



December 2023

AFRO ARTS GALLERY

MAGAZINE

Feel Africa's Soul

The Afro Arts Gallery is a programme that is aimed at promoting African literature and culture among school-aged children and young people in Ghana. The programme was organized by the K.A. Hypercon, an organization committed to showcasing African art, literature, and culture.

We believe that the promotion of African literature and culture is critical to the development of the continent's cultural heritage and identity. Therefore, the organization initiated this programme to foster a love for African literature and culture among young people.



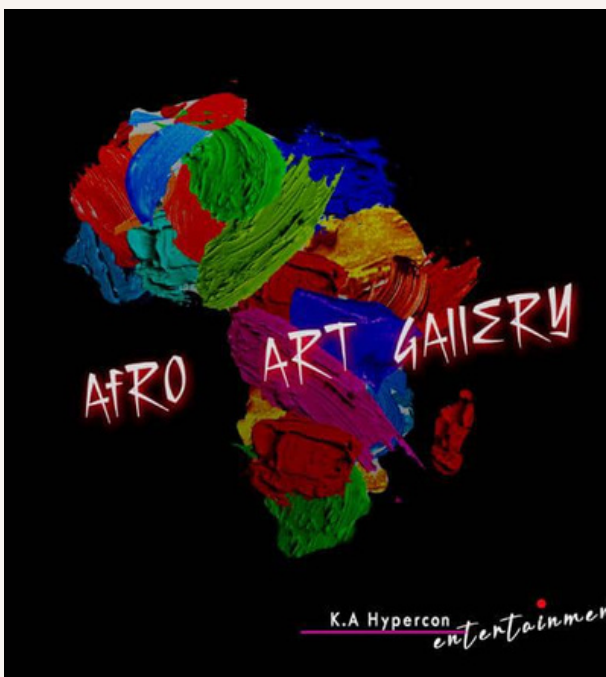


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ICONIC WRITER'S WORK FOR 2023

In the Afro Arts Gallery, we celebrated late Professor Kofi Awoonor's immense contributions to African Literature. His poetry, a bridge between past and present, united generations. Alongside, Kofi Anyidoho, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Maya Angelou's work inspired young writers, weaving a tapestry of stories that celebrate our shared human experience.

In that hallowed space, their words reminded us of literature's power to ignite change and connect hearts across time and space. The evening left us with a renewed commitment to keep the flame of African literature burning brightly, for it beats in unison with humanity's pulse.





PODCAST ON THEME (E-ANANSE LIBRARY)

As you flip through these pages, let your imagination soar on the wings of African literature. Unearth the hidden gems of oral traditions and explore the vibrant voices of contemporary writers. From folklore to fables, myths to modernity, each story is a masterpiece waiting to be discovered.



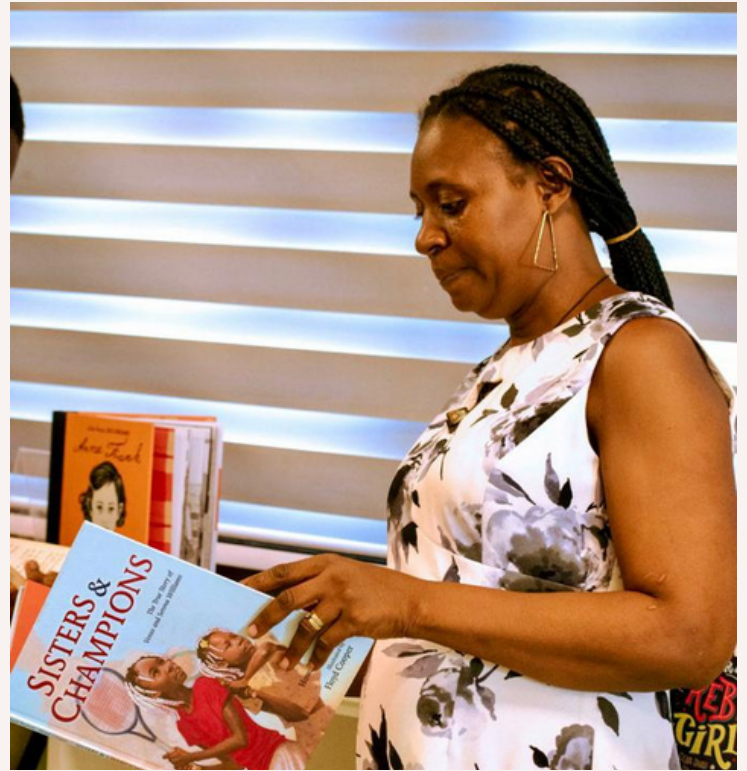
The Podcast on (e-ananse library) invited young people to read, listen and gain new insights in literature. Indeed, the essence of Africa's literary heritage was alive, page by page.





