

Like Butterflies
Scattered
About by Art
Rascals

PROPERTY OF MASOBE BOOKS

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Rascals

Poems
PROPERTY OF MASOBE BOOKS

Umar Abubakar Sidi

(Illustrated by TJ Benson)



MASOBE

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*For Usman Umar Akeel,
master of the mysteries, teacher, brother & friend*

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A Plunge into the Ocean of Art

Umar's stylus is inspired by love; his sincere love for art and fellow artists. This love compels him to plunge into the ocean of the artworks of others in a bid to experience them fully, to discover what constitutes and animates them, to distil their essences, and give voice to everything he encounters therein. This utterance gives birth to his poetry.

Drawn to the world of surrealist and abstract expressionist art, in which illogical and juxtaposed images and scenes are deployed to allow the unconscious mind express itself, Umar finds himself, via his poetry, playing the unlikely role of medium and translator between this unique art form and his uninitiated audience. He stands in the gap, as a bridge and mediator, a prophet of sorts, between two different creative worlds, and tries through the magic of language, to unite them as would an art diplomat.

This collection, therefore, is a work of art inspired by other works of art themselves. It is the testament of the love of one artist for the works of other artists; a tribute to their creativity and mission; a discipleship and devotion to their message and purpose.

It is a philosophic grasp at what appears inscrutable, an illumining penetration that pierces through the veil of the mysterious. You feel the honesty of the poet's inspiration

in the brilliance of his phrasing, the inexhaustible energy of his lyrical music sweeping through his subjects, his startling and unusual language breaking new frontiers, the childish gusto, playfulness and abandon that are often the hallmarks of bold and unfettered creators.

For who would be so daring as to draw apart the sable curtains draping the enigmatic face of surrealism, and, loving art entirely for art's sake, dare to sing about it without restraint? The passion of Umar's sermons persuades the reader into becoming a convert to his message; they bring the distant names of surrealist artists and their works home to the heart.

Onesi Taiwo Dominic

Poet

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Gathering of Spirits

In 1944, during my first trip to Cuba, as a child,
I observed that different orders of reality
appear to disturb the dreams beset
by the Orisha and ancestral spirits of African origin

A painter may create a secret *order* of things
where different strokes suggest a gathering
of masks and spirit animals

Ancestral spirits
do not accept ritual & magic
expressed in hallucinating forms
scattered on a canvas

Pseudo-African prophets masquerading
as art critics & scholars of voodoo art
are distinguished by their power to surprise
to synthesise different mediums of dreams

this experience is widened by the violent reaction of
man
to the unconscious garden beset by spirit animals

Religious satire in *Chronicles of the Orisha*
captures a child being initiated into a dark order
he is led by a figure wearing a mask

in a haunted wood in Cuba, in 1944
a stature of a moon-headed female cast in bronze
is charged with raw energy equivalent of 'voodoo music
for Cuban nightclubs'

It is a world of ritual inhibited by the monstrous

Orisha with a child

Orisha with a child gathering around the unconscious
garden beset by spirit animals

Orisha with a child entering a spiritual halo

Orisha with a child rotating the incandescent canvas
painted by a *poet* hovering between native influences and
post-modern eye

Orisha with a child cannot be depicted on a canvas

Orisha with a child cannot be seen by a *poet*

Orisha with a child

the gathering of spirits is complete

The Meaning of Guernica

Guernica

Horrific devastation in the Basque town of Guernica

Monochrome grisaille

Crawling analysis of the violent reaction of man to the very question of the order of the matador

★

Guernica

Man looking downward

Crutches breaking the irrational collage of biomorphic shapes

Art is evident in the image of the Bull

Blinds over the window

Democracy of Bulls

Forthcoming centenary of the moon bisected by a razor

Terrified women

Death speaks the new language of man

Photomontage drawn from the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*

★

Guernica

Theatre of the fragment

Psychiatric ward north of the Atlas of grief

Moon tears placed between text and *tableau vivant*

Previous lie on the edge of the coherent symbol

Newsreels

Violent reaction of man to the schemes of bombing of
the market day

Mithraic, mythological, monochrome grisaille

Paint is the diamond of agony

Kahlo denied being a surrealist bomb in the hand of a
Spanish matador

Mutability of pain

Black rain in the Basque town of Guernica