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**The Creation and Uses of Letters and Forms in Graphic
Illustration**

Bardi, Augustine, Ph.D.

Department of Fine and Applied Arts
University of Benin, Benin City
Edo State, Nigeria

E-mail: bardi.austin@yahoo.com

Tel: +2348038667721

Abstract

When art was first introduced to Africa and to Nigeria in particular by the missionaries, it never came as a surprise going by the advantages of this profession in the development of the European civilization. The acceptance of art in Nigeria most especially in schools never got the highest regard particularly among parents. This is probably because its long run advantages were not clearly spelt out to the society at inception. As a result of this however, the art profession suffered numerous setbacks as few talented people are presently found embracing its popularity after many years of neglect. The fundamentals of Art is rather cheap in formation, but remains the basics which any artist will evidently depend on to realise a successful art career. Many Studios, Workshops and other centres of apprenticeship, have introduced without delay this basic fundamentals knowing and foreseeing its future advantages in making the next successful art designer, graphic designer, ceramist, painter, sculptor, fashion designer and textiles designer, interior decorator, exterior decorator and many more. Creativity is part of creation. The art to the artists remains a function to be researched

before execution, and once successfully realised, it becomes a piece to be adorned and ever cherished.

Key Words: Creativity, Schools, Fundamentals, Development, Professionalism, Civilization

Introduction

In our institutions today where art is presently studied, does not portray government's determination to give a resounding support and recognition going by equipments and spaces provided to students of Fine Art, while bursaries and scholarships are restricted to them, their colourful counterparts in the sciences are mostly favoured always. But the awareness of art despite its short comings is beginning to attract attention mostly in our society today. This is because land developers cannot do without well designed window protectors, colourful floor tiles, stair case railings, metal gates, metal doors, hanging flower beds, and many more.

In this positive venture in which the artists is likely to rekindle and punctuate his popularity does not stop there. Our society is presently experiencing other areas of beautification in fashion and textile with sophistication in motif creation which has enriched our traditional artists. Designs have also brought smiles to inhabitants whose homes are decorated with assorted floor and wall tiles. Letters and forms are simple designs put together by the author to experiment its viability to the society, it is easy to compose and its creative methodology needs a careful approach and execution.

Development and Formation of Letters and Forms

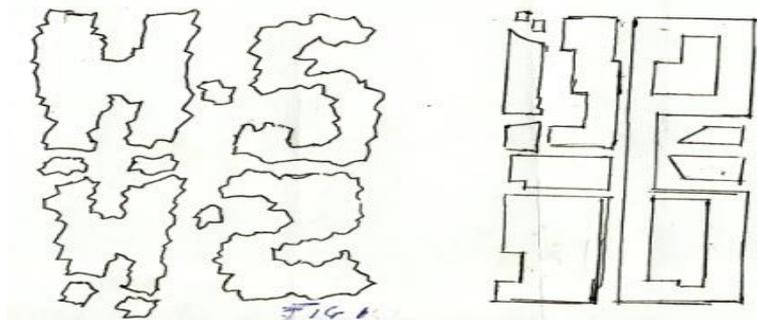


Fig. 1

In Fig. 1, the development and construction of letters and forms are all self-imaginative composition. In other words, they are put together to suit a particular illustration. The most interesting aspect of it all is to remain in conformity with these structures to have a hitch free colouration at the end of exercise.

Materials

1. Rotring pen 0.5 and 0.10
2. Embossed paper (egg shell)
3. One B2 pencil
4. Brushes (01 and 05),
5. Acrylic colours (Windsor and Newton)
6. Tracing paper and
7. French curves and a ruler.

Design Approach I

All pre-fabricated sketches as in Fig.1 are carried out on a full imperial cardboard paper. As these letters and forms are carefully studied before construction, it will be necessary therefore to choose a particular alphabet and know how another alphabet can compliment it to strike a good design combination when assembled. In some designs as contained in this article, are considered before they are used. It will be pertinent to remember that these letters and forms are sometimes structured and distorted purposely to give special effects that contributes to general attractiveness and aesthetical beauty of an art piece.

The following letters and forms are organised and constructed with the help of French curves, ruler, pencils and rottring pens.

