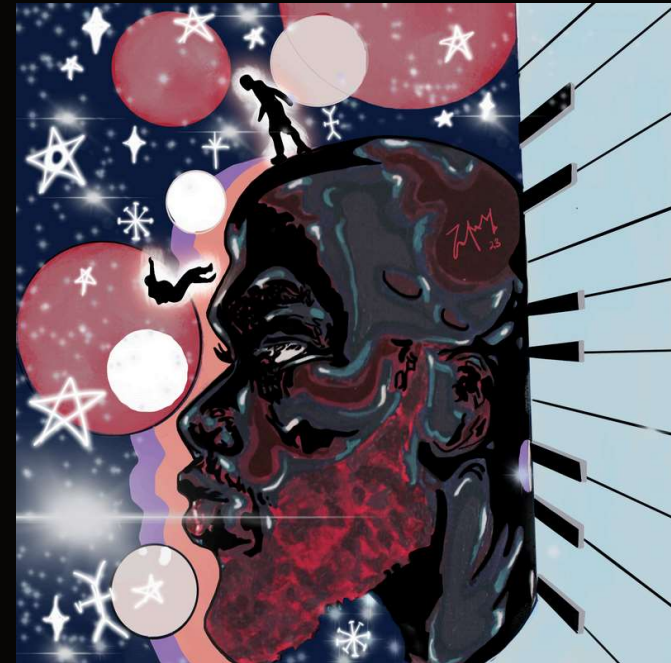
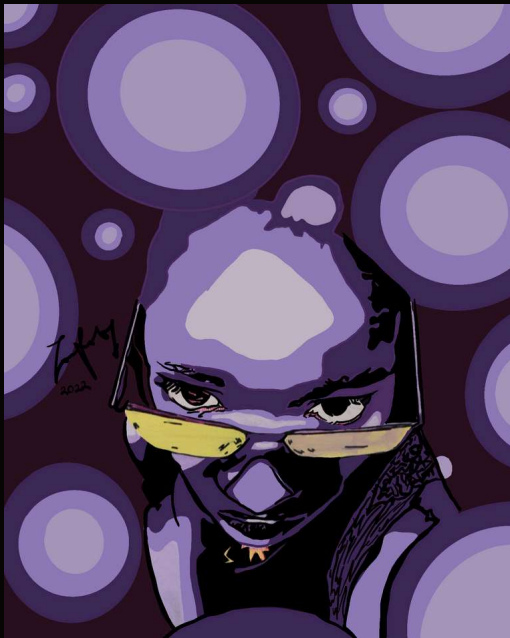