BOOK READING & DISCUSSION SELECTION OF POEM (E-ANANSE LIBRARY)

In a heartwarming convergence of young minds, students from various high schools gathered at the hallowed grounds of the E-Ananse Library, eager to immerse themselves in the enchanting world of books and revel in the discussions of literature. The library's name, evoking the clever spider character from African folklore renowned for his storytelling prowess, added an air of magic to the ambiance. As they delved into the pages, their imaginations soared, and their hearts were captivated by the richness of African stories and beyond. Guiding these eager learners were mentors who themselves had been touched by the transformative power of literature.



In those shared moments of discovery and understanding, the children found themselves on a journey of self-exploration, where the written word became a beacon illuminating their paths.

“ In ink and verse, their stories bloom,
African Literature heroes, in every
room. With words they weave, the
tales untold, Through time and
space, their brilliance bold. ”



December 2023

AFRO ARTS GALLERY SCHOOL TOUR TO 4 SCHOOLS

The Afro Arts Gallery School Tour surpassed all expectations, igniting a spark of creativity in the hearts of countless students. With captivating displays of African literature and art, we transported them on a cultural journey they'll cherish forever. The interactive sessions, led by passionate artists and writers, sparked engaging discussions and encouraged students to embrace their own artistic voices.

Visiting four schools (Springfield School, Elmhurst School, Unique Care school and Queen of Peace) we witnessed the magic of storytelling come alive in their eyes. From classic African tales to contemporary masterpieces, the students were entranced by the diverse narratives that echoed the essence of their heritage.





December 2023

AFRO ART GALLERY 2023

Queen of Peace Complex (Main Show)

This was the final lap where participants from selected schools engaged in a poetry competition to showcase their skills and knowledge of African literature. Best performing participants won various prizes for themselves and their schools. A celebrated African poet were also honoured during the climax of the program.

Some of our RSVPs include Mama Obidiaba Tsormemanya IV, Queenmother of Liat-Datem Afadjato, Madam Edem Zanu (GES Cultural Director for the La Nkwantanang District), and the invited artist Afro Ages





December 2023

AFRO ART GALLERY 2023

Queen of Peace Complex

(Main Show)

The performers from each school were presented with certificates of participation. The schools performed Prof. Kofi Awoonor's poems on stage and showcased selected cultural dances such as Boboobo, Adowa, and Kpanlogo. Prof Kofi Anyidoho, the guest of honor, delivered eulogies for a couple of artists and offered advice to the young ones. The day roll out with pictures, networking , lots of entertainment and a story of literary legends to remember.

Be on the lookout for next year's edition, as it will include storytelling and other important activities that will make it bigger and better. With that said, you are always welcome to come on board.





December 2023

AFRO ART GALLERY 2023 (Find Yourself)





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**Visit our Website ,
YouTube and other
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for more pictures,
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MEET ODESSA THORNHILL

On the 19/11/2023, Canadian musician, **Odessa Thornhill** popularly known with her brand as **CULTIVATE YOUR OWN WELLNESS**, held her first Therapeutic Performance Workshop in Toronto, Canada with music enthusiasts audience vibing in a calm and entertaining serene environment full of soul healing lyrics.

She took her time to educate the audience about the healing nature of her message blended with essential ingredients of soft sound and well crafted lyrics that create the atmosphere for relaxed mind and soul healing .

