

**PRESENTATION OF CHOBA MARKET SCENERY: AN EXPLORATION WITH
ACRYLIC AND CHARCOAL**

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ABSTRACT

“Presentation of Choba Market Scenery: An Exploration with Acrylic and Charcoal” is a documentation of the scenery of Choba Market. Choba is a sub-ethnic group found in Ikwerre ethnic nationality of Rivers State and it has long history of practicing market days. However, when it started was lost in history. Its market days is a day many people from far and near come to engage in buying and selling of goods. In recent times in Choba land, despite the contributions of the market in developing the community economically and socially it has its own challenges. One of such is that it is beginning to lose its historical values as some people who use to come from far no longer come due to poor maintainers of the market, new policies and the habit of not preserving the historical values of the market. Thus, to ensure that the scenes of the traditional Choba market scenery do not all go into extinction, this research decided to painterly document the scene using acrylic and charcoal as the painting medium and the idea is to widen the scope of media in painting. In order to achieve the aim and objectives of the study, related literatures were reviewed in course of the study. Aesthetic theory forms the theoretical framework of the study. The study adopted studio experimental research design approach. Qualitative data for the study was obtained through photographs, sketches and interviews. The researcher having carried out the research, findings reveals that it is possible to combine charcoal and acrylic to produce paintings that can depict the Choba Market scenery. The study concludes that the combination of charcoal and acrylic paint to produce mixed painting is commendable and effective. Therefore, the study recommends that it should be encouraged in painting for painters to synergise the materials to produce paintings. The study is believed to have contributed to knowledge because it has opened new vista in research with charcoal and acrylic. It has also contributed to knowledge because it has helped to create more awareness on Choba market.

Keywords: *Choba, Market, Scenery Acrylic, Charcoal*

INTRODUCTION

Presentation of Choba Market Scenery using acrylic and charcoal is the thrust of this study. Choba market is situation in Rivers state, Nigeria and it is one of the traditional old markets in the state that still observe its market days as their people’s culture demand. The market since inception has being able to gather traders from near and far to come to the market to trade. This is evident as some traders come through the waterfront of the market while others come through the land. In today experience traders come all the way from Aba in Abia state and Onitsha in Anambra state to trade. The market has tremendously contributed towards the development of the people and the community economically, socially and financially. The market beyond the other benefits that can be derived from it, it is also a means through which the people’s culture is preserved and promoted. It becomes imperative to document the market scene due to its contributions and the aesthetic appear its scenery portends.

Acrylic and Charcoal market scenery is a metaphoric and dynamic of colour relationships in pictorial illusion; an environment that is overwhelmingly black/dark and colourful which has the capability of absorbing other colours in a matter that makes them loose their original identities. The market is painterly presented using charcoal and acrylic to portray the market scenery as a metaphor expressing the relationship between the marketplace and the traders. Therefore, market is one of the most essential settings that host the trading activities of goods and services which man is the architect (Kotler, 1997). The market is of socio-economic importance to the economic growth of the community. The market has the capacity to promote economic wellbeing of social institutions. Berthoud (1999) postulates that, in the minds of a growing number of decision-makers, it has become increasingly self-efficient that the market should no longer be viewed as an institution which must be regulated externally.

The painterly presentation of Choba Market Scenery involving the adaptation of acrylic and charcoal shows the image of Choba Market characteristics from the angle of mixed media. This involves the painting of

character from the perspectives of product sampling, market shop and scenery of farm produce using colour differentiation to communicate to the general public (Joshua, 2016).

The painter, generally speaking, is an Artisan who turns paint into use for purposes of beautification. Example of this includes house and car painters. The Artist on the other hand, as a painter, presents paint in picturesque to creatively arrive at impressive shapes, forms of pictorial views. He uses paint to create a world, scenery, ideas, views, devices etc. Painterly presentation therefore connotes the artistic use of paints to create real or imaginary scenes, scenery of a situation. There are different types of paints namely; acrylic, oil, water colour paint etc. (Joshua, 2016). Notably, for the purpose of this research, acrylic paint was combined with charcoal to produce the paintings that depicts market scenes of Choba.

Scenery means or represents the physical sight of place, object or performative environment. It is the pictorial action or practice associated with an event. For instance, the market stall and people buying and selling their wares, products, services etc, combine to form the scenery of a typical market. Choba market scenery is therefore the traditional practices and character of a typical market. It's pictorially presented in this study using acrylic and charcoal comparatively.