# ART PORTFOLIO

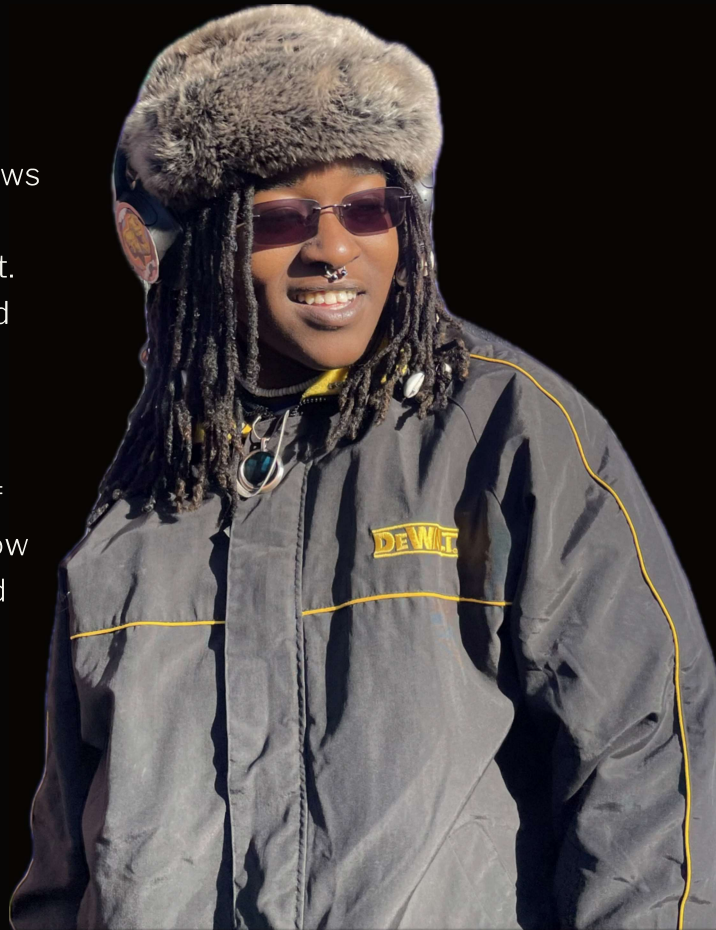


**ZAM EZE-ONWA  
CREATIVE**

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## WHO AM I?

Zam Onwa is a queer non binary interdisciplinary artist who heavily draws influence from their personal experiences and emotions for their art. Born and raised in Nigeria, they moved to Canada in 2021 to further their education and continue their practice. They get inspiration for their art from the beautiful yet painful experience of leaving home and really getting to know one's undiluted self. Zam has explored many different styles over the years including but not limited to realism through pointillism and stamp art on digital platforms as well as canvas.



Above everything, I am a creative.

## ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE



I have been painting for 3 years but ive been creating as long as i can remmeber. My preferred medium is acrylic. "Blessed are the works of my hands," I believe this sums up my experience of life.

MY FEATURED WORKS

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

# THE CREED OF A TRUE FRAUD

01

My first collection of paintings

# THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE SELF

02

My second collection of paintings

# WAHALA DEY

a work in progress collection of stories

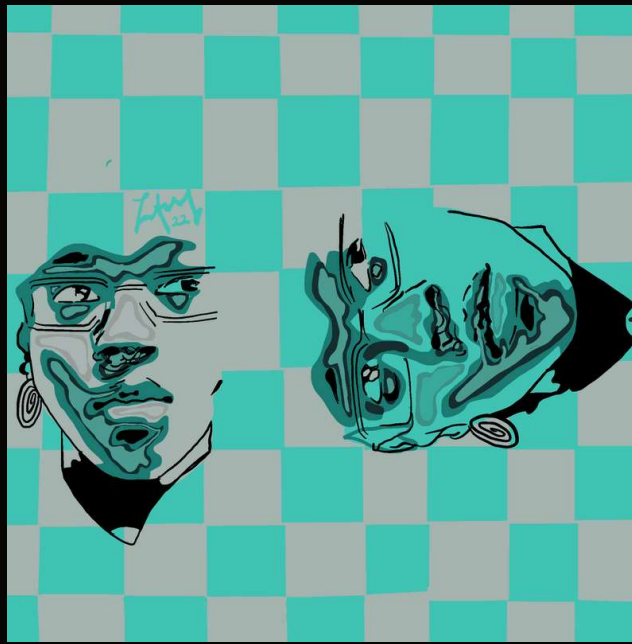
03

MY FEATURED WORKS

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

# THE CREED OF A TRUE FRAUD

This collection The Creed of a True Fraud follows the different emotions Zam faces in their experience of being a queer Nigerian artist in the diaspora that lives with anxiety. The collection currently has four pieces, "The Purple Man Sees Yellow," "Gemini Flame, Twin Fury," "Enbious" and "Please Don't Go." These pieces follow the emotions of skepticism, anger, jealousy and sadness that Zam faces with regards to their identity. These paintings show that there is beauty and validity even in the most painful experiences.



NAME: ENBIOUS  
YEAR: 2022

## ENBIOUS

Omo, let me break it down for you - my brain's moving mad these days, pure chaos. You get me?

I'm fully vexed watching other people living their best life, and I can't lie, it gets me deep. This jealousy thing's got me in a proper headlock - looking at people and thinking "why them and not me?" It's peak.

The paranoia's hitting different too. Wahala full ground - everywhere I look, I'm moving like someone's got eyes on me. Proper sketchy business. Man's even clocking shadows these days.



