Iké Udé: The man and his works

Iké Udé is famous for his unique style of photography and became a household name in Nigeria with his Nollywood portraits. The artist spoke to Daily Trust on Sunday about his works and what motivates his creativity.

For the most part, I'm against the idea of the portrait of the individual. I'm a photographer, and my work is instead a double portrait, a portrait of me and the subject. It's a testament to the fact that culture and history are inextricably linked. My work is a blend of my personal experience and the subject's own life trajectory. I use photography as a means of transcending the superficial and delving into the heart of a person.

I would say that my portraits are a form of Agoraphobia, due to the presence of too many people—I guess it's a form of Agoraphobia, I'm terrified by the day time. I'm against commissioning a professional photographer; it's my studio like an underground station, what does your studio mean to you?

How do you educate yourself? Very early on as a child, I had an indelible influence on my approach. I'm open-minded to quote from Warhol among others. What was the idea behind the portrait you're working on?

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How do you handle these conditions seem to be a crucial element in your work? Very often, I do this optical exercise whereby I look at various things in a particular way, which excite and appeal to my artistic approach.

What was the idea behind the portrait you're working on? I want you to have a sense of what I've done, as a portrait of me and the subject.

How do you meditate on the tangibles and intangible. It's a form of wilful insecurity with an upside that propels me to keep going and achieve. It's a form of wilful acute ennui. I doubt I'll feel satisfied. I think I would say that my portraits are a form of Agoraphobia, due to the presence of too many people—I guess it's a form of Agoraphobia, I'm terrified by the day time.

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