Charcoal is the extract obtained from the wood and tyre, and it is a dark substance. The dark or black colour (charcoal) absorbs energies of other colours without reflecting them. The value of a colour turns grey and subtle after coming in contact with the charcoal environment. Any market label charcoal can be ignored at a glance but it has an aesthetic edge that can evolve into an orchestration of colour harmony and value. Soot on the other hand, is described as a fine black or dull brown particles of amorphous carbon and tar, which is produced by the incomplete combustion of coal, oil etc. Given its nature, it can be used artistically for different purposes. One of which, as it relates to this study is using it as a medium to create artworks. Given its dark compound, it can be collected in huge amounts to make drawings on any surface, be it canvas, wood or paper. This in some case serves as an alternative to charcoal. The need for synergizing charcoal with acrylic is to discourage generation of soot in Rivers state. The idea of using soot in this study is to prove that beyond the negative effect of soot it can be converted by artist to produce artworks.

Acrylic paint is a fast-drying paint made of pigment suspended in acrylic polymer emulsion and plasticizers, silicone oils, defoamers, stabilizers or metal soaps. Most acrylic paints are water-based, but become water-resistant when dry (Wikipedia, 2022). The synthetic acrylic artists' materials belong to a versatile family which includes the molded plastic which as Plexiglas, as well as plastics in solution used as binders and adhesives in a number of industries. The commercially prepared plastic paints include acrylic resins, vinyl resins and a combination of both, known as co-polymers. The acrylic resins have become the most popular of the synthetic paints of the market today and are referred to as synthetics, plastics, polymer temperas and acrylic paints, all terms used simultaneously.

The position of metaphor in this study indicates the aesthetic genre of using acrylic and charcoal as a mixed media technique to represent Choba market scenery. Therefore, this study showed the Painterly Presentation of Choba Market Scenery: An exploration with Acrylic and Charcoal.

The available stalls have become rather old and decrepit as a result of lack of maintenance culture even though it is a rural setting but having looked at how far Choba has come, one will expect the development of modern structures but this is not the case. There is the problem of traffic along the way. Because of acute space constraint for traders to sell their wares in the market, the traders resort to the use of the pedestrian sidewalks. This gives them advantage over those occupying the market stalls as they attract more customers. This inevitably gets the road blocked with its attendant traffic jam. Another problem to be addressed is the issue of aesthetic genre of using acrylic and charcoal as a mixed media technique to represent Choba Market scenery which must include the inherent exhibit outcome of the market presentation using the adopted mixed media (acrylic and charcoal). Using acrylic and charcoal will be very effective to artistically document some of the sceneries of a typical market. Most importantly, the mixed media paintings stand out to discourage some of the challenges confronting the market and also the issue of soot in Rivers state. Because soot seem to be a very bad substance in our society, but fortunately artist can till explore it to produce artworks like paintings. Thus, it is based on the aesthetic appear it offers that this study decided to adopt it in synergy with acrylic paint to document the Choba market scenery.

Significance of the Study

The study exploration and documentation of the Choba market has helped to further create more awareness about the market. This study has also helped to promote the Choba market in positive manners that could show up its potentials to attract more patronage by buyers and traders alike. This experiment has further also encourage artists, especially budding artists to key into the idea of trying out new painting method and techniques such as the use of acrylic and charcoal for pictorial presentation.

Theoretical Framework

The aesthetic theory was adopted for this study. Aesthetic was coined from the Greek word “*aisthetike*” by Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten, a renowned philosopher in 1735. It means “*the science of how things are known via the senses*”. Aesthetics’ is a branch of the philosophy of art which deals with the study of nature of art and the concepts of which individuals, in this case, artists, work of art are interpreted. According to the Longman Contemporary Dictionary (2022), aesthetic means or has to do with the study of beauty, especially beauty in art or a set of principles about beauty or art. Art generally is beauty and is interpreted artistically on any form of medium by an artist, how he sees nature and its surrounding, Aesthetic being a philosophy of how one views art, can also affect the moods of both the viewers and artist. They interpret art based on their individual feelings which also is a function of prevailing factors and circumstances.