## MY FEATURED WORKS



NAME: GEMINI FLAME, TWIN FIRE  
YEAR: 2022

Summertime, pts. 1-4



NAME: THE PURPLE MAN SEES YELLOW  
YEAR: 2022

## ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

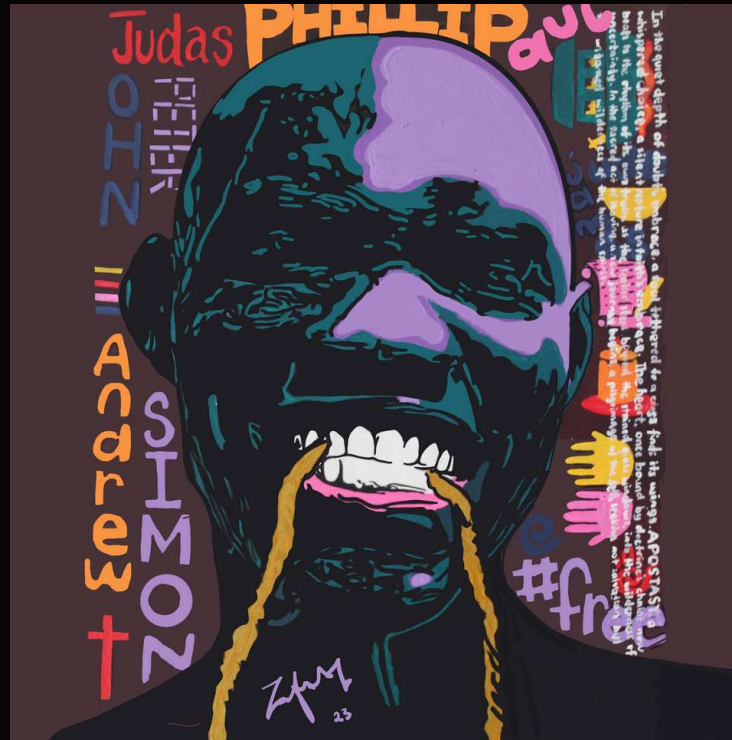
THE PURPLE MAN SEES YELLOW  
The truth is something hard to find,  
when everyone has their own mind & I  
have seemingly lost mine.  
The purple man sees yellow, I fear my  
voice has become nothing but an echo  
They say I'm a skeptic, not easily  
convinced, I need evidence, some proof,  
I'm a skeptic, I can't just follow the trend,  
I need to know the truth.  
I hear the rumours and the lies,  
unfortunately accustomed to the  
deception in their eyes.  
I want to know what's really there, not  
just what they want to declare.  
skepticism is a way of life, probably a  
constant journey without strife,  
i'll keep asking, keep seeking, till the  
truth is all revealing.  
I hope what I find was worth it.

MY FEATURED WORKS

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

# THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE SELF

The Pilgrimage of the Self follows zam's exploration of spiritual deconstruction and self-discovery through the lens of a queer Nigerian artist in the diaspora. Through five pieces - "For Your Mind," "Apostasy," "Infini(e/y)," "A Fall From Grace," and "The Odyssey" - the collection chronicles the stages of religious exodus and personal rebirth. These works examine the turbulent emotions of doubt, liberation, limitlessness, loss, oth the pain and beauty found in choosing oneself, demonstrating that the path of apostasy, while difficult, can lead to profound self-actualization.



NAME: APOSTASY  
YEAR: 2023

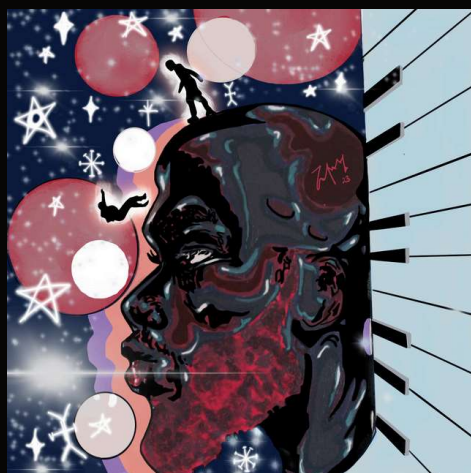
## APOSTASY

Apostasy, a whispered choice, a silent rupture from the faith's embrace. Like a falling star, it blazes a trail across the midnight canvas of belief, leaving behind a constellation of questions in its wake. The heart, once bound by doctrine's chains, now beats to the rhythm of its own truth, as the seeker steps beyond the stained glass windows, into the wilderness of uncertainty. In the sacred act of leaving, a new journey begins, a pilgrimage of the self, seeking not salvation, but the untamed wilderness of the human spirit, where the echoes of doubt and the whispers of freedom intertwine like vines of ivy, reclaiming the garden of one's own soul.

