The art schools contained in the table above are consequently chronologically discussed below from the establishment and developmental point of view.

Department of Fine Arts, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

The degree programme in the Fine Art Department at the NCAST, Zaria began in 1961. In 1962, when the University of Northern Nigeria now Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was established, it took over the assets of the NCAST, Zaria thereby absorbing the Fine Arts degree programme. Academic programmes in the Department include a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with Painting, Sculpture, Art Education, and

Art History options, a Master of Arts in Art Education, and Arts History, a Master in Fine Arts in Painting, and Sculpture, Doctor of Philosophy in Arts Education, in Art History, and more recently in Fine Arts (Buhari, J., et al 2009: 60-111).

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

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts (previously known as Enwonwu College of Fine Arts) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka was founded in 1961. The Department awards Bachelor's degrees in Fine and Applied Arts in the following specialisations: Art Education, Art History, Ceramics, Fashion Design, Graphics,



Painting, Sculpture, and Textile Design. Other programmes in the Department include Master of Arts (M.A.) in Art and Design (Contemporary Art), M.A. in Art and Design (Graphic Design), M.A. in Art and Design (Curating), Ph.D. in Art History, and Ph.D. in Art Education (University of Nigeria, Nsukka. 2020). The content of the art programme allowed the incorporation of indigenous ideas, motifs, designs, and styles into art learning and production.

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

The Fine Arts Department at the University of Ife; now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife was established in 1975. The Department of Fine Arts was moved from the Faculty of Arts to the Faculty of Environmental Design and Management with modifications and restructuring made to the Bachelor of Arts degree programme brought over from the Faculty of Arts. Postgraduate programmes in the Department include a Master of Fine Arts with specialisations in ceramics, graphics, painting, sculpture, and textiles, a Master of Arts, a Master of Philosophy, and a Doctor of Philosophy in African Art Studies with specialisations in African Art History, History of African Architecture, and Aesthetics and Art Criticism (Undergraduate and Postgraduate Handbook 2017).

Department of Industrial Design, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

In 1977, the Department of Fine Arts at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was split into two Departments: the Department of Fine Arts and the Department of Industrial Design (Babalola, 2009: 129). As such, the Department of Industrial Design at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria was established in 1977 as a composite discipline starting with the following areas of specialization: Textiles Design, Graphic Design, Ceramics Design, and Glass Design and Technology. The Department of Industrial Design awards two degrees at the undergraduate level: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.). While the B.A. degree programme is for designers in Ceramics, Graphics, and Textiles; the B.Sc. degree programme is for students who are specialising in Glass Design and Technology. Postgraduate programmes include a Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Industrial Design, and a Master of Arts (M.A.) Industrial Design (Ceramics, Graphics, Textiles, and Glass Technology options), and Doctor of Philosophy

(Ph.D.) in Industrial Design (Buhari, J., et al. 2009: 112-23).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, Benin City

Creative Arts Department became an autonomous department in 1978. It became the Faculty of Creative Arts comprising departments of Fine Arts, Applied Arts, and Theatre Arts in 1982. The Faculty of Creative Arts was merged with the Faculty of Arts in 1987. In the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Fine Arts and Department of Applied Arts which existed as two separate departments under the defunct Faculty of Creative Arts were merged as Department of Fine and Applied Arts. (Faculty of Arts. 2015/2016: iii-vii, 20-22). The undergraduate programme in the Department leads to the award of Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Applied Arts. The Master of Fine and Applied Arts (M.F.A.) degree programme has blossomed in the Department for several decades. The M.F.A. Degrees are in Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Textile/Fashion, Printmaking, and Advertising. Master of Arts in Art History, Doctor of Philosophy in Art History, and Doctor of Philosophy in Visual Arts with specialisations in Sculpture, Painting, Ceramics, Graphic Design, and Textile Design are Visual Arts degree programmes available in the Department (Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin, 2015).

Department of Fine and Industrial Arts, University of Uyo, Uyo

The Fine Arts Department was one of the foundation departments in the Faculty of Arts at the defunct University of Cross River State in 1983. It was the University of Cross River State that became the University of Uyo after the creation of Akwa-Ibom State from Cross River State. The Department of Fine and Industrial Arts was later excised from the Faculty of Arts and added to the Faculty of Environmental Studies. The Fine and Industrial Arts Department runs a four-year undergraduate programme leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Industrial Arts. Its postgraduate programmes include Master of Fine Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in areas of specialization (Uni-Uyo Art School. 2018).

