



DIDI MUSEUM

Unveiling of Art exhibition in
commemoration of
**40th Anniversary of
Didi Museum**
and Official Opening of
Nelson Mandela Gardens Resort



Managed by Silk Road Hospitality

Venue:

Nelson Mandela Garden,
Asaba Airport

Date:

20/5/2023

Time:

12 noon prompt



Event Flow

Arrival/Music

Royal Welcome

Welcome to NMG&R

Dewald Kruger, Managing Director of Silk Road Hospitality.

---Music Interlude---

Welcome to DIDI MUSEUM@40

Dr. Newton Jibunoh

(Founder, Didi Museum)

Culture Parade/Performances)

Exhibition Opening/Facility Tour

(Protocols)

Statements by The Royal Majesties

1. Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, CFR, CNOL

Sarkin Kano (

(The Emir of Kano)

2. Omo N’Oba N’Edo, Ukuakpolokpolo

Oba Ewuare II

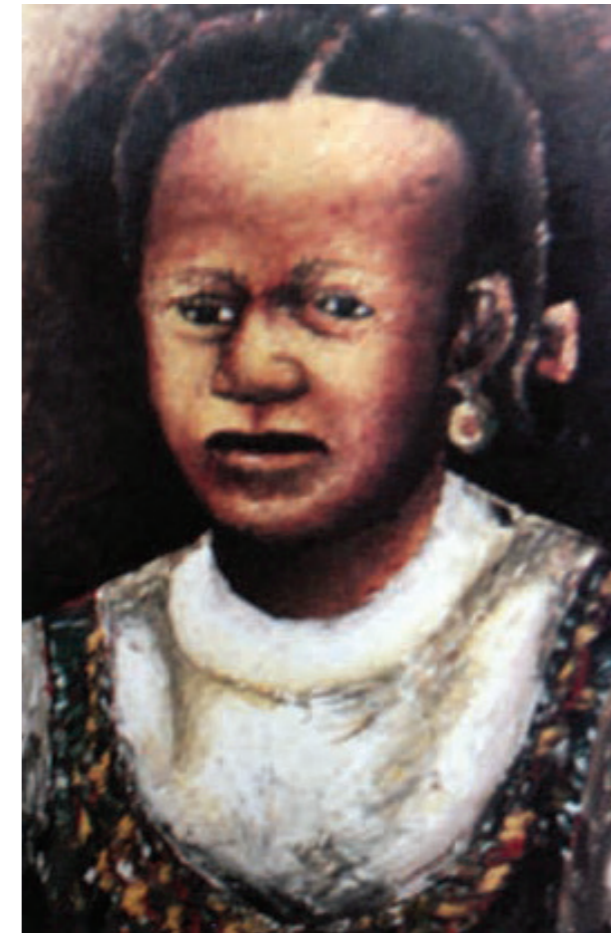
(The Benin of Benin Kingdom)

--- Performances/Musical Interlude---

Vote of Thanks: Fashola Akeem

General Manager, Nelson Mandela Gardens

Reception



Dedicated to the late Edith Jibunoh
1941-1954

The museum was named after late Edith Jibunoh the only sister from both parents. Her memory is perhaps the primary driving force behind the founding of Didi Museum. Born on the 11th of May 1941 at Akwukwu, former Bendel State, now Delta State she attended St. John’s school, Akwukwu and Government School, Agbor, but she was to die at the tender age of thirteen. At the time of her sudden death in May 1954, there was no photograph of her. Her portrait shown in this book was commissioned by Dr. Newton Jibunoh in 1971 and painted by Lisk Carew through description. It is curious to note the strong similarity in likeness between this portrait and the first daughter of Chief Jibunoh who was born five years after the portrait was made.



The Birth of Didi Museum

The idea was conceived 47 years ago, but it was not until May 1983 that the birth took place of Didi Museum, on Akin Adesola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. It is the first privately owned museum in Nigeria and a non profit-making venture. Apart from the personal life experience of its founder, Newton Chuka Jibunoh, which inspired him to establish DIDI, the idea was equally nurtured by the religious and sometimes fanatical collection of the various paintings, carvings and antiques that come from all over Nigeria, such as the internationally acclaimed bronze heads from Benin and Ile-Ife, the terracotta heads of the NOK Nigerian tradition and the ivory carvings that also come from the traditional and historic city of Benin. The museum has also acquired paintings from other West African countries and South America to complete the list. Didi museum has always believed in tradition. This is why, within its environment, it has found a natural role for itself as an embodiment of the African tradition. The museum sees the traditional rulers as the natural custodians of arts and culture in the African societies in terms of their preservation and continuity.

