

PRESS RELEASE: 'DIS LAGOS LIFE' Exhibition Opening  
*A Gripping Analysis of Lagos through the Lens of Six Young Photographers*

[Lagos, Nigeria, February 21, 2020] The photo exhibition *Dis Lagos Life* opens to the public at the Wheatbaker from Monday February 24th to May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The show, curated by SMO Contemporary Art, brings together fifty-eight honest, intimate, and audacious photos of six talented artists: Amanda Iheme, Ayanfe Olarinde, Nelly Ating, Oluwamuyiwa Logo, Omoregie Osakpolor, and Somi Nwandu who analyze, interrogate, and expose the enigmatic duality of the megacity, Lagos.

From photos of historical buildings, to the daily struggles of transient communities, to the effects of censorship on the minds of our youth, juxtaposed against the beautiful pattern and repetition of our organic and built environments, this exhibition touches on the complex pressures of life in Lagos, while beckoning us to grapple more honestly, with what must change.

The exhibition also highlights curated quotes from six writers and thought leaders – Wana Udobang, Jareh Das, Kovie Evi-Parker, Sheila Chukwulozie, Roli Afinotan, and Adeoluwa Oluwajoba – whose reflective sentiments and analysis of Lagos provide a deeper appreciation of the exhibited images.

“Dis Lagos Life takes us on a journey through the streets and occurrences in Lagos. It pushes us out of our curated bubbles into the raw beauty and harsh realities of the city, forcing us to engage, discuss, speak out, and make change – even if just in our little corners.” said Nneoma Ilogu, the exhibition curator, and Manager at SMO Contemporary Art.

“Photography is unfortunately still an under-represented medium in Nigerian art collections,” remarked Sandra Mbanefo Obiogo, SMO’s Founder and Artistic Director. “Dis Lagos Life showcases powerful narratives which will heighten our socio-cultural awareness, while providing us with unforgettable images of a city which draws us into a whirlwind of energy, color, and vibe at a critical time in our ever changing history.”

“As we enter a new decade, the Wheatbaker is delighted to continue providing our artists with an important platform for innovation and creativity through their powerful expressions in different media,” concluded Mosun Ogunbanjo, Director of the Wheatbaker. “The exhibition perfectly encapsulates the contradictions and beauty of our Lagos.”

Dis Lagos Life runs from February 24<sup>th</sup> until May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and is supported by The Wheatbaker and Louis Guntrum Wines.

--ENDS---

For more information, email [info@smocontemporaryart.com](mailto:info@smocontemporaryart.com) or call Nneoma at +234 809 997 7552