When asked by the Afro Arts Gallery team about the genre of this particular type of music -

she said, these are sentient soul healing songs. I actually believe in individuals cultivating their own wellness and see sound and light as a healing tool for humanity regardless of their age.





MEET ODESSA THORNHILL

Music is not meant for only young and upcoming adults. You realize that, most often, people cease to engage with music because it does not reflect the current reality of the current situations they often find themselves in.

My art is crafted and fabricated to address the social challenges affecting humanity, adulthood as well as the young upcoming ones who need healthy guidance to grow into adulthood. Times are changing and the messages of today must always be in synchronization to form and support the synergy of healthy living, healthy environment and healthy world .



Accountability and being responsible is not ruled out of the equation, it has its own major role to play in building society.





November 2023

Odessa Thornhill

I started off as a singer and dancer, to which I use as a craft to express myself artistically whilst growing up and now I do that through music and healing, these two major disciplines kept me moving, if not, I would have given up on my career twenty (20) years ago.

Am inviting the world to embark on this journey with me by visiting my social platforms and subscribing to my channels. My social media handles are Cultivateyourownwellness on youtube, IG and facebook, you can visit my website: www.cultivateyourown.com .



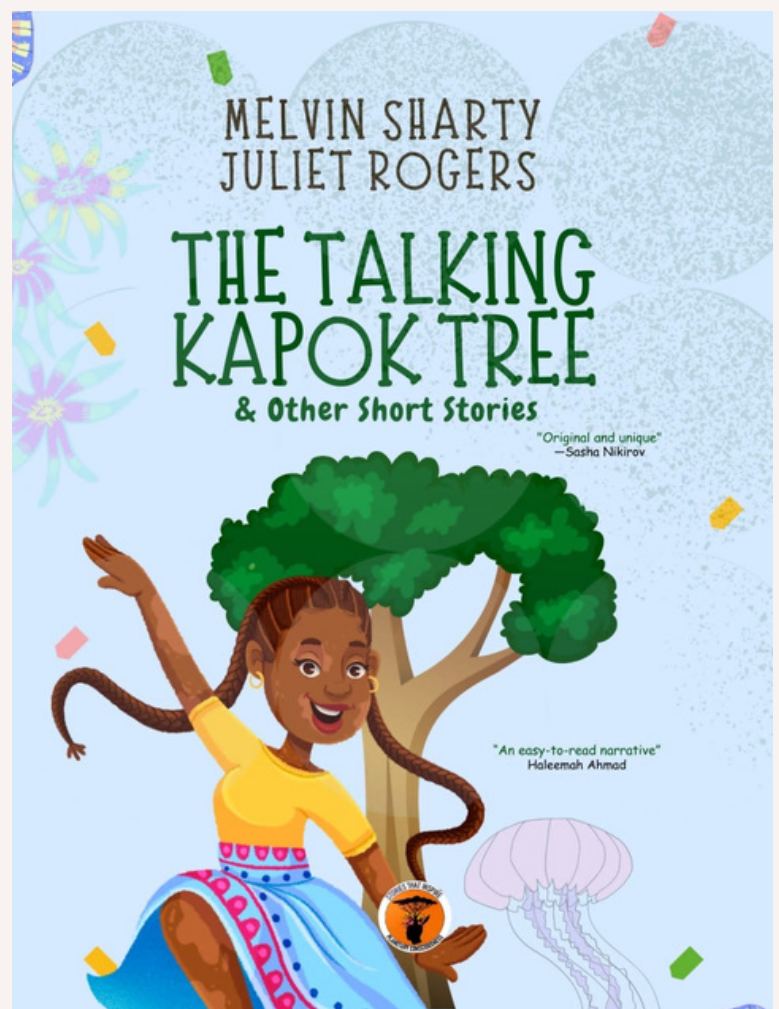
**I look
forward to
working with
Afro Arts
Gallery in
2024.**



THE TALKING KAPOK TREE AND OTHER SHORT STORIES: A MUST-READ FOR CHILDREN

"The Talking Kapok Tree and Other Short Stories" is an enchanting collection of four short stories set in the heart of Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Written by Juliet Rogers and Melvin Sharty, this book offers a captivating exploration of environmental protection, food culture, and scientific progress, all woven through the rich tapestry of African identity.