It also believes that in order to maintain a strong preservation of Africa's fast disappearing cultural norms, arts and traditions, the traditional rulers should uphold their institutional responsibilities. As a result of this, Didi Museum has continually identified with traditional rulers, with whom it exchanges cultural ideas, and seeks their advice, getting clarifications on some controversial issues of arts, culture, history and tradition. In fact, the traditional rulers have so much become an integral part of the Didi family that they have always been invited to open Didi exhibitions.

For instance, the inaugural opening of the museum on the 11th of May 1983 was performed by the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero. It was an occasion which brought out the real royal tinge of Didi in that it was graced with the attendance

of other royalties as well. On that occasion the Emir remarked that "Both the founders of Didi Museum and the present generation will perhaps not fully appreciate the objectives of this museum. It is an on-going process, only taking off today," he said, "The realization is yet unpredictable because of the dynamic nature of our complex society in terms of preservation and continuity of events. The 1984 exhibition (February 25) was opened by the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade Olubuse II, together with the obi of Onitsha. Writing in the Sunday Times of March 24, 1984, Nduka nsowu said of the Ooni's speech at that opening: "The Ooni's knowledge of existing art forms, reminds all that in this country there is a continuity in art heritage which is some 2000 years old." Nwosu mentioned the NOK culture, the Igbo-Ukwu relics, and what he called "the Ife 'masterpieces'", the famous Benin bronzes and Owo figurines, as "acting as a unifying factor for our people whose origin make a mockery of colonial imperialism." Another of Didi's roles is in the tracing and linking of people's origins, tradition and culture.



Didi Museum



The opening of Didi Museum



Chief Newton Jibunoh, late Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, late Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade Olubuse II and late His Royal Majesty Omo n'Oba n'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo Erediauwa I at the opening of Didi Museum 1983



The late former first lady Mrs Mariam Babangida at Didi Museum



Previous Exhibitions Hosted Over the Years

Art Exhibition - A Trio outing of Chuks Anyanwu, Sule, Asha and Nkechi Ikokwu – February 25 – March 4 1984. Guest of Honor – His Highness Oba Okunade Sijuade Olubuse II OOni of Ife. Opening Ceremony Saturday February 25, 1984

Exhibition of A Collection of Assorted Arts, Crafts and /painting from selected handicapped institutions in Lagos. Hosted in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports. Commissioned by Hon. Minister of Social Development, Youth and Sports – Air Commodore Bayo Lawal – May 23 1987

Exhibition of Traditional Wood Carvings titled “Gifts from the gods (and goddesses too?)” By Akin Alamu – September 11 – 16 1990. Special Guest of Honor – Alayeluwa Oba Yesufu Oloyede Asanike I Olubadan of Ibadanland. Opening Ceremony Tuesday September 11, 1990

Exhibition of Oil Paintings by Mike Omoighe: “Journeys Thru’ The Savannah” (As far as the eyes can see) from November 7 – 18 1990. Opening Ceremony on November 6, 1990. Chairman – Dr Ukpabi Asika, Special Guest of Honor – Alhaji Abubakar Rimi

Exhibition of Paintings on Animal Skin by Captain Lemma Guya from March 12 – 25, 1991 Exhibition of Oil Painting Drawings and Water Colours by Zinno Orara titled “My Metamorphosis” from May 30 – June 12 1991

Exhibition of Paintings by Livi Onyia titled “Reflections on Life” from September 17 – 30, 199. Chairman – Dr Ime Ebong, Guest of Honor – Major Gen. Ike Nwachukwu (Rtd.) Minister of External Affairs

A Sculptural Ceramic Art Exhibition by Tony Chijindu Umunna titled “Fragments from My Homestead” from May 19 – 31 1992. Opening Ceremony – May 19 1992. Chairman – Mr. Sam O. Obia (GM, Continental Merchant Bank Plc, Guest of Honor – Mr Tony Iribogie Ohomele (AGM Services, Texaco Nigeria Limited

Nigerian/Norwegian Classical Evening/Dinner to commemorate the opening of Jiton Court, Lagos; the premises of Statoil (Nigeria) Limited on June 2 1992. Didi Museum in conjunction with Statoil/BPX Alliance, Nigeria. Guest of Honor – Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Professor Jibril Aminu.

