

Samuel Nnorom

The Politics of Immigration and Integration

11 February 2023 – 11 March 2023

This exhibition is called **The Politics of Immigration and Integration**. It features the work by the artist Samuel Nnorom.

Samuel was born in Nigeria in Africa. His mum owned a tailoring workshop where clothes are made. Samuel was inspired by the colourful fabric.

Samuel makes sculptures using a fabric called 'Ankara'. This is a bright and bold fabric with lots of patterns. It is a common material for clothing and culture in West and Central Africa.

Samuel visited the UK for the first time in 2022. He stayed here at The Art House and experimented with second-hand clothes that are donated from the UK to Africa. In Nigeria, these clothes are called 'Okrikam'. It is often poorer communities who buy them, rather than buying clothing made from Ankara fabric.

Samuel wants us to think about the negative impact these donated clothes can have on the loss of the culture and traditions in Africa.

Samuel also makes fabric sculptures using a process called bubbling. This is where fabric is gathered together to form a 3D circular shape. They look like a bubble or bundle shape.

Samuel wants us to think about 'bubbles' and 'bundles' as a symbol of things human beings carry around with us. This could mean carrying our emotions and feelings in our heads. It can also represent the physical things, such as our belongings and possessions.

Samuel wants us to think about the things – both feelings and items – that people who migrate carry with them. Sometimes people are displaced. They must leave their home and country for reasons they cannot control.

Samuel met members of Wakefield's asylum-seeking community to make a new sculpture. It is called **Connecting Dots**. He asked them to paint their feelings on the work. It celebrates the connections and friendships he made with the group.

Other artworks in this exhibition are called **Akpati Ego I & II**. In Nigeria this means "box of wealth". It is inspired by stories of African women making colourful clothes and storing them in boxes. This would be a way to "save money" for the future.

Samuel made the sculptures with Ankara fabric from his home in Nigeria. He then brought it over to Wakefield to be framed in boxes. He calls these two works "migrants", because they travelled over to the UK.

He wants us to think about the importance that refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have when moving to another country. It is important for everyone to share and learn about new ideas, stories and cultures. It makes the world a better place.

Interpretation Glossary

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| Migration | The movement of people from one permanent home to another. Many leave their homes for education, work, or for a better life. |
| Asylum seeker | A person who has fled their own country because they are not safe. They seek refuge from a different country. |
| Refugee | A person who has fled their own country because they are not safe. They have been allowed to stay in the country they have fled to. |
| Displaced | Someone who has had to abandon their home or country due to events like war, weather, prejudice or for their safety. |