The word aesthetic means beauty of art by nature and how artists imagine and create art to bring about beauty, this study is very much related to this philosophy as it deals with the mixture of two popular art medium to create art. This shows that this study is in line with the aesthetic theory of art. This study is set to artistically document the vibrant and increasingly sprawling Choba market, using mixed medium. The participation of this age long practice of marketing in Choba can be aesthetical in nature because this brings about a variety of people from different parts of the country, buying and selling, the interaction and mix of culture between people is beautiful, one that makes the community look more colourful. The use of acrylic and charcoal was carefully chosen to document this wonderful market experience in Choba community. By the foregoing, beauty is aesthetical in nature and is very close to this research study because the Choba market system can be viewed as beautiful, being the mixture and interaction of people from different parts of Nigeria who indulge in buying and selling and hence, the aesthetical approach was adopted for this study.

Brief History of Choba

At the moment, there is no published literature article or research work on the history of Choba. The oral history always seems to be the last resort writers choose in telling the historical origin of Choba. The oral history as narrated by the paramount ruler of Choba points out that: Choba is the name given to a woman who later became the last wife of Akpor. It is bounded in the East by Alakahia and Rumuekini, in the West by Emohua, in the North by Rumualogwu and Rumuokparali and in the South by Aluu. In other words, it is one community that shares boundary with two Local Governments, Emohua and Ikwerre. Before the advent of Aluu which was originally called Walu, Choba was located in the South by Igwuruta. At this time, wild animals such as elephants dominated the thick forests all around the primitive villages and hamlets. These hamlets were connected to each other through narrow and lonely track paths (Okocha, 2022). It is pertinent to note that Akpor had ten children; ***Ozuoba, Rumuokparali, Rumuokwachi, Ogbogoro, Rumuosi, Rumuekini, Rumualogu, Choba, Alakahia and Rumuolumeni***. As many wives and children he had, so also he had servants (Okocha, 2022).

Okocha further records that his servants went on hunting expedition going towards Igwuruta, they found a very big elephant and a beautiful woman. Women did observe “***Nkpede***” (fattening room) at that time. The servants conceived in their hearts and captured the woman and brought her to their master, Akpor. On seeing the woman, Akpor felt that she was too beautiful to be used for sacrifice. He hid her in the inner room of his palace which was inaccessible even to his older wives (Wiche, 2022). As consequence, Choba did not have contact with the outside world, hence she was referred to as “***nwere rihmenha***” meaning wife of the inner room. She became the most loved and cherished amongst the many wives of Akpor, much to the consternation of people who thought that she had been killed and sacrificed to the gods. She became pregnant and gave birth to a male child who was named ***Nhabo bu Akpor*** which means allegation against ***Akpor***. She seized the advantage of a young woman who supposedly had warmed up herself to the heart and admiration of her husband, ***Akpor***, to become powerful. Not until the cry of a new born child was heard that

it became obvious to the people of the Kingdom that *Akpor* did not sacrifice her to the gods. She insisted that her son should be named Choba (Wiche, 2022).

The original Choba is traceable to Olobo in Igwuruta, hence occasionally, especially during public announcements in the community by the Town Crier, Rumu Olobo (Olobo's children), is usually sounded to draw the attention of audience to the announcement being made. It is worthy to note that three months after Choba (*Nhobo bu Akpor*) was born, Akpor formally informed Igwuruta that he was in possession of his daughter. Subsequently, regularized the marriage thus; she was accorded all the rights and privileges of a wife and even more. For instance, she was accorded a prominent seat in the Akpor Council of Chiefs. Whenever the Council met, she sat by the right hand side of her husband. This situation became an established norm in the traditional set up of the kingdom. She assisted her husband a great deal in the administration of the kingdom (Okocha, 2022).

According to HRH, **Eze Raymond O.W. Okocha, Nyenwe Ali Choba**, Choba was the only wife of Akpor who completed the burial rites of her husband in accordance with Akpor tradition and custom. The result is that, she assisted in guiding *Oriebe*, on his ascendance to the throne, to administer and sustain the custom and tradition of Akpor land (Okocha, 2022).

According to Okocha (2022), Choba occupied a portion of **Ruwu Ali Akpor**, ancestral grove of Akpor land, and in the course of historical antecedents, migrated southwards and first settled at the place where present day Alakahia is located. The drive for expansion took him southwards to its present day location. Choba land, therefore, stretches from her ancestral home, Ozuoba (back of Our Lady of Lords Secondary School, formerly Akpor Grammer School Ozuoba) to the back of Rumualogu, the entire land on which Alakahia seats, both sides of the East-West road up to the new Calabar (Choba) River. The Choba River forms the natural boundary between Choba and Emuoha. Choba occupies the largest land mass of Akpor Kingdom.