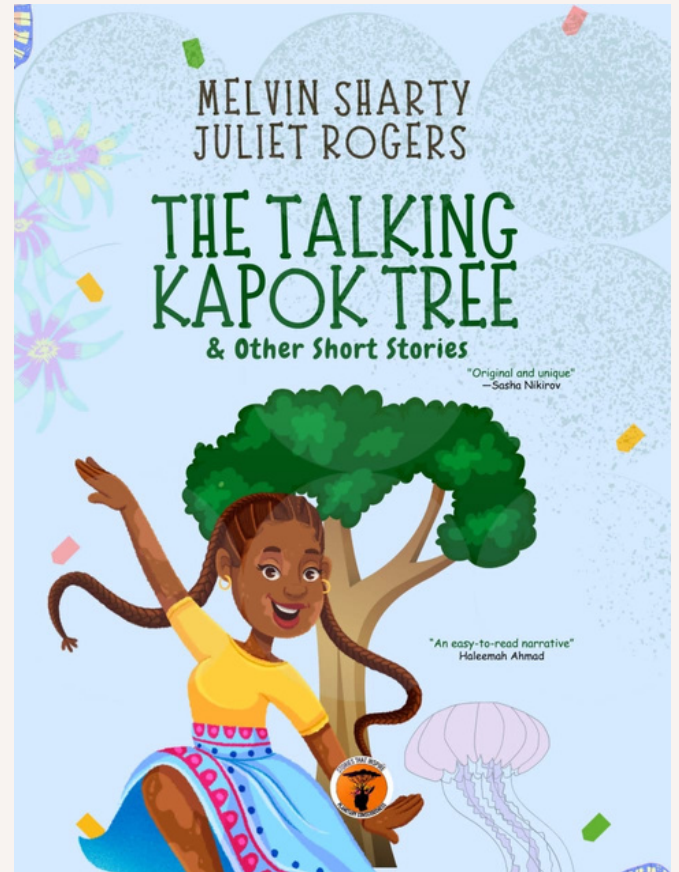




A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND SELF-EMPOWERMENT

Through the eyes of young protagonists like Kadi, Jabu, Fema, and Seditu, readers embark on a journey of discovery and self-empowerment. Kadi's encounter with the Talking Kapok Tree instills a deep appreciation for nature's wisdom and the interconnectedness of all living things.

Jabu's passion for herbal remedies highlights the value of traditional knowledge, the pursuit of dreams, and the power of education. Fema's culinary expertise showcases the cultural significance of food and the joy of sharing culinary traditions.



And Seditu's supernatural encounter with her spirit mother underscores the power of ancestral guidance and the importance of preserving cultural heritage.



A MUST-READ FOR CHILDREN

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND CULTURAL PRIDE

"The Talking Kapok Tree and Other Short Stories" not only entertains but also educates, gently instilling in young readers a sense of environmental responsibility and cultural pride. The stories subtly weave in themes of sustainability, conservation, and the importance of respecting the natural world. They also celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Sierra Leone, showcasing its traditions, beliefs, and values.

This remarkable collection of stories serves as an invaluable resource for educators and parents seeking to engage children in meaningful conversations about environmental protection, cultural identity, and the power of storytelling.

The stories' captivating narratives, relatable characters, and thought-provoking themes make them ideal for classroom discussions, bedtime stories, and family read-alouds.

