

# GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

Jessica  
Soares

Ayobami  
Ogungbe

Neec  
Nonso

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Los Angeles



# Good Things Come in Threes

Rele Gallery, Los Angeles is delighted to present Good Things Come in Threes, a group exhibition of newly represented artists by the gallery. Featuring works from Jessica Soares, Ayobami Ogungbe and Nee Nonso, the exhibition unveils and ushers in new voices and perspectives from the contemporary Nigerian art scene. The works presented mark an exploratory journey into medium and narrative, across collective celebratory moments and intimate, private lives. Comprising work done in digital and traditional media, the exhibition showcases reimagined forms of image-making and storytelling from an emerging generation of artists.

Jessica Soares presented work continues her reflections on shared trauma, vulnerability and social standards of beauty in her series 'Chronicles of Esther'. The intimacy between mother and daughter takes center stage here, an intimacy strengthened by the shared experience of dealing with alopecia. Presenting exaggerated forms swathed in folds of fabric, Soares presents scenes of repose and melancholy and ultimately defiance. Her graceful figures convey through their intimate poses, a delicate story shared across generations.

Exploring intricate techniques of weaving and layering, Ayobami Ogungbe produces dynamic compositions that reference design aesthetics and are intimately rooted in the storied realities of his community. His practice of stripping and weaving images and material together lends complexity to his subjects, one that inextricably links body and landscape, figure and ground. From his exploration of the slave trade in 'Point of No Return', shared identity and communality in '&Co' as well as social rites and festivities in 'Kaleta', Ogungbe visually animates the unfolding histories and present realities of his hometown Badagry.

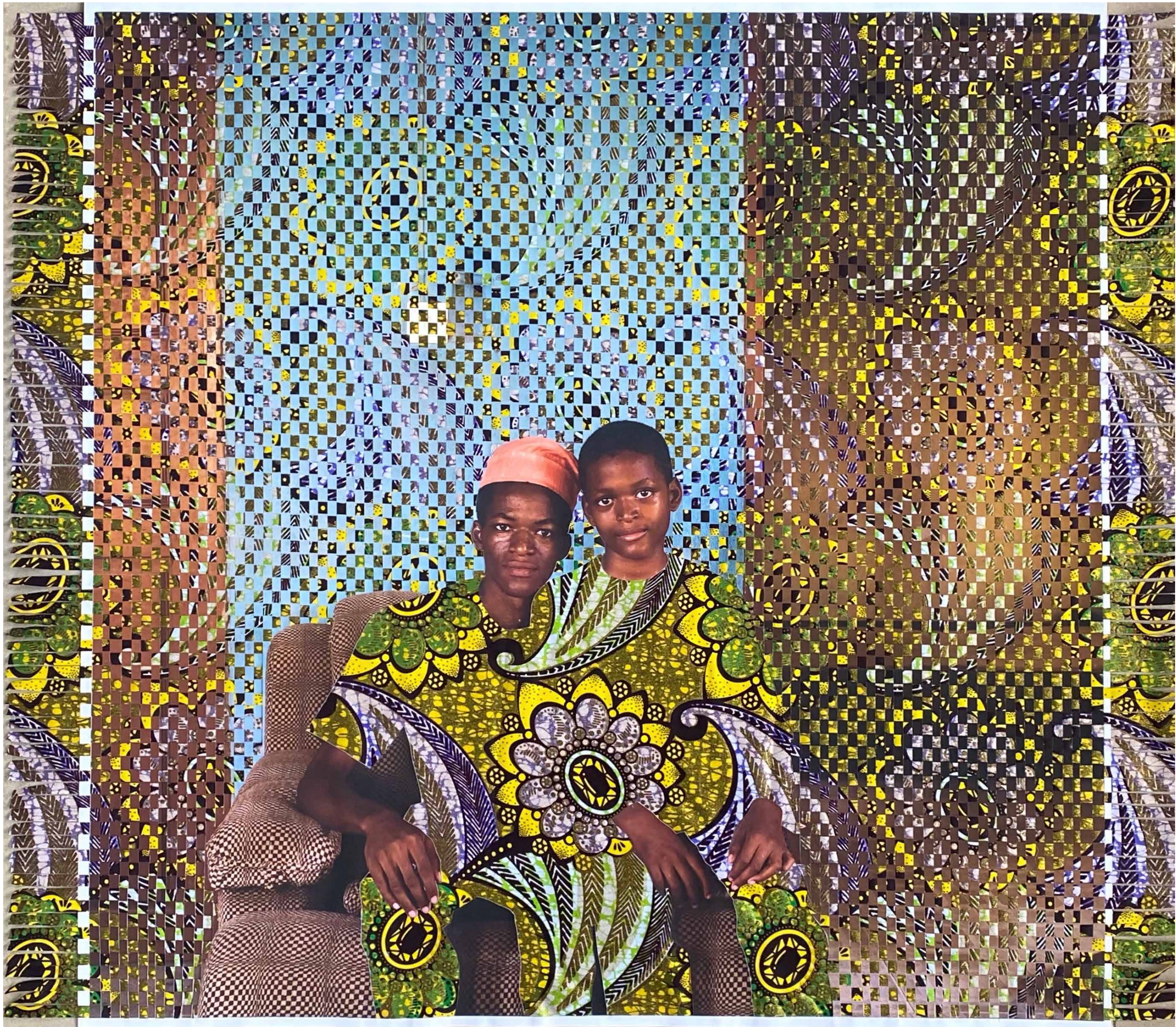
The steady build-up of composite scenes through layering and repetition also forms a vital component of Nee Nonso's practice. The works here present recurring, spectral-like bodies arranged around the main subject almost in passive observation. Nonso's series 'What Was Dead Was Never Dead' draws from an ongoing project that explores the belief in reincarnation and the posthumous existence of dead relatives. Showcasing still images and augmented reality, the project juxtaposes life with the afterlife, mining intimate family stories and histories in a bid to exhume memories, popular myths and taboos surrounding death and reincarnation.