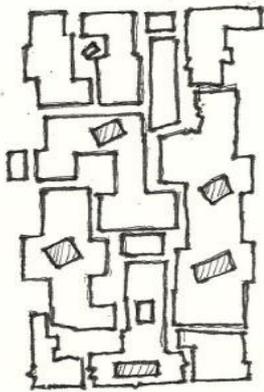


Fig. 2

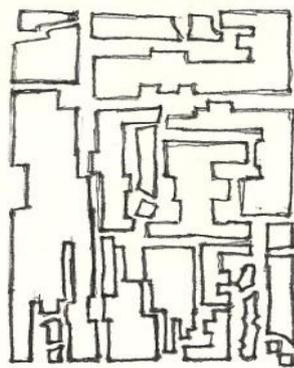


Fig. 3

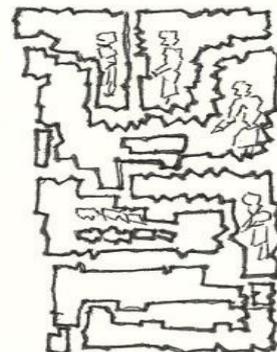


Fig. 4

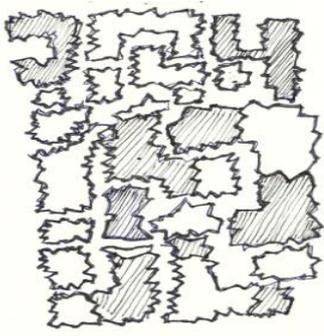


Fig. 5

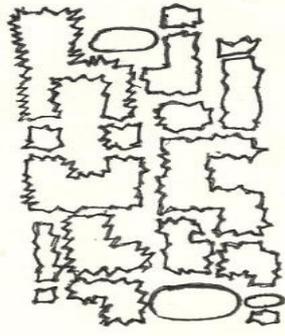


Fig. 6

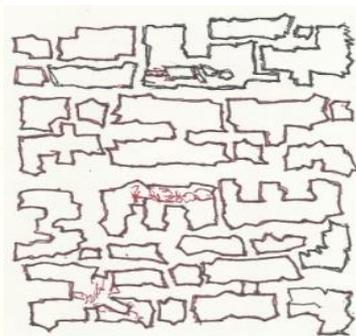


Fig. 7

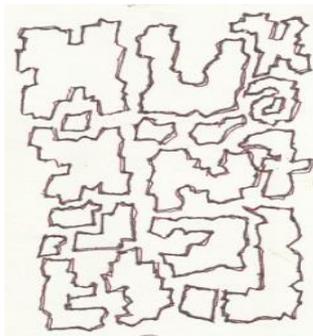


Fig. 8

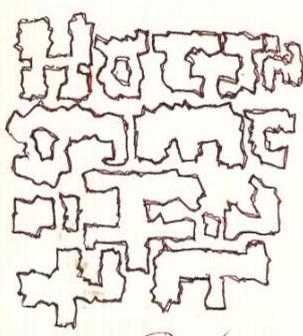


Fig. 9

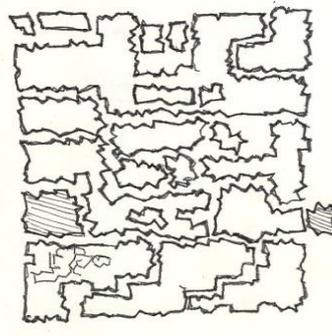


Fig. 10

Begin a build up by using much bigger letters or forms, the above examples in fig. 2 to fig. 10 are developed to a desired size before been transferred to a final support.

Design Approach II

Haven successfully put together the letters and forms figures 2 to figure 10 with roting pens, their boarders are outline to make them sharper and conspicuous. On outlining them, they are duplicated negative and positive. This can be realised with the use of tracing paper to allow both duplicated designs to lie side by side with each other. See figures 11 to 19.

