

12 artists in quest to 're-image' Nigeria

by [Evelyn Osagie](#)
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With a mind of understanding contemporary Nigeria, Innocent Ekejiuba and Yinka Elujoba, under the auspices of Invisible Borders Trans-African Photographers Organisation, have put together a 12-man exhibition.

Tagged: *Re-imagining futures: A trans Nigerian conversation*, it showcases the work of 12 Nigerian writers, photographers, and filmmakers who travelled by road across the country for 81 days in 2016 and 2017.

They include James Bekenawei, Kemi Falodun, Yinka Elujoba, Emmanuel Iduma, Emeka Okereke, Amara Okolo, Uche Okonkwo, Eloghosa Osunde, Nengi Nelson, Kechi Nomu, Kenechukwu Nwatu and Zainab Odunsi.

Through photography, video, texts, and site-specific interventions by artists who were part of the road trips, the exhibition presents the project as a complimentary association between process and outcome.

Ekejiuba said: "*Re-Imaging Futures: A Trans-Nigerian Conversation* was selected from more than 500 proposals by more than 350 jurors from around the world through apexart's 'Open Call'". The first group traveled counter-clockwise around the country to retrace history and how it has molded the country's present.

"The second group traveled clockwise, in an effort to understand contemporary Nigeria, and what it means to be Nigerian today and in the future. Is it possible to escape what one has been named? By name, Nigeria is one country, but it is also a place that contains myriad identities and more than 250 distinct ethnic groups. In a country presently grappling with violence, political instability, ethnic crises, and a lingering shadow of a colonial past, showing the work resulting from this project now is timely".

The exhibition will open on Saturday, February 9, by 4pm at Nigerian Railway Corporation Yard, Yaba. It will run till March 9, 10am to 6pm (daily).

Visitors will be guided through and immersed in the motions of the road trip through a collage of images, audio-visual documentation, cartographic

depictions, and public, site-specific interventions on topics pertinent to Nigerianness, such as masculinity, family, history, movement, and the Civil War.

Ekejiuba, who is the Project Manager for Invisible Borders Trans-African Organisation, is a project manager and art administrator with varying interests that include art, technology, social media, traditional journalism, educational reforms, and history. He is also a tech enthusiast, media analyst, literary critic, and a media advisor to Sankofa Initiative for Culture and Development, and Fourth Canvas Design Agency.

Elujoba is the Director of Publications at Invisible Borders Trans-African Organisation. He is a Nigerian writer and art critic completing an MFA in Art Writing at the School of Visual Arts, New York. His texts have been published in different journals, magazines, exhibition catalogues and have also been part of exhibitions at Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, and Krakow, Poland.

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