# Ayobami Ogungbe

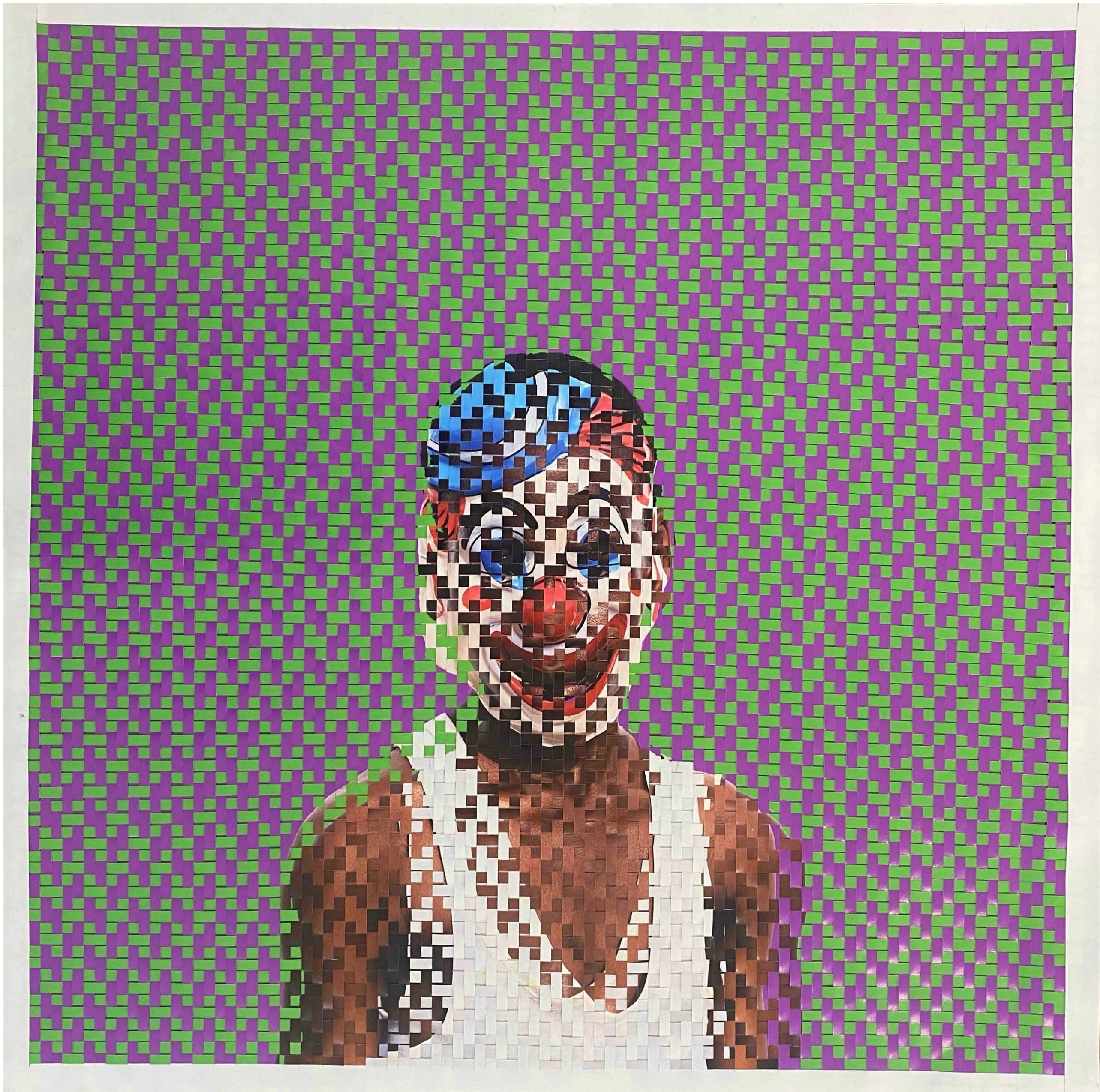
Ayobami Ogungbe (b. 1993) is a visual artist whose work unites photography, weaving and collage techniques in constructing layered compositions that reflect on cultural practices, colonialism and history. Telling contemporary stories about his environment, Ogungbe's work invites the viewer in exploring various aspects of human existence and interaction that may appear mundane to the outsider. His practice also interrogates the relationship between humans and the environment, presenting the former as repositories of experiences, bearers of distinctive identities and custodians of culture.



