



BANALITY OF EVIL  
IN OUR DAILY LIVES

## Certificate

FINALIST OF THE COMPETITION  
ELIZABETH OMOLARA ADENUGBA  
NIGERIA



## Child Not Bomber

ELIZABETH OMOLARA ADENUGBA  
NIGERIA

### Artist's Commentary

"When I saw the call for artists for the "banality of evil in our daily lives" I felt a strong urge to explore the deliberate act of children's exploitation as "zombie bombers" due to brainwashing. Hannah Arendt's question when she reported for the New Yorker in 1961 in the trial against Adolph Eichmann, "can one do evil without being evil. I remembered an incident that happened in June 2019 in Konduga village in Northern Eastern Borno state Nigeria. Two girls and a boy carried out the bombing outside a video hall. Children are the future leaders of tomorrow, they have the right to education. A child cannot be evil when he or she has not seen the bad in the world. The mind of a child is innocent, playful, open-minded and unrestrained by the inner voice of reason or fear of failure. How can a human being exploit the child-like mind and subject these adorable children to such a banality act?"

### ARTWORK CATEGORY

Paintings / Drawings

### TECHNIQUE

Charcoal

We would like to honor the achievements of Elizabeth Omolara Adenugba during the participation of the Banality of Evil in our Daily Lives Art Prize. Their outstanding artwork and interpretation of the theme awarded them a place as a finalist amongst 575 qualifying entries from 89 countries across 4 different artistic disciplines.

The artists' work was featured in the exhibition at Alte Münze, Berlin Germany from 12 September to 17 September 2020 along with the other 39 Finalists and Winners.

The Banality of Evil in our Daily Lives Art Prize, initiated and sponsored by artist and social activist @SaySay.love, who was inspired by Hannah Arendt, wanted to encourage artists to interpret the theme and relate what they perceive the banality of evil in "their" daily lives and the thoughtlessness of our society. The awarding of winners was curated by an esteemed panel of international judges like Andrey Bartenov and Aram Haus, to name but a few

575 qualified entries from 89 countries that met the submission requirements were posted on BOE social media channels for public voting between November 2019 and March 2020.

One winner in each artistic category received prize money of US\$2000 for their artwork which made an impression on the judges and the public.

### HISTORY AND IDEA BEHIND THE COMPETITION

How can we harness thought to eradicate evil in the world? How can art help us to evolve social consciousness? Can creativity change the future?

An initiative using art as a mechanism for social change, is stimulating discussion and creative representation of a topic that affects us all.

The theme of this exhibition is inspired by the work of philosopher Hannah Arendt, who reported on the Nazi trials for the New York Times in a famous book called Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil.

In a time where we are at a global tipping point on so many critical matters, from climate change to gender violence to refugee crisis, we encouraged artists to play a role in vocalising the importance of all individuals to take a stand and make a difference.

Hannah was famous for her analysis of Nazi Germany, discovering with surprise that many of the worst perpetrators had not committed atrocities with the intention of doing evil. In fact, the opposite was true. It seems that the worst evil was committed by people who had not given their actions moral thought. They were not acting with intention but simply following instructions – and in fact obeying the law.

This highlights for us the danger of complacency, of acting without independent thought. The sad truth of the matter is that most evil is done by people who never made up their minds to be or do either evil or good.