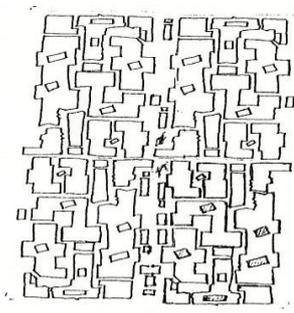


Fig. 11

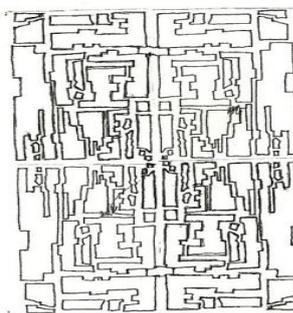


Fig. 12

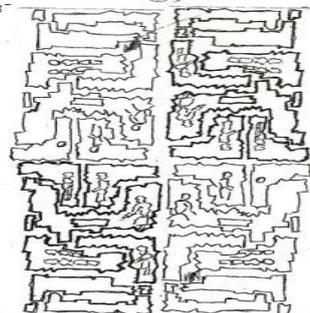


Fig. 13

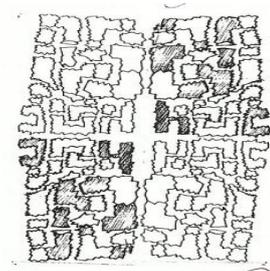


Fig. 14

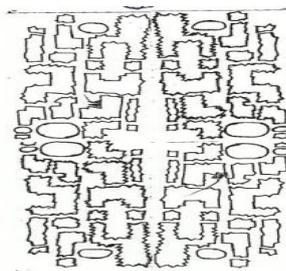


Fig. 15

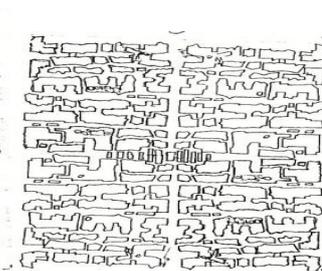


Fig. 16

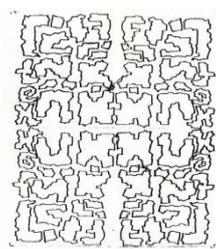


Fig. 17

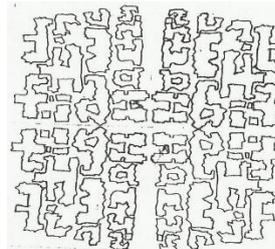


Fig. 18

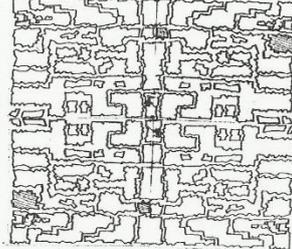


Fig. 19

Note: For purpose of clarity, refer to Figures 2 to 10 and Figures 11 to 19 as they are in conformity when put together side by side.

The rough nature of the above figures can be further restructured to eliminate unwanted bend and curves. Haven satisfied this level, colouration follows.

Techniques in Colouration

To adequately capture a smooth colouration of figures 20 to 28, two brushes of 0.1 and 0.5 are recommended. Coloration starts from the edges of the letters and forms with a 0.1 brush with acrylic colours, the 0.5 brush which is larger in size is used to run

in the middle of the design to cover all left off spaces as demonstrated in figure 22. Note that during the process of colour application, a clean quarter cardboard paper is placed under the hand that handles the brush to avoid colour spills from not destroying the work.

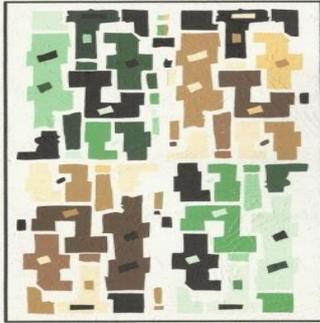


Fig. 20



Fig. 21

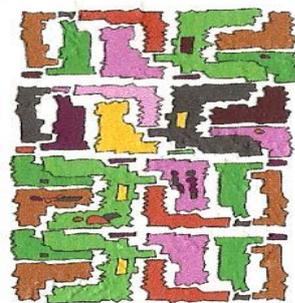


Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

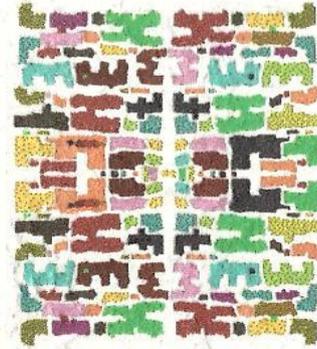


Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

The Uses of Letters and Forms

Figures 11 to 19 are selected letters and forms designed and realised as a result of methods described above. As successful as they are, they can be used as body tattoos, as tiles both floor and wall for homes, as decorative, and also as a profit making venture in the textile industries as motifs on fabrics, T-shirts, as CD covers, book covers and many more.

Conclusion

As art remains a pleasure of not only the consumption of the eyes, but also the feeling of its aesthetics values, by reactions, art remains divine and valued. The creation and uses of letters and forms is an imaginative composition and formation, in other words, it is experimentally put together to enable a suitable combination of letters and forms in achieving a better design at the end of exercise. In the course of this experiment, it is sometimes observed that the letters and forms do not coordinate well as expected. But, subsequent experimentation show that perseverance come with a good result at the end of exercise. Interestingly, as we look forward to a profitable future where art would be used to develop our economy and particularly with the use of letters and forms, it would be necessary that these simple but complicated fundamentals are taught as basics for students' artistic knowledge and development in our institutions of learning, by so doing, helping to form a solid foundation in our educational curriculum