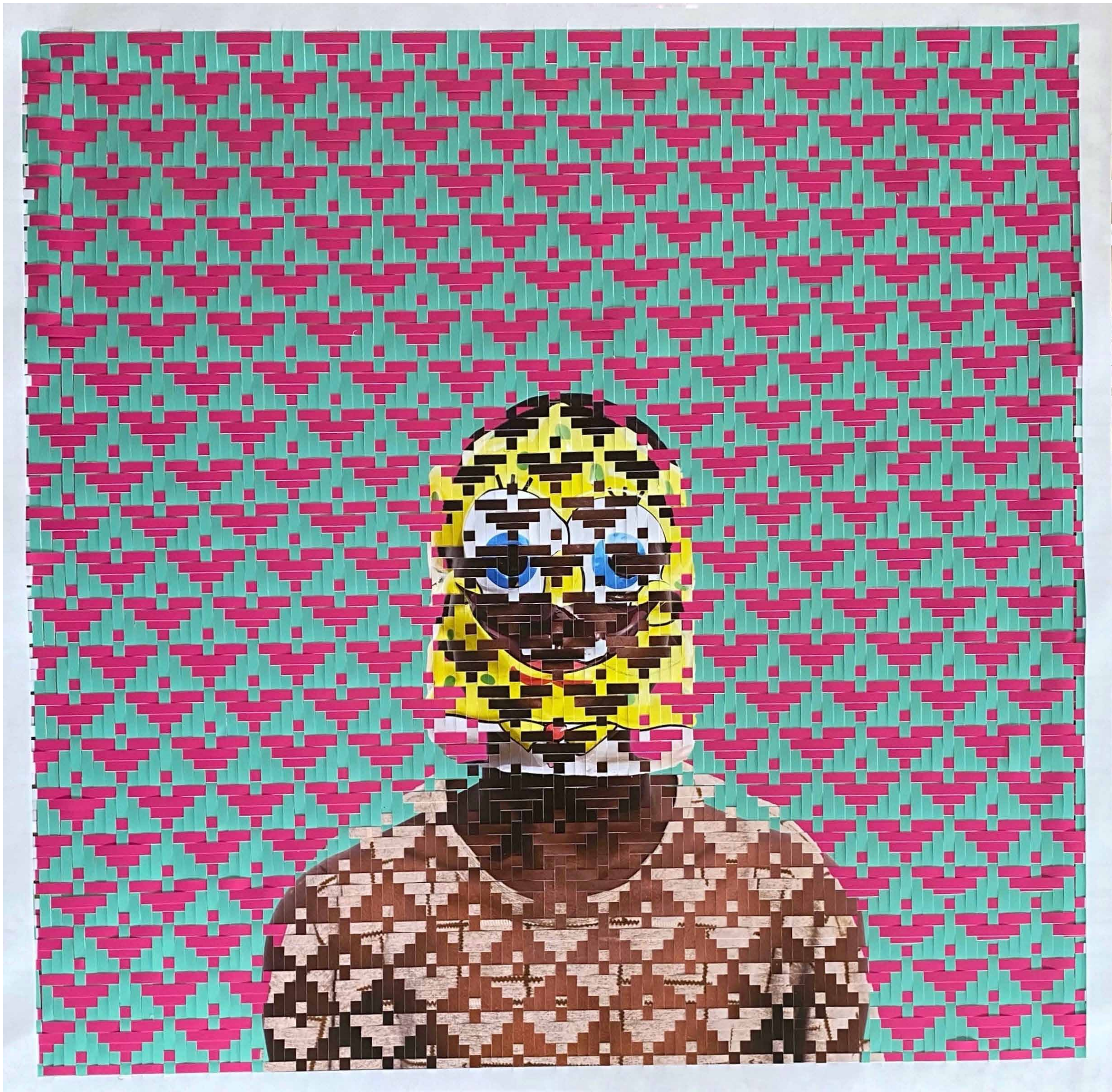
Be like that, Matte and Fabric print, 44 x 49in, 2021