Choba imported *Awinigbo*, a deity from her ancestral home, Igwuruta. At the death of her husband, she bequeathed it to her children as "great inheritance". History has it that she derived power, strength and authority from the deity which people dreaded at the time. History was told that her life and estiny was tied to *Awinigbo* and that she always held a bottle of water from the *Awinigbo* shrine in her hand. The ancient *Awinigbo* grove exists in the land till date. It is located in the forest near the University of Port Harcourt (Okocha, 2022). *Osomini Festival* is an animal festival celebrated essentially for the worship of *Awinigbo* deity. It takes place between the months of August and September, depending on the traditional *Eke-nu Riagbo Day*. The Nyenwe Ali Choba sits on the ancestral stool on the day he would declare or announce the date of *Osomini Festival*. That day is celebrated with pump and pageantry. It is believed that the Nyenwe Ali will be possessed with ancestral spirits which leads him to tell ancient stories of the land including the history and takes questions fielded to him from all quarters. Above all, he entertains the entire community who are in attendance. The ceremony ends with the declaration of a date for the *Osomini Festival* when the gods of the land are worshipped amidst sacrifices to them (Okocha, 2022). The one significance of such a day, *Eke nu Riagbo*, is that by traditional calendar, it falls once on every forty days and remains immutable no matter the circumstances. Secondly, the celebration of Akpor new yam festival called *Ekepia Ige* is in all intents and purposes, tied to *Osomini* Choba. Until the later conducts the festival, Akpor New Yam Festival will not hold. The declaration (*Ekepia Ige*) that is, Akpor New Yam Festival day takes place at Akpor ancestral hall, Ozuoba, on *Eke nu Riagbo* Day, forty days from the day Choba does so. It is important to mention that Choba was the administrative headquarters of Ikwerre and Etche Native Authority from 1913. Following unhealthy political developments, the headquarters relocated to Isiokpo. The composition of Choba is a function of the two wives he marries. His first wife gave birth to Ati, Mayaikpokwu and Onrah while his second wife is the mother of Mgba i.e Owhipa. Ati and Mayaikpokwu being of the same womb were both seniors to Mgba who was of a different mother. Mgba however was senior to Onrah, the last child (Okocha, 2022). And so inheritance or sharing of property was by mother's kitchen. Consequently, Mgba is considered before Mayaikpokwu, notwithstanding the fact that chronologically, the latter is senior to the other. This is an established tradition in Choba community till date.

Choba Market

The construction of Choba Market stalls was by communal efforts. Ownership of the stalls is similarly owned by different compounds in the community. Besides the compounds, the Age Grades occupy the most prominent position in the ownership of stalls at Choba Market. The stalls are purpose built well-structured or

departmentalized in accordance with the commodities for sale. Though a local market with origin, it is interesting to know that the elders even in primitive era possessed the mental ability to sectionalize the stalls in such a manner that would facilitate easy identification of wants by potential buyers just the same way it is done in modern day supermarkets. The cooperate owners of the stalls collect rents from occupant-traders which are channeled towards sustainable development of new stalls or general maintenance of the market. The Age Grades take turn to administer the market. At a particular age, the Age Grade that is saddled with the responsibility of the welfare of the market retires while the group meeting next in age takes over. They organize and supervise the cleaning of the market, settlement of disputes among traders, construction of new stalls etc. They periodically report back to the Choba Council of Chiefs from which they derive their authority and power. Another feature of Choba Market is what the local population calls *Mbiari Ahia*, meaning eve of the market day. This is normally on Nkwo day. It is on this day that the indigenous population prepare their commodities for sale the next day. On the other hand, Kalabari traders and others who traverse long distances to come to the market arrive, sometimes two days in advance. On arrival, they display their wares for people to buy, so that the market could be one quarter filled by those who sell and buy on the eve of Choba Market (Okocha, 2022).

The word market is derived from a combination of Greek and Latin word "*Mercatus*" which means the market place. A market is a place where people assemble to buy or sell goods and services (Kalu, 2019).

The Chambers 20th Century Dictionary, New Edition (1983:770) defines market as a periodic concourse of people for the purpose of buying and selling: a building, square or other public place used for such meetings. Similarly, the Longman Contemporary English Dictionary simply defines market as a place to buy things, a time when people buy and sells goods, food etc or the place usually outside or in a large building where this happens. Ozuru (2019) defines market as a traditional place where potential buyers and sellers of a product or service meet to share their needs and wants through exchange.