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE



NAME: INFINIT(E/Y)  
YEAR: 2023



NAME: A FALL FROM GRACE  
YEAR: 2023



NAME: FOR YOUR MIND  
YEAR: 2024



NAME: THE ODYSSEY  
YEAR: 2024

## FOR YOUR MIND

for your mind, make una listen well. this life, e be like say e go balance how you want am, but no be so o! no be wetin you fit control. na only yourself you fit control. e go better make u sabi say, life na one big cruise ship wey dey sail anyhow. u go plan, u go arrange, but na so plot twist go dey happen. u go dey reason say you go chop rice, na beans e go come be. u go dey expect peace, na kasala go burst. my person, no vex. e no mean say u no fit chop life.

## INFINIT(E/Y)

Whenever I look at this, I can't help but feel the harmonious convergence of diverse dimensions, reminding us that our perceptions of reality are dynamic and ever-changing. This piece challenges me to question the limits of my understanding and embrace the idea that the boundaries between different facets of existence are not fixed, but rather, beautifully fluid.



MY FEATURED WORKS

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

# WAHALA DEY

**Wahala Dey** is a collection of works that explores the layered stories, struggles, and spirit of Nigeria and its people. Through vibrant narratives, it weaves together tales of life in Lagos, the weight of cultural legacies, and the unyielding resilience in the face of hardships that define the Nigerian experience. From the daily "wahala" of survival and identity to ancient rituals and untold histories, each piece captures Nigeria's humor, tenacity, and spirit of endurance. These stories honor both the legacy of past generations and the reality of modern-day Nigeria, embodying the perseverance that holds us together.



## MY FIRST NOVEL

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

"...HERE, HISTORY ISN'T A STRAIGHT LINE BUT A SPIRAL, ALWAYS CIRCLING BACK, ALWAYS TOUCHING THE NOW. AND IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, JUST LISTEN CAREFULLY ENOUGH, YOU MIGHT HEAR YOUR OWN VOICE ECHO FROM A TIME BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. IN THIS LAND OF PERPETUAL REBIRTH, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHERE ONE LIFE STOPS AND ANOTHER STARTS..."

"...IN THE TIME BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME, WHEN THE DRUMS STILL SPOKE THE LANGUAGE OF THE GODS, THE OSU WERE BORN. SOME SAY THEY WERE THE CHILDREN OF TRANSGRESSION, MARKED BY THE EARTH GODDESS ALA HERSELF FOR THE SINS OF THEIR FATHERS. OTHERS WHISPER OF ANCIENT KINGS AND DEFIED DECREES, OF MEN AND WOMEN CAST OUT, THEIR DESCENDANTS FOREVER BEARING THE WEIGHT OF THAT LONG-AGO REBELLION..."



# EXCERPTS FROM "WAHALA DEY" THE NOVEL

ZAM EZE-ONWA - CREATIVE

# COMMUNITY WORK

AS PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY, I AM DEEPLY COMMITTED TO FOSTERING INCLUSIVE SPACES AND AMPLIFYING MARGINALIZED VOICES. MY WORK INCLUDES SERVING AS A PEER SUPPORT VOLUNTEER WITH THE RISE SERVICE CENTRE, VP OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR CU'S BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE, AND FASS COUNCILLOR FOR THE CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION, WHERE I PROMOTE EQUITY-FOCUSED POLICIES.

I'VE ALSO BEEN HONORED TO SPEAK ON PANELS SUCH AS THE SNATCHED BLACK HAIR PANEL (2023), BLACK BRILLIANCE PANEL (2024), AND GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY PANEL (2023), ADVOCATING FOR INTERSECTIONAL AWARENESS AND BLACK IDENTITY. MY COMMUNITY EFFORTS ARE ROOTED IN A DEDICATION TO ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY ACROSS DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

# GET IN TOUCH



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