# BALAFAAMA PRINCEWILL

Wellington Studios, Manchester, UK. www.balafaama.com balafaama@gmail.com

#### **PROFILE**

I am a self-taught multidisciplinary artist exploring themes of identity, healing, and human connection. Without formal art education, I have built my practice through continuous learning, experimentation, and a deep commitment to storytelling through both traditional and digital media. My work has been exhibited internationally, from Lagos and Dakar to London and Manchester, allowing me to contribute to and engage with diverse artistic communities.

In 2025, I transitioned fully into my art career, leaving my previous role in customer experience to focus on my creative practice full-time. I am currently working towards my first solo exhibition and have several projects and collaborations lined up for later in the year. This period has been dedicated to deeper research, studio production, and planning for long-term impact.

Alongside my studio practice, I bring strong communication, problem-solving, and relationship-building skills, shaped by my previous professional experience, which support my ability to collaborate with institutions and engage audiences meaningfully.

My long-term vision is to create spaces for artistic exchange, particularly between the UK and Nigeria, fostering dialogue and opportunities for emerging artists while deepening my own creative practice. Art has always been my means of making sense of the world, and I am committed to pursuing it full-time, making meaningful contributions to the creative landscape.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

2025 Togetherness, Black Creative Trailblazers Showcase, Aviva Studios, Manchester, UK.

Live Painting Feature, Black Creative Trailblazers Showcase, Aviva Studios, Manchester, UK.

My Kreative Mind 2.0, LSTV and New Comma, London, UK.

BP Office Lunchtime Pop-Up, Middlesex, London, UK.

2024 Deconstruction - Reconstruction, The Art Collective, Manchester, UK.

Black Artists in Manchester, Manchester, UK.

Live Painting, Merhaba Halal Food Festival, Culture CoOp, Rochdale, UK.

Common Ground, New Comma, London, UK.

Good Things Take Time, Art Roost Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.

Overturned, The Brigid Alliance, The ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, Planned Parenthood, Makersplace.

NFTNow The Gateway - Art Basel, Curated by African NFT Community, Miami, USA.

Forging the Future, Dak'Art La Biennale De Dakar, Dakar, Senegal.

2021 FTX Africa, Lagos, Nigeria.

Colors of the Rainbow Collective, Makersplace

NFT Lagos, Nigerian NFT Community, Lagos, Nigeria.

### **AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES**

- 2025 Global Talent Visa: Exceptional Promise.
- 2024 Creative Lab Salford Residency, UK.
- 2022 MXTTER #ArtistSummer Grants, Mxtter Art

AfroFutureDAO Arts Grant, Afrofuture 3rd Cohort Drop, Web3 Africa.

### PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

2025 Blanklnk Launchpad Magazine, Serendipity Institute for Black Arts and Heritage, UK.

Echoes of Self and Society: A Contextual Interrogation of Balafaama Princewill's Paintings, Radr Africa.

ART WITH DEEDS: Bala Faama on Memory, Emotion, and the Healing Power of Art, Deeds Magazine.

The Weight of Becoming: Critiquing Balafaama Princewill's 'Good Things Take Time', The Guardian Nigeria.

Balafaama Princewill: A Journey Through Emotion, Texture, and Identity, This Day.

In the Quiet: Solitude, Vulnerability, and Hope in Modern Art, Culture Custodian.

- 2024 Balafaama: Finding Chaos, Healing, and Authenticity Through Art, The Guardian Nigeria.
  - Artist Talk Magazine, Issue 33, UK.
- 2022 I don't paint solutions; I paint the storm Balafaama, Vanguard
- 2021 Interview with Nigerian Painter & Digital Artist Balafaama, Makersplace

## PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2025 Black Creative Trailblazers, UK (Cohort Member)
- 2021 Workshop leader, Multiple sessions, Sip and Paint NG, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2021 Onboarding Speaker, NFT Lagos, Nigerian NFT Community, Lagos, Nigeria.

#### **EDUCATION**

Self-taught since 2020