

IZIBONGO

Celebrating Art in Africa and the Diaspora

Issue 100 - 2018



Ngadi

Smart

Editorial

Acclaimed as a photographer, it's the mixed media artwork – of traditional ink and the digital - that this, the 100th issue of IZIBONGO, will focus on: a future edition will feature her creativity with camera.

She is an explorer, traversing the oceans of fashion, sexuality and identity: the flag on her mast is always an African one. Her website says her work comes "from an African lens and point of view."

Here is a quote from her, from her facebook page...

In my work I try to bring together the spirit of strength that comes from the experience of being an African woman. The way women express themselves through fashion has always been the muse behind my drawings. This work is a tribute to that. My hope is that African youth find the freedom within themselves to express themselves even more than in past generations.

From Sierra Leone, I am happy to present to you, Ngadi Smart.

Editor – Natty Mark Samuels – africanschool.weebly.com – An African School Production

Cover artwork from *Twitter*



from *Pinterest*

<https://reggaediscography.blogspot.com/2018/01/izibongo-magazine-2018.html>

<http://rastaites.com/>

Strong

I created this illustration as part of my “Women, Prints and Fashion” series, which I started because I wanted to combine my new found obsession with prints and patterns, with my never ending love of portraits of strong African women I saw daily. Happy International Women’s Day to each and every woman out there.

Ngadi Smart

from article by Jepchumba - *African Digital Art* - May 2018

African

...her work has long been focused on people's expression of Identity, notably self-Identity through Fashion, and as of late, Black sensuality from an African lens and point of view, always aiming to show as many representations of African people, and what it means to be African.

from *Ngadi Smart*

Identity

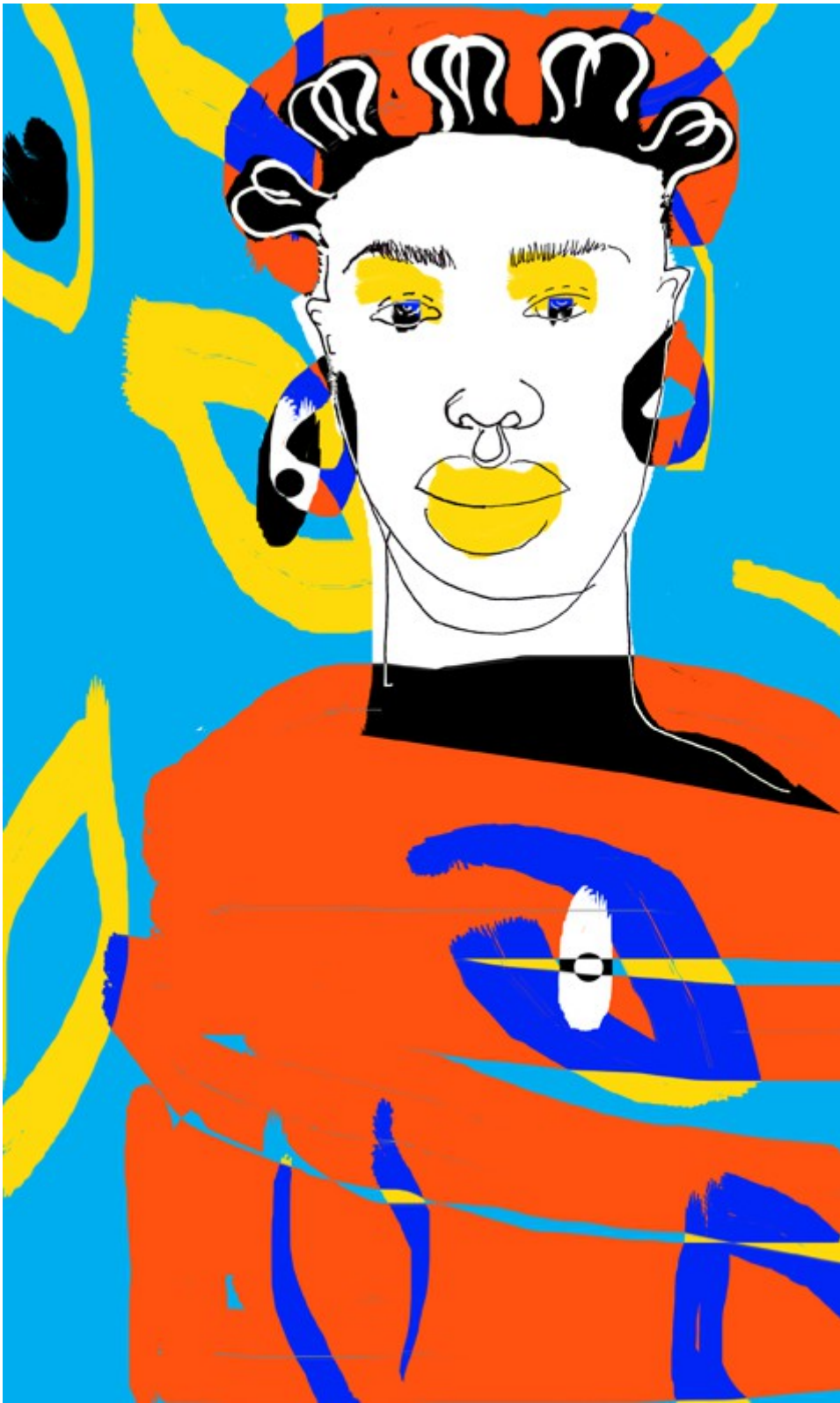
I like to deconstruct mainstream society’s preconceived views of what the definitions of ‘normal’, ‘beautiful’, and ‘right’ — especially in terms of identity, gender and social dynamics. I am attracted to a desire to be provocative in my work but always with a consciousness to lure people in and not totally alienate them from my work. **Ngadi Smart**