Scott (1997) in his own perspective viewed market as a public gathering or buyers and sellers at an appointed place and regular intervals for the purpose of doing business under specified conditions. The central deductions from the above definitions are that;

- i. Market involves a congregation of human beings who derive extrinsic value from the sale of their goods or services
- ii. Specific venue where people rendezvous
- iii. Specific period for such meeting for exchange of goods and services. This explains the concept of some markets holding on such days as *Eke, Orié, Afor of Nkwo* as the case may be.

Choba people arrived at the shore of Choba River prepared and determined to quite the Calaba's considered as strangers. They engaged and fought the occupants to a standstill and took over occupation of the shore hence the original name of Choba Market was *Ahia Aso Ogwu*, meaning market acquired through war. The war period did not take cognizance of the traditional importance nor sacred days of Eke, Orié, Afor or Nkwo hence the Choba Market is not named after any of these days in Ikwerre land. But history has it that the first market after the war was held on the *Nkwo Day*, a situation that has persisted till date (Okocha, 2022).

Later on in the course of development, the worship of the mermaid spirit, the water goddess gained prominence in the life of the people so much so that a grove was established by the bank of the Choba River. In tandem to this development, the name metamorphosed into *Ahia Owumini* (mermaid market). The Choba Market holds every eight days except on Sundays. When the 8th day falls on a Sunday, it holds on Saturday in respect to God Almighty and His worship days. The consequence is that it could hold on two consecutive Saturdays in one month and sometimes dove-tailing into the first week of the month following (Okocha, 2022). The Choba Market attracts buyers and sellers from all walks of life especially people from the old Eastern region of Nigeria as trading neighbours', the Ibos, Ijaw, Etches etc. Just in the same manner that Choba market has expanded from its original primitive status, so also the items of trade has gone far beyond the traditional trade by barter items to now wear national status. All items of trade from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria are sold and bought from Choba market (Okocha, 2022).

Acrylic

Acrylic paint is a fast drying paint made of pigment suspended in acrylic polymer emulsion and plasticizers, silicone oils, defoamers, stabilizers or metal soaps (Wikipedia, 2022). Most acrylic paints are water-based, but become water-resistant when dry. Depending on how much the paint is diluted with water, or modified with acrylic gels, medium or pastes, the finished acrylic painting can resemble a watercolour, a gouache or

an oil painting or have its own unique characteristics not attainable with other medium (Izzo, Balliana, Pinton, & Zendri, 2014). Acrylic painters can modify the appearance, hardness, flexibility, texture and other characteristics of the paint surface by using acrylic medium or simply by adding water. Watercolour and oil painters also use various medium but the range of acrylic medium is much greater. Acrylics have the ability to bond to many different surfaces, and the medium can be used to modify their binding characteristics. Acrylics can be used on paper, canvas and a range of other materials, however, their use on engineered woods such as medium-density fiberboard can be problematic because of the porous nature of those surfaces (Sealing, 2010). In this case, it is recommended that the surface first be sealed with an appropriate sealer. Acrylics can be applied in thin layers or washes to create effects that resemble watercolours and other water-based medium. They can also be used to build thick layers of paint-gel and molding paste are sometimes used to create paintings with relief features. Acrylic paints are also used in hobbies such as trains, cars, houses and human models. People who make such models use acrylic paint to build facial features on dolls or raised details on other types of models. Wet acrylic paint is easily removed from paintbrushes and skin with water, whereas oil paints require the use of a hydrocarbon (Medaris, 2005). Acrylic artists' paints may be thinned with water or acrylic medium and used as washes in the manner of water paints but unlike watercolour, the washes are not rehydratable once dry. For this reason, acrylics do not lend themselves to the colour lifting techniques of gum Arabic-based watercolour paints. Instead, the paint is applied in layers underneath to partially show through. Using an acrylic medium gives the paint more of a rich and glossy appearance, whereas using water makes the paint look more like watercolour and have a matte finish (Staff, Artists Network, 2016). Acrylic was adopted for this research work because it is a fast drying material on any surface which will be suitable to mix with charcoal. The acrylic colours will be able to blend properly with charcoal.