Department of Fine Art and Design, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Port Harcourt

The Department of Fine Arts and Design, in the Faculty of Humanities, at the University of Port Harcourt began as a Visual Art unit; one of the two constituent units (Theatre and Visual Art) of



the Department of Creative Arts in 1984. In 1987, the programme was restructured into two separate and independent units of Theatre Arts and Visual Arts; running two degree programmes, and in September 2002, the two units of the Department of Creative Arts became autonomous departments; the Department of Fine Arts and Design, and the Department of Theatre Arts respectively. The Department of Fine Arts and Design runs a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts and Design) programme with specialisation in Art history, painting, sculpture, ceramics design, graphics and communication design, and textile and fashion design (Department of Fine Art and Design. 2014/2015). The Department also offers postgraduate programmes (Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy) in similar areas of specialisation.

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Delta State University, Abraka

In 1992, the Department of Fine and Applied Arts became part of the Faculty of Arts at Delta State University, Abraka, awarding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts. Postgraduate programmes in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Delta State University include a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting, Graphics, Ceramics, Sculpture, and Textile Design. It also offers a Master of Arts, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Art History, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Studio Art (Delta State University. 2011-2015: 100-18).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso

Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Ladoko Akintola University of Technology was established in 1992. It provides training from Bachelor to Doctoral degrees. Degrees offered include a Bachelor of Technology in Fine and Applied Arts, Post Graduate Diploma in Art History, Post Graduate Diploma in Fine Art (Drawing, Computer Art, Form and Material Technology, Painting, and Sculpture), and Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Art (Graphic Design, Textile Design, and Ceramics), Master of Technology, Master of Philosophy, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Fine Arts (Drawing, Electronic and Digital Art, Form and Material Technology, Painting, Environmental and Industrial Sculpture), Master of Technology, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Applied Arts (Furniture Design and Interior Decoration, Communication Design,

Textile Design and Clothing, Ceramics and Glass). Other Post-graduate programmes in Art History are Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, and Doctor of Philosophy (Department of Fine and Applied Arts. 2021).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Fine and Applied Arts was an academic unit of the Department of Arts in the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1992. In the year 2000, it became a full-fledged Department in the Faculty of Arts. In 2008, the Department was accredited and transferred to the Faculty of Environmental Sciences (C. Nwanna, personal communication, April 26, 2016). The Department runs a four-year undergraduate programme leading to the award of Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Applied Arts. It offers Postgraduate programmes in the field of Fine and Applied Arts and other related fields of learning; awarding Master of Arts (M.A), Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). M.A. and Ph.D. are awarded only in Art History and Art Education while M.F.A. is awarded in Ceramics, Graphics and Photography Communication, Sculpture, Textile Design and Production (Nnamdi Azikiwe University. 2015).

Department of Industrial Design, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi

The Department of Industrial Design established in 1992, at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University is designed to offer in addition to the Bachelor of Technology degree, the Master of Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Industrial Design with specialisations in Ceramics and Ceramics Technology, Graphics and Graphics Technology, and Metal and Jewelry Design Technology (T. B. Faruq, questionnaire response, September 2020).

Department of Industrial Design, Federal University of Technology, Akure

The Department of Industrial Design began its programme in the 1993/1994 academic session with three areas of specialization namely Ceramics, Graphics, and Textiles. The Department offers a Bachelor of Technology degree in Industrial Design with Textile, Graphics, and Ceramics options at the undergraduate level. It also offers a Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Industrial Design in the three options (School of Environmental Technology. 2016-2018: 101-141).



Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Imo State University, Owerri

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Imo State University admitted its pioneer students in the 1995/96 academic year (Imo State University. 2015). The Department runs a four-year undergraduate programme, and postgraduate programmes (Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Fine Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy) in Fine and Applied Arts.

Department of Industrial Design, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola

The Department of Industrial Design was established in 1997 at Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola. The Department runs an undergraduate programme awarding a Bachelor of Technology degree in Industrial Design with Ceramics, Graphics, and Textile Design as areas of specialization (A. D. Morakinyo, questionnaire response, August 2020).

Visual Arts Unit, Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos

In 1997, the Department of Creative Arts at the University of Lagos was established to award Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. The Department of Creative Arts offers a Bachelor's degree in Creative Arts with options in Music, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. The Visual Arts unit also offers Postgraduate programmes in Art History, Art Education, and Sculpture (Department of Creative Arts. nd).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma

The Department was established in 1997 and is designed to offer a degree programme in six study areas (painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, graphics, and metal design). The Department offers a four-year undergraduate programme leading to the award of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (M. Ighalo, personal communication, August 2, 2017).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Abia State University, Uтуру

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Abia State University was created in 2000 and commenced operations in the 2000/2001 academic session offering a Bachelor of Arts degree programme (O. A. Williams, personal communication, April 25, 2016).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Niger Delta University, Amassoma

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts was established in 2000. The Department offers Bachelor of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy programmes in Fine and Applied Arts (Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Niger Delta University, 2023).