Annual Art Exhibition of AKA Circle of Exhibiting Artists– AKA ’92 Annual Art Exhibition from June 9 – 19 1992. Opening Ceremony – June 9 1992.

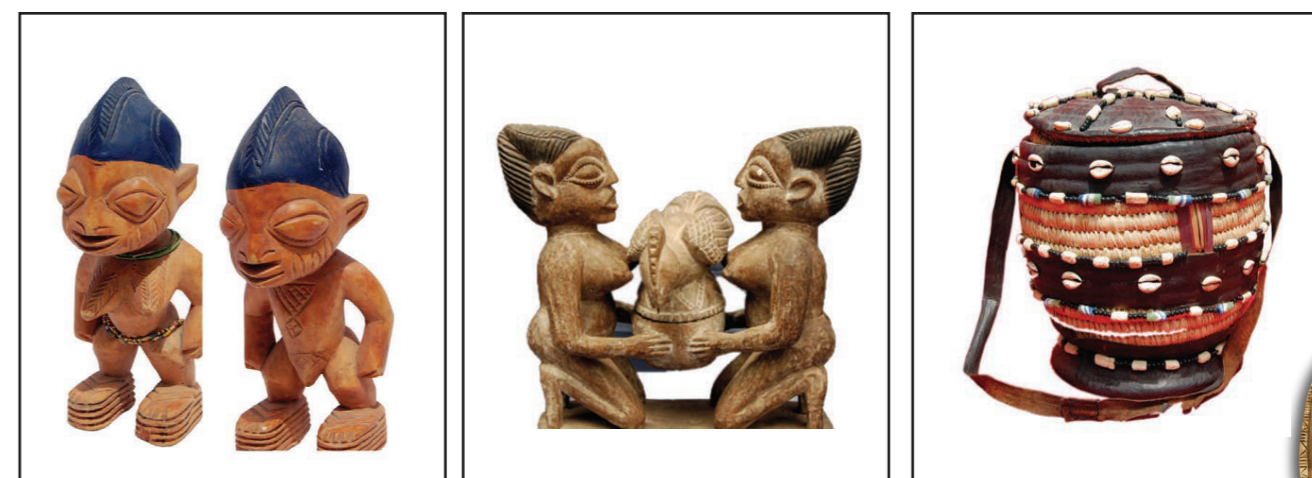
Exhibition of Paintings by Zinno Orara titled “Inside Out” from July 28 – August 9 1992. Opening Ceremony on July 28 1992, Chairman – Mr Ralph Osayemeh, President of Nigerian Institute of Bankers; Special Guest of Honor – Chief Fred A. Brume, MD C.D.S Ltd; Guest of Honor – Dr. Festus A. Fadeyi, MD Pan Ocean Oil Company (Nigeria)

Exhibition of Mixed Media Relief Panels by Ray Soko from September 29 – October 11 1992

Exhibition of Paintings Sculptures and Prints of Ben Onyemaobi titled “Realities of Life” from November 12 – 22 1992. Opening Exhibition on November 12 1992 with Chairman – Chief V.C Ofolebe and Special Guest of honor – Chief Arthur Mbanefo

Good Friday Exhibition showcasing the World’s Youngest Exhibiting Artist titled “The Wonders of a Baby Genius”, her 102 paintings at Age 2 – Onarietta Issabella Remet on Friday April 6 2007

Some Iconic Collections of Didi Museum



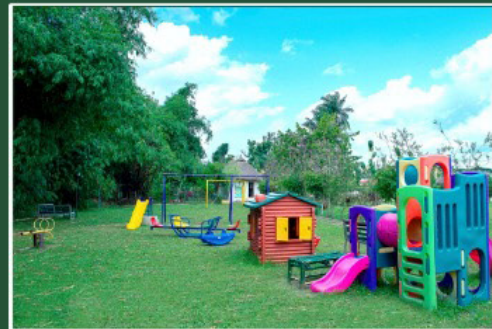


Nelson Mandela Gardens

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Executive Room



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