

An immersive, multidisciplinary research archive uncovers the history of Igbo food culture.

Artist and researcher Chiizii launches an interdisciplinary online research archive and multi-sited experiential teaching tool designed to educate and encourage conversation around pre and post-colonial Igbo diets.

The 26th of August sees the launch of *Nni Bu Ogwu* (Food is Medicine), an online archive by interdisciplinary artist, designer, researcher, and PhD student **Chiizii**. It seeks to interrogate how Igbo Nigerians have used art to exchange food information whilst simultaneously investigating how art can be used as an accessible tool for educational enrichment. The project, which will also launch a multi-sited physical installation during London's Frieze Week, is the result of a pilot three-month research residency awarded through **Guest Projects Digital**, an evolution of **Yinka Shonibare CBE's** long-standing, London-based residency programme.

Underpinned by an ethos that foregrounds democratic information exchange, *Nni Bu Ogwu's* continuously evolving, content-rich online platform, uses original artworks across various mediums including drawings, collages, audio, a soundtrack, recipes and Tik Tok inspired short-form videos to disseminate information. This radical iterative approach to an open resource, aims to encourage broader and more universal engagement that can connect with people across cultures, needs and socio-economic groups regardless of their previous understanding of the subject matter.

Nni Bu Ogwu's physical exhibition will launch during London's Frieze week across the Africa Centre, Peckham Levels, and Somerset House as part of contemporary African art fair 1-54. Modelled on familiar traditional and modern games such as Monopoly, the participatory experience will guide visitors through the buildings using a set of prompts. Successful turns in the 'game' will be rewarded with insight into related research strands accessible via QR codes. A version of the work will move on to several cultural venues in New York City later this year.

"This archive is my contribution to community and legacy. It's an opportunity to collate information that is otherwise very difficult to access and make it available not only to Igbo people who may be trying to find a deeper connection to their culture but to anyone who is interested in interrogating their food history." - Chiizii

This project has been developed in partnership with Yinka Shonibare Foundation, Guest Projects Digital, University of the Arts London, The Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation (TrAIN) and its Director, Professor Paul Goodwin. It is generously supported by the Genesis Foundation.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Contact: Magda Kaggwa | magda@yinkashonibarefoundation.com | +44 7496 212511

Guest Projects: guestprojects.com | [@guestprojects](https://www.instagram.com/guestprojects) | #guestprojectsdigital

Chiizii: chiizii.persona.co | [@chiizii](https://www.instagram.com/chiizii)

Further Background Information: guestprojects.com | guestartistspace.com | yinkashonibarefoundation.com



Untitled, Digital collage (2020)

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Chiizii

Chiizii is an interdisciplinary artist, designer and researcher born in London and raised in New York and Igbo. Working heavily with but not limited to painting, collage and textile design, her work centres the specificities of Igbo, Nigerian and African experiences and histories.

Chiizii's research aims to establish the significance of art in the communication and maintenance of Igbo food culture, as well as the use of making art as a learning method and presenting art as a teaching method. Recent shows include RA Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy (2021), Collective Processes, Gucci Circolo (2021), Blacklisted: An Indefinite Revolution, Christie's (2020).

Website: <https://chiizii.persona.co/> | Instagram: @chiizii

About Yinka Shonibare Foundation

The Yinka Shonibare Foundation is a UK registered charity, founded in 2019 by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA to provide fundraising and strategic support for Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation in Nigeria, and Guest Projects in London amongst other initiatives. The Foundation's vision is implemented through hosting and supporting residencies, education and professional development programmes in the UK and Nigeria.

Website: www.yinkashonibarefoundation.com | Instagram: @yinkashonibarefoundation

About Guest Projects Digital

Over the past decade, the internationally acclaimed British-Nigerian artist **Yinka Shonibare CBE RA** has tirelessly supported the development of early career and African diaspora artists through **Guest Projects**.

Founded by Shonibare Studio in 2006, the artist residency programme offered early-career multidisciplinary creatives and practitioners free access to a project space in which to collaborate and experiment for one month.

In response to the global Covid crisis of 2020 Guest Projects moved away from offering a physical project space, focusing instead on digitally enabling and supporting the creation of new works, trialling of ideas, creative programming and online community engagement.

Guest Projects Digital was conceived as a means of continuing to support multidisciplinary artists by providing access to digital and online resources regardless of physical and cultural barriers to collaboration and experimentation.

Website: www.guestprojects.com | Instagram: @guestprojects