from article by Nikki Zakkas - *Between 10 and 5: The Creative Showcase* - Sept.2017



Black Hair Pride

from *True Africa*



from *Ngadi Smart*



I am a Sierra Leonean Visual Artist with a focus in Illustration and Photography. Currently based in Côte d'Ivoire.

My Illustrative work is motivated by the representation of Black POC, their varied, vibrant and broad cultures, strong women, as well as Feminism and gender roles.

Ngadi Smart

both artwork and text from *Ngadi Smart*

Freetown

Ngadi Smart is a Sierra Leonean photographer and illustrator who lives in Côte d'Ivoire. Her fashion-inspired drawings fuse vintage and contemporary style trends – from the platform boots of 1970s' Freetown to the fresh street style of Abidjan.

from article by **Nadia Sesay**
True Africa
May 2017

Abidjan

The EyeMuse Project in 2014, a photography and illustration portrait project which aimed to encapsulate the true identity of a place through its inhabitants, their various cultures, style, tastes and lifestyles and homes. A project basically exploring how these combining factors contribute to the genuine make-up of a location. So far, I have conducted the project in the cities of Toronto, London, UK and Abidjan, Ivory Coast. I am currently looking for more subjects to shoot in Ivory Coast.

from *Aduna* - 2017

Hanover

Honored to have work exhibited at this year's LUMIX Festival for Young Photojournalism in Hanover, Germany, alongside 12 other Photographers from World Press Photo's African Photojournalism Database.

Ngandi Smart - from *Ngadi Smart Facebook* - June 2018



from Pinterest

Pleased to say my work will be displayed as part of Yale University's Africa Initiative's African Salon 2018 event. The exhibition will be held at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, Connecticut, and will be on display from April 6th to April 21st, to showcase the art of student, local and international artists as they explore the diverse narratives of Africa.

Ngadi Smart

from Ngadi Smart Facebook
April 2018



Androgyne Project

from *True Africa*

Beautiful

Her new series, *Love*, takes on a different aspect of contemporary culture. She portrays black love and sexuality, and exactly how we perceive them to be – vivid, proud and simply beautiful.

from article by Nadia Sesay
True Africa
May 2017

Proud

Congratulations CUZ? for being such an inspirational and inspiring strong black Woman in the illustration industry! I'm so proud of all your hard work! Have a blessed international women's day dear!