Department of Visual Arts and Technology, Cross River University of Technology, Calabar

The Fine Arts Department, at the Polytechnic, Calabar transformed into the Department of Visual Arts and Technology at Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) in 2002 (P. O. Oloidi, personal communication, July 30, 2018). The Department of Visual Arts and Technology, CRUTECH, now runs a 4-year Bachelor of Arts programme, Postgraduate Diploma, and Master of Fine Arts programme in specializing areas (Department of Visual Arts and Technology. 2014: 4).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ibogun

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Olabisi Onabanjo University started in the 2003/2004 academic session as one of the pioneering departments in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, College of Engineering and Technology on the Ibogun campus of Olabisi Onabanjo University. In 2009, the Department of Fine and Applied Arts was merged with the Department of Architecture and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning into a single department called the Department of Design and Architecture. The three programmes were demerged in 2015 thus the Department of Fine and Applied Arts was restored to its departmental status running a four-year programme leading to the award of Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Applied Arts (Department of Fine and Applied Arts. 2015-2020).

Department of Visual and Creative Arts, Federal University, Lafia

The Visual and Creative Arts Department in the Faculty of Arts at Federal University, Lafia, was established in 2012. The Department runs a 4-year programme in Visual and Creative Arts, awarding on graduation the Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual and Creative Arts.



Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts is a department in the Faculty of Humanities at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo. The Department runs a four-year degree programme. Academic sessions in the Department began in the year 2012. The Department awards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts. It began Postgraduate programmes in 2019 offering Postgraduate Diploma in Fine and Applied Arts, Master of Art in Art History, Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts with specialization in Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Textiles, and Graphics, and Doctor of Philosophy in Art History, and Art Education (E. K. Ugochukwu, questionnaire response, September 2020).

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

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts was established in 2013 to award Bachelor of Arts degrees in Fine Arts and Applied Arts. Areas of specialization in Fine Art include Painting and Interior Decoration, Sculpture and Environmental Decoration, Art Pedagogy / Education, and Art History. Graphic and Media Art, Ceramic and Glass, Textile and Fashion Design, and Metal and Jewelry are areas of specialization in Applied Arts (Department of Fine and Applied Arts. 2014-2015).

Department of Fine Arts, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri

The Department of Fine Arts in the Faculty of Environmental Studies evolved from the Visual Arts programme in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Maiduguri in 2019. However, its undergraduate programme commenced in 2014. The Department of Fine Arts awards a Bachelor of Arts degree in painting and in sculpture (N. Yusuf, personal communication, October 5, 2020).

Department of Industrial Design, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri

The Department of Industrial Design, Faculty of Environmental Studies became an autonomous department in 2019. It evolved from the Visual Arts programme in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Faculty of Arts at the University of Maiduguri. Its undergraduate programme, however, commenced in 2014. The department awards a Bachelor of Arts (Industrial

Design) degree in graphics, textiles, and ceramics (N. Yusuf, questionnaire response, September 2020).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Calabar, Calabar

The Department of Fine and Applied Arts, domiciled in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calabar was established in 2015. The Department offers a four-year degree programme leading to the award of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts (Department of Fine and Applied Arts. 2017-2019).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Mountain Top University, Makogi Oba

The College of Humanities, Management and Sciences at Mountain Top University plays host to the Department of Fine and Applied Arts established in 2020 to award a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine and Applied Arts (Mountain Top University, 2021).

Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Kwara State University, Malete

Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Kwara State University became a full-fledged department in 2021. It was before then a programme unit in the School of Visual and Performing Arts, College of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences at Kwara State University, Malete. The Department offers a bachelor's degree programme in Fine and Applied Arts in seven areas of specialization namely painting, sculpture, Art history, Art Education, Ceramic Design, Textile Design, and Graphic Design (Department of Fine and Applied Arts. 2021-2025: 35-40).

II. CONCLUSION

In the past six decades; beginning from 1961 until 2021, twenty-eight art schools were identified in twenty-six Nigerian universities across twenty-three states of Nigeria. The art schools are domiciled in either the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, or Environmental Sciences. The Art Schools in Nigerian universities comprise mainly Fine Arts departments, Fine and Applied Arts departments, and Industrial Design departments. In Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and recently in the University of Maiduguri, the Fine Arts Department and Industrial Design Department exist as two separate departments. Seventeen of the art schools surveyed run a postgraduate programme in addition to the undergraduate programme. Undergraduate



programmes in art schools across Nigerian universities run a four or five-year curriculum. Basic areas of specialization for undergraduate programmes are painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, and textile design. Areas of specialization at the postgraduate level are studio practice and Art history. The study generated subjects for viable future art historical studies with a focus on art school establishment, development, and chronology. It gave an update on art school establishment in Nigerian universities and Nigerian art school development. Significantly, the study enriched the art history of Nigeria.

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