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Aabru Art shines spotlight on African Masters

4-9 February 2013, The Gallery in Cork Street

London, 21 November 2012 Aabru Art today announces its pop-up exhibition, *Transcending Boundaries*, opening to the public on 4 February 2013 at The Gallery in Cork Street.

The first pop-up gallery of its kind in London, *Transcending Boundaries* will display exceptional contemporary art from West Africa. Specialising in African art, Aabru Art has chosen 21 leading Nigerian artists, including recognised masters, Edosa Ogiugo, Abiodun Olaku, Ben Osaghae and sculptors Bunmi Babatunde, Fidelis Odogwu and Reuben Ugbine, to take part in the show.

Aabru Art works closely with a small group of artists who create these highly sought after pieces. Ranging in style from Olaku's stunningly lifelike oil paintings and Osaghae's socio-political depictions of local Nigerian life and culture, to Babatunde's fascination for the human form in large-scale bronze and wood and Ugbine's playful manipulations and three-dimensional pieces using tribal imagery.

The work of these masters has been exhibited across Africa and the world but the artists are relatively unknown outside of Africa, with the exception of a handful of devotees. Aabru Art is a London based firm focused on sourcing, marketing and distributing West African contemporary art to the international buyer. Set up on the belief that there is a wealth of unexplored talent from West Africa that deserves a global audience.

Aabru Art works in partnership with the artists to raise awareness and understanding of West African contemporary art in the international market and educate investors and collectors of the potential investment opportunities that exist.

Aabru Art was founded by Anshu Bahanda in 2011 after a life-long passion for art and connections with West Africa meant that she was able to explore the work being created in Nigeria.

Anshu Bahanda says: "*Transcending Boundaries* will be the first chance for many people outside of

¹ Images shown: Abiodun Olaku Life Goes On (Lagos); Ben Osaghae Child Abuse-1; Fidelis Odogwu CITY SCAPE

Africa to see the work of these incredible artists. The show will be a real celebration of the immense talent working in Africa today and I hope will lead to further opportunities for the artists to show to the widest audience possible.”

Transcending Boundaries will run from 4-9 February at The Cork Street Gallery, 28 Cork Street, Mayfair, and will launch to media on the morning of 4 February, with an evening event including DJ Peter Adjaye.

For more information, a full list of works and images or interviews please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- Aabru Art was founded by Anshu Bahanda in 2011 to work in partnership with artists, help build private and corporate art collections and consult with curators and collectors from all over the world. For more information please go to: <http://www.aabru.co.uk/art>
- The pop-up exhibition is supported by Seven Energy, Grant Thornton, Sollatek and Amaya Capital