A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS AND PARENTS

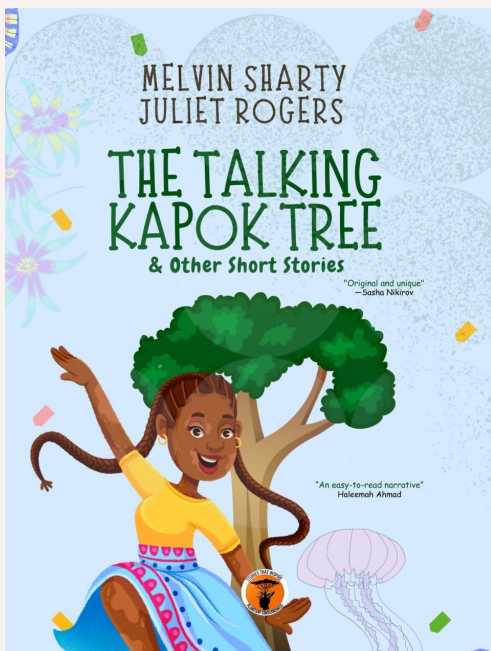


A TIMELY RELEASE FOR THE 2024 AFRO ARTS GALLERY

The book's release coincides with the **2024 Afro Arts Gallery**, providing a timely opportunity to introduce young readers to the vibrant and diverse cultures of Africa.

The stories' emphasis on environmental consciousness and cultural pride aligns perfectly with the gallery's theme of celebrating Africa's rich heritage and promoting sustainable practices.

"The Talking Kapok Tree and Other Short Stories" will be available for global purchase on Amazon starting December 15, 2023. This exciting release will make the stories accessible to a wide audience, allowing children worldwide to embark on a captivating journey into the heart of Sierra Leone and discover the wonders of its culture, environment, and people.



GLOBAL
AVAILABILITY
ON AMAZON



MELVIN SHARTY
JULIET ROGERS

THE TALKING KAPOK TREE

& Other Short Stories

"Original and unique"
—Sasha Nikirov

"An easy-to-read narrative"
Haleemah Ahmad





"A good story with many cultural references that young people will learn from." — Usifu Jalloh (Cowfoot Prince)

"...all important global themes weaved in an easy-to-read narrative that can be enjoyed by the young and old. Melvin and Juliet did a great job with this book." — Haleemah Ahmad

"It sends a good message to those who care to listen." — Sasha Nikirov



Juliet Rogers is a public health professional with expertise in research, storytelling, and environmental advocacy. She is the founder of Stories That Inspire Planetary Consciousness (SIPC), a company that harnesses the power of storytelling to raise awareness and promote action on global issues.



Melvin has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and a Master of Global Affairs degree from the University of Notre Dame in the United States. He currently works for Nonviolent Peaceforce in New York. During his free time, He enjoys writing, playing the piano, and soccer.

Author's photo 1 by Mohamed Dauda Kamara
Author's photo 2 by Mongalla N. Joseph
Cover design with Canva by Melvin Sharty

Stories:

- The Talking Kapok Tree: **Melvin**
- The Rejected Pride That Came Back: **Juliet**
- Fema's Jollof Rice: **Melvin**
- Paradise of Five Kingdoms: **Juliet**



School Participants



Queen of Peace R/C



Unique Care School



**Springfield School
Madina**



**Elmhurst Independent
Nursery & Primary
School**



UPCOMING **EVENTS**

AFRO ARTS GALLERY PHASES

PHASE 1 – WE TELL YOU TELL (WeTUT)

PHASE 2 - BOOK READING

PHASE 3 – SCHOOL TOUR

PHASE 4 – MAIN PROGRAM

WE TELL, YOU TELL LETTERS FROM SCHOOLS.

16TH TO 23RD JANUARY, 2024

1 WEEK

**AFRO ART GALLERY 2024 BOOK READING
AND SELECTION OF POEMS.**

23RD February, 2024

1 DAY

**AFRO ART GALLERY 2024 SCHOOL TOUR
BETWEEN MARCH & APRIL 2024**

1 MONTH

AFRO ART GALLERY 2024

19TH APRIL, 2024

1 DAY



November 2023

Donate TODAY!

If you love and wish to support the foundation's initiatives, programs, and outreach. Please do so use these details to do so:



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Dear Partners

Together, we have witnessed the magic of storytelling come alive, and the impact of our collective efforts has been truly inspiring. Your contributions have enriched our exhibitions, events, and programs, fostering a deeper appreciation for African voices and creativity.

As we continue to grow and evolve, we want to express our commitment to maintaining this dynamic partnership. The Afro Arts Gallery remains open to exploring new collaborations and engaging with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Once again, thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Your support has been invaluable, and we eagerly look forward to exploring new horizons together.

Warmest regards,
Afro Arts Gallery Team.



OUR PARTNERS