Charcoal

Charcoal is a lightweight black carbon residue produced by strongly heating wood (or other animal and plant materials) in minimal oxygen to remove all water and volatile constituents. In the traditional version of this pyrolysis process called charcoal burning, often by forming a charcoal kiln; the heat is supplied by burning part of the starting material itself, with a limited supply of oxygen. The material can also be heated in a closed retort. Modern "charcoal" briquettes used for outdoor cooking may contain many other additives e.g. coal (Brooks, Bashirelahi & Reynolds, 2017).

The production of wood charcoal in locations where there is abundance of wood dates back to ancient times. It generally begins with piling billets of wood on their ends to form a conical pile. Openings are often at the bottom to admit air, with a central shaft serving as flue. The whole pile is covered with turf or moistened clay. The firing is begun at the bottom of the flue, and gradually spreads outward and upward. The success of the operation depends upon the rate of the combustion. Under average condition, wood yields about 60% charcoal by volume, or 25% by weight; small-scale production methods often yield only about 50% by volume, while large-scale methods enable higher yields of about 90% by the 17th century (Brooks, Bashirelahi & Reynolds, 2017). The operation is so delicate that it was generally left to colliers (professional charcoal burners). They often live alone in small huts to tend to their wood piles.

The massive production of charcoal (at its height employing hundreds of thousands, mainly in Alpine and neighbouring forests) was a major cause of deforestation, especially in Central Europe. In England, many woods were managed as coppices, which were cut and regrown cyclically, so that a steady supply of charcoal was available. Complaints (as early as the Stuart period) about shortages may relate to the result of temporary over-exploitation or the impossibility of increasing production to match growing demand. The increasing scarcity of easily harvested wood was a major factor behind the switch to fossil fuel equivalents, mainly coal and brown coal for industrial use (Ray, 2010).

The modern process of carbonizing wood, either in small pieces or as sawdust in cast iron resorts, is extensively practiced where food is scarce, and also for the recovery of valuable byproducts (wood spirit, pyro ligneous acid, wood tar), which the process permits.

Overview of acrylic and charcoal art as a mixed medium of painting of expression

Art is a diverse, unique and broad topic. It does not have any defined definition. Art is interpreted according to how we feel and perceive the world around us. It is dependent on an individual's thought and sensory perceptions. Art itself, is a way of artistically expressing one's self in whatever way the artist deems fit. As

such, this includes the various media involved in making an artwork. There are diverse medium involved in creating a piece of art to bring out ones expression. Acrylic, being a media, is amongst the various medium used to create an artwork and expression (Terry, 2015).

For any work to be seen or considered an artwork, it must have some form of emotion to pass a message. This also means art is communicative in nature. It speaks to an individual in the language they understand. There are different medium as to how a painting or an artwork is expressed, acrylic being one of them, and for this project, it will be a mixed media to create beautiful artworks.

As to the definition of art and how it relates to painting, using acrylic and charcoal as a mixed media of expression, we ought to know further what painting means.

Studio Practice Method and Materials

The procedures and processes used to carry out study are discussed below:

Materials

Canvas, Wood, Staple gun, Nails, Hammer, Acrylic paint, Charcoal powder and pencil, Palette knife among others.

Preparation of materials

This is purely the preparation of canvas as it is the ground for painting. Woods were purchased and cut into different sizes for the canvas. Nails were used to fasten the woods together to give it a solid build. After this process comes the stretching of the canvas on the wood. This was done with a staple gun to tightly hold the canvas onto the wood. And so the canvas is prepared and ready to be painted on.

Transfer of sketches to the Canvas

Being a freehand sketch was adopted to sketch the drawings which were transferred onto the canvas. This is an important step and the first step as it helps give an insight of what was painted by first drawing and doing a practice painting with water based colours, before it is finally transferred to the canvas as the main and final work.

Thumbnail sketch development

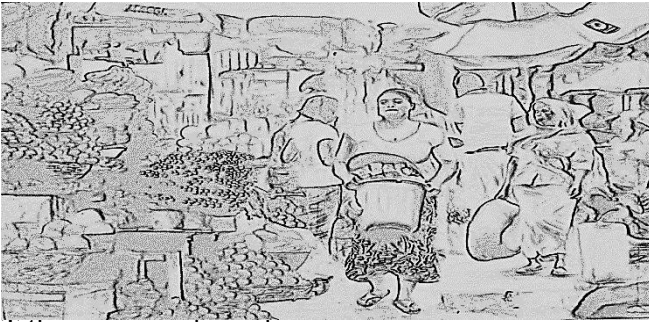
The thumbnail sketches were achieved through careful study and close observation of the photographic images taken of the scene in the market. They were all done with pencils on paper. This helps to guide in the production of the final works. Below are the thumbnail sketches:

A Thumbnail Sketch of Happy trader



Figure 1

Artist: Chimezuteh Ejikeme-Micah
Title: happy trader
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 29.7 x 42 cm
Year: 2022
A thumbnail sketch of busy day



Title: busy day
Medium: Charcoal on paper
Size: 29.7 x 42 cm
Year: 2022

Presentation of Studio Work Analysis

The studio experimentation of acrylic and charcoal paintings produced for this study were analyzed and described based on structural compositions, inspirations, historical and cultural value of the works. The basic contents of the principles and elements of arts were adequately touched. The aesthetic implications of the works were analyzed, discussed and presented below:

Analysis of Happy trader



Plate 1

Artist: Chimezuteh Ejikeme-Micah
Title: Happy trader
Medium: Charcoal and Acrylic on canvas
Size: 3 x 4 ft
Year: 2022

The title of this acrylic charcoal and artwork “Happy Trader” showcases the excitement trader’s show when they make good sales of their products in their markets. It is an obligation in Choba land that before traders, especially the natives of Choba, comes to display their goods for sales; they are required to conduct prayers to God or the gods of the land respectively. This is done to enable them attract more customers to their goods. And the outcome usually makes them to have successful increase in their sale. Interestingly, beyond the prayers the sellers also put on cheerful face to attract customers as well.

In the artwork above, we see a happy woman, as she is depicted smiling, in front of the garri she has displayed to sell. Other traders were depicted in the background but the focus was more on her. Charcoal was the choice of medium used to artistically portray her along with the male figure behind her. The food item she has displayed for sale is garri which is shown using purely white due to its natural colour, whilst the basin and custard rubber with which is played upon was rendered using yellow for the custard rubber, red for the large sized tomato contain and blue for the visible basin the garri is placed upon. Fruits were as well displaced at the background using green and yellow.

Analysis of Busy Day



Plate 10Artist: Chimezuteh Ejikeme-Micah
Title: Busy Day
Medium: Charcoal and Acrylic on canvas
Size: 3 x 4 ft
Year: 2022

The artwork titled “Busy Day” was chosen to depict how busy sometimes the Choba market can be. Choba is a blessed community which is visibly seen during Market Days. So many people from all walks of life converge to participate in this event. As a result, there are mixed ethnicity nationality that usual converge in the market. There is no seclusion or discrimination in the manner that one is from a different ethnic group. Traders work together and sell their goods to anyone irrespective of where they come from. Because of this, whatever goods that are not sold predominantly by the indigenes of Choba, others from different parts of the states will definitely have it for sale. So many traders have benefited from this event due to the success it has at each market day.

As it regards the artwork above been analysed, we see the sale of fruits namely; plantain, orange, grape, tomato and pawpaw. Colours like red were used to depict the tomatoes, green to indicate plantain and pawpaw, yellow to indicate grape and orange. The busy people in the work, were depicted using charcoal. The use of acrylic and charcoal mainly is to achieve aesthetic appear from a different view.

CONCLUSION

This study has been able to explore and document the Choba Market scenery using charcoal and acrylic. The use of charcoal and acrylic appears to be very effect because the aesthetically effect it commands. Thus, the study encouraged more painters to explore with the materials and produce more paintings The adaptation of these medium was added a new idiom of expressing the Choba market scenery. With the interpretation and analysis of the charcoal and acrylic paintings produced in this study, there are beliefs that these works will produced in this research help promote, guide, preserve and sustain the tradition as well as what the market looks like in Choba kingdom on a normal market day. Most importantly, it can help create opportunities for similar researches to be conducted within the same area in the future to document what the market scenes look like previously in the communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings obtained form this research, the following recommendations were drawn out:

1. More artist should explore the use charcoal and acrylic medium as an alternative to produce artworks especially paintings.
2. Due to the significant role the market places stakeholders and government should try to develop the market to modern a market.

Contribution to knowledge

Haven carried out the research successful it is believed that the study has contributed to knowledge because it has contributed more insight on the possibility of synergising charcoal and acrylic as mixed media technique. It has also contributed towards the creation of more awareness to the public about the existence and significant role of Choba market

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