Blossoming Country Living - from *Instagram* 2018

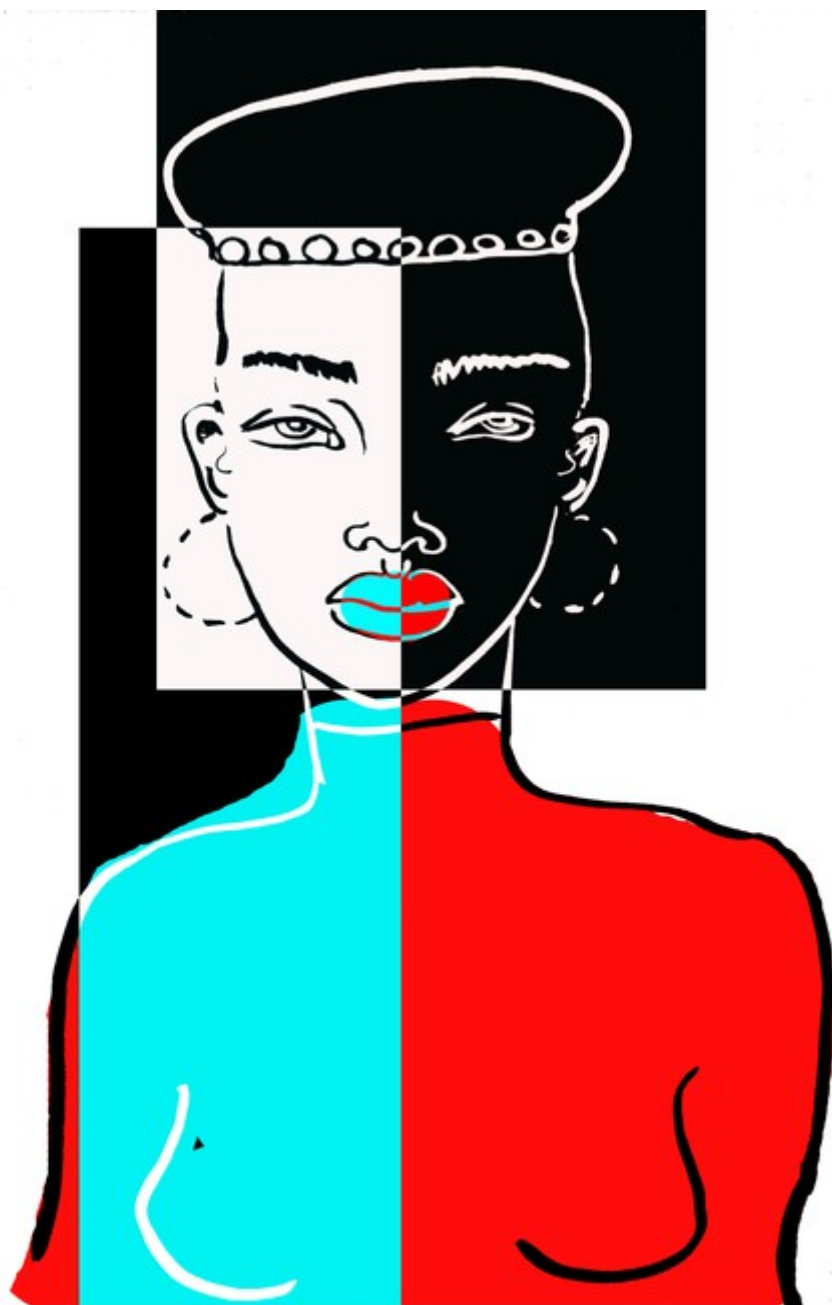
Vibrant

Her stated mission being to positively and intimately represent black cultures, Smart utilizes her talents individually to issue a cohesive message. The beautifully organic yet vibrant components of both her art and photography, leave viewers analyzing her inspiration; which is heavily influenced by feminist values and gender controversy.