Five and six, 44 x 49in, Matte prints, 2022

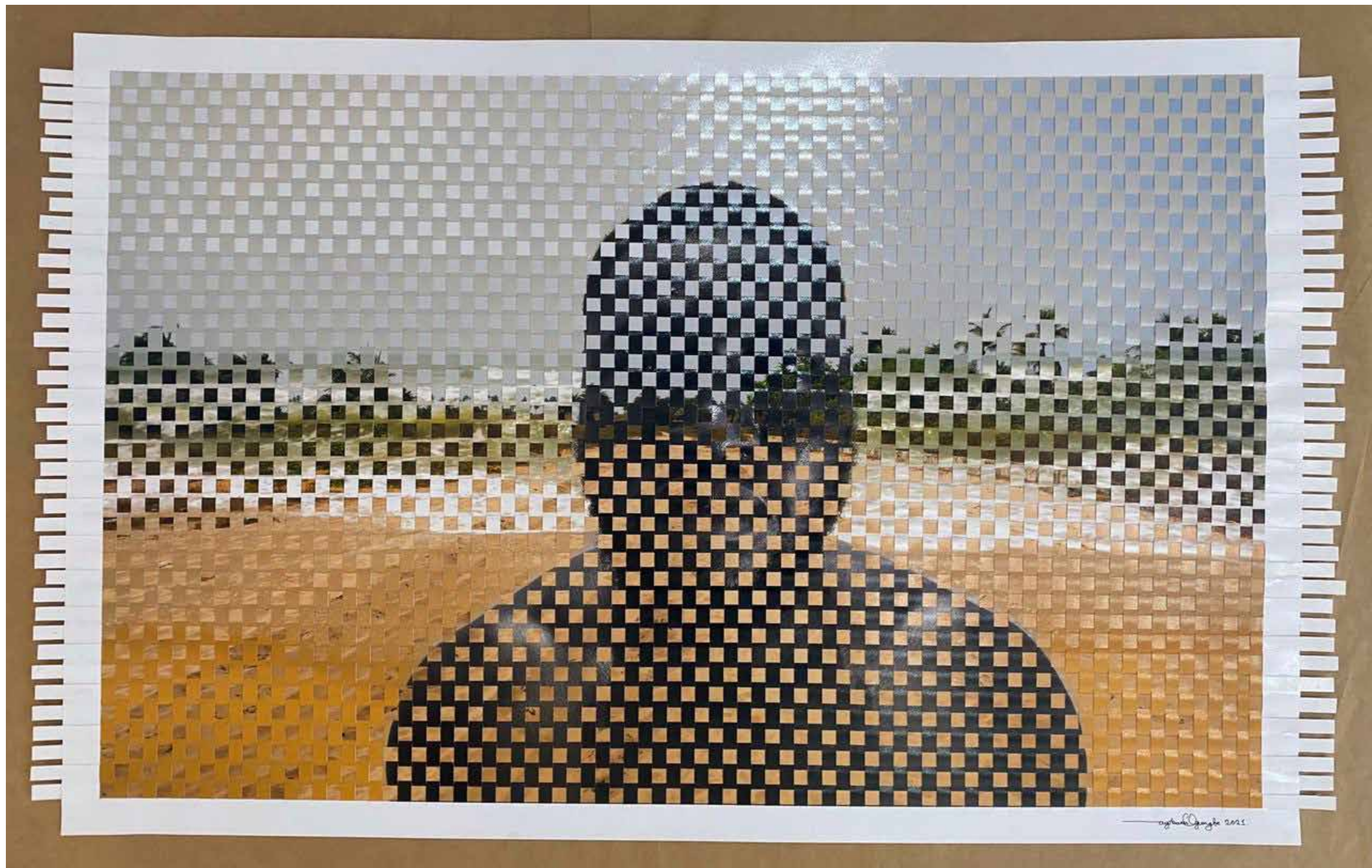


Kaleta (I), Matte prints, 40 x 40in, 2022



Kaleta (II), Matte prints, 40 x 40in, 2022





Of land and sea, Matte prints, 26 x 36in, 2021

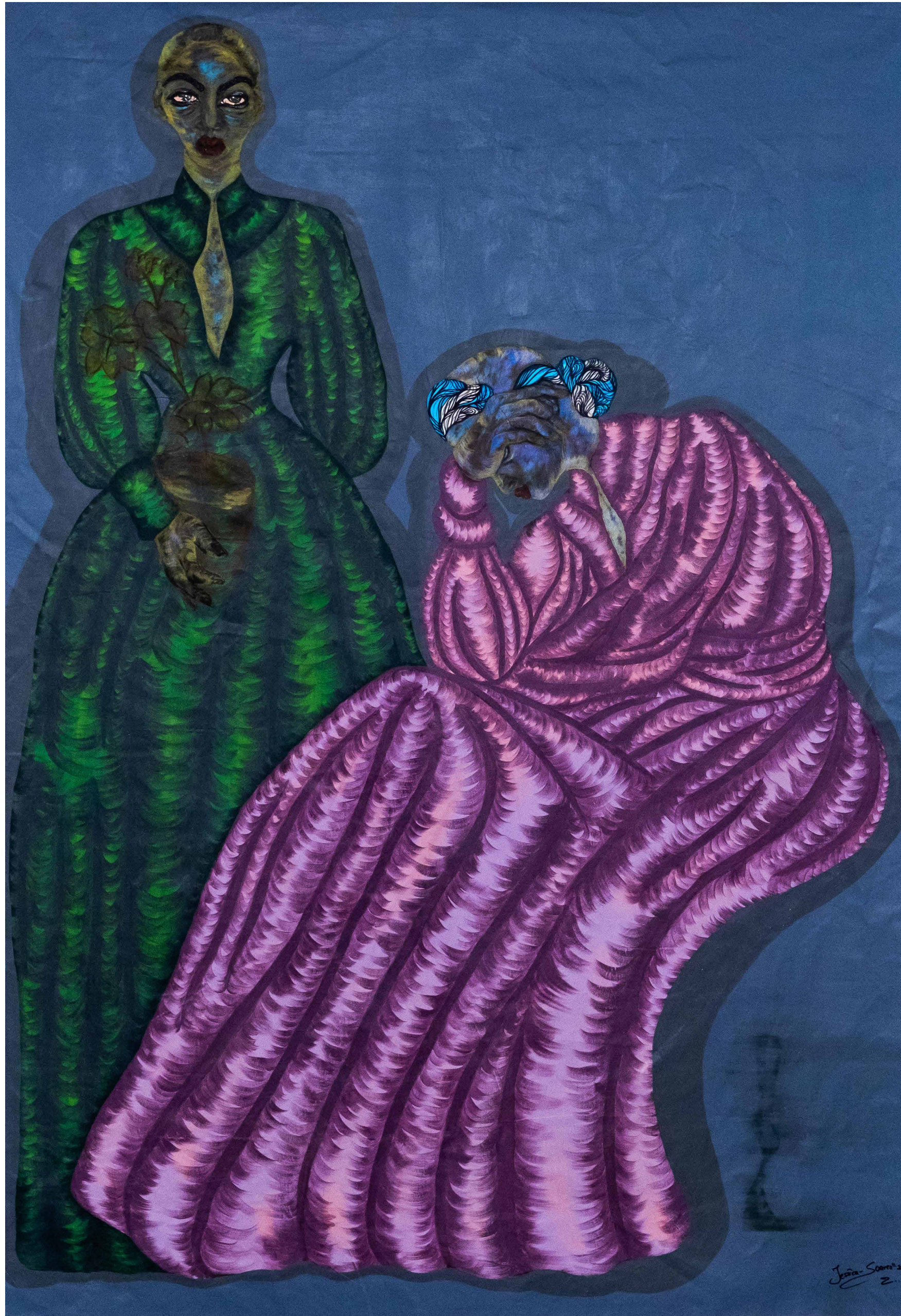


Tell it to us again (II), Matte prints, 26 x 36in, 2021

# Jessica Soares

Jessica Soares (b.1990) is a self-taught artist, with a background in Marketing from Redeemer's University. Mixing drawing and painting techniques, her works stem from personal experiences in questioning the complexities and social notions around women's hair in contemporary society. Featuring elaborately detailed figures swathed in colourful fabrics, her works also apply Adire fabric in exploring issues of legacy and familial bond.

Jessica Soares lives and works in Lagos, Nigeria.



Lady mantle, the rebirth and the revival, Acrylic and acrylic markers on canvas, 72 x 84in, 2021



Touch me not, the rebirth and the revival, Acrylic and acrylic markers on canvas, 72 x 84in, 2021



Uncertain (II), the rebirth and the revival, Acrylic and acrylic markers on canvas, 72 x 84in, 2021

# Neec Nonso

Neec Nonso (b, 1990 in Aguleri, Anambra state) is a visual artist working predominantly with photography. His work captures everyday life and its nuances in communities across Nigeria. Driven by a goal to catalyse critical conversations, Nonso aims to evoke emotions while inviting audiences to excavate memories and experiences as they encounter his work.

In October 2018, Neec Nonso founded Aguleri stories – an online-based media platform that focuses on telling the inside stories of aguleri; an Igbo community of south-eastern Nigeria, notorious for its boundary wars with neighbours. In 2019, he also emerged as the winner of Best Portfolio, LagosPhoto Festival, and was awarded a one-year residency programme with African Artists' Foundation, Lagos. He lives and works in Lagos.



Obinne, Print on archival paper, 36 x 48in, 2022





The Legacy, Print on archival paper, 36 x 48in, 2022

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