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PART II

Creative Arts



Chike Azuonye, *Exodus*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 36 × 48 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Exodus is an account of my experience as a child refugee during the brutal Biafra/Nigeria Civil War from 1967 to 1970. It speaks of the constant displacement and movement caused by fierce fighting between the two warring factions, and the plight of men, women, and especially children at the time. The painting, without defined faces and features, shows the common experience of those caught up in war situations and the loss of status as refugees. Sadly, the same situation is still affecting people all over the world today.

Chike Azuonye studied painting at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he earned his BA (with honors) in 1987. Shortly thereafter, he moved to the United Kingdom to further his artistic career. He gained a certificate in Artists in Schools Training from the University of London in 1995 and a Diploma in Digital Origination from University of the Arts, London, in 2005. A committed arts educator, he has organized art workshops across all tiers of education and the vocational sector since the 1990s. He is a founding member of the Nigeria Art Society UK

(NASUK), an organization founded in 2013 to promote the work of Nigerian artists in the UK through the organization of exhibitions, seminars, exchange programs, and workshops. His work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and the Commonwealth Institute, London, among others.