

ARTS

Teaching art through VCDs

Project

By Chuka Nnabufe

A non-governmental organisation named, WY-Art Foundation has put out some demonstration video compact discs to teach women and children the art of goldsmithing, beadwork, baking and textile (tie and dye).

The NGO founded in 1990 by Dr. Peju Layiwola, an artist who teaches Visual Arts at the Department of Creative Arts, University of Lagos informed that the VCD release is the product of training workshops the outfit has held within and outside Nigeria in the last two years.

According to Mrs. Layiwola the outfit is "aimed at teaching women and youths various artistic skills to improve on their life standards."

Continuing, the metal sculpture expert said: "Our desire is that they will begin to live a more rewarding life once skills have been learnt."

She added: "although some of the programmes such as teaching less-privileged women within churches and communities began about 15 years ago, the foundation actually became structured very recently in the last two years."

A major preoccupation of the group is going to churches to teach women and youngsters art skills they can use to earn a living.

"One of the programmes of this foundation is to provide free demonstration and training for women and youths particularly in local communities. This is done mainly through the church or organisations that identify with our

mission. You provide the materials while we provide facilitators ... We believe that this will go a long way in alleviating poverty among God's people. We also realise that when a woman is equipped with necessary skills, the likelihood of her children learning from her is very high."

Realising the need for wider spread of their training programmes, the organisation, in January this year produced four instructional VCDs. The one-hour-long films, which are now commercially available in the market, cover such fields as *Goldsmithing*, *Tie & Dye/Batik*, *Beadwork* and *Cookery/Baking*.

In Layiwola's appraisal, each of the discs provides, "a pleasurable way of learning

skills in the comfort of your living room."

The producers sought to be procedural in the making of the works, showing step by step, materials, tools and processes involved in various areas of basic skill acquisition in the fields of study.

Under *Goldsmithing*, various processes of moulding gold are taught. The making

of things like wedding rings and earrings are demonstrated using 9 and 14 karat gold. *Tie & Dye* treats many techniques of designing fabrics through tie & dye methods. Several forms of patterning, marbling, knotting, pleating, binding, stitching and batik are demonstrated while dye mixtures and colour combination are also taught.

Beadwork examines the induction tradition covering tricks of the bead art such as use of seed beads, spiral rope, Chevron chain, weaving, illusion and layers.

Also, *Cookery / Baking* explains the making of plain cake, wedding cake and richly designed celebration cakes. Even the making of Chips and Cookies through improvised ways with indigenous materials are part of the instructional materials.

Tales of Passage at Quintessence

Exhibition

By Angela Echeruo

period of time by Godfrey Aifebuame, a proficient young artist who studied Fine Arts in Ibadan and Auchi polytechnics respectively.

A n art exhibition entitled *Tales of Passage*, billed to run for two weeks will begin on Saturday, 25th June at Quintessence.

Tales of Passage is a collection of water-colour and oil paintings produced over a

Tales of Passage is a reflection and an opportunity in dialogue on vital social issues. It is also the artists attempt to project into the future while equally telling stories of the changes he has passed through since 1999 when he

became a full time studio artist.

Godfrey has won some awards with his art. These include Rector's Certificate of Excellence, Fasuyi Prize for Best Art Student and Ondo State Governor's Award for Excellence.