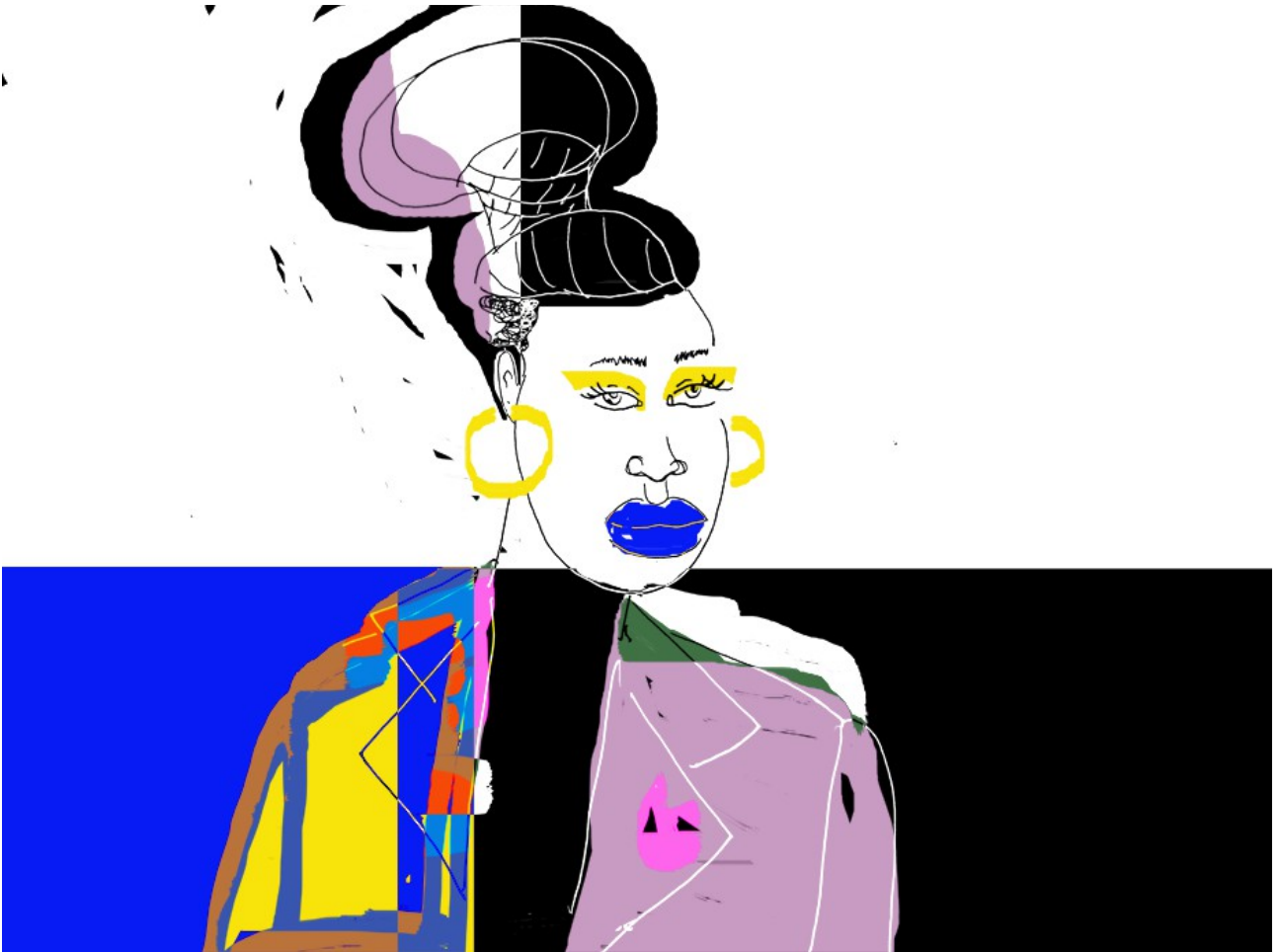
from article by Eye Candy
AfroPunk
July 2016



from *Pinterest*



from *Ngadi Smart*



from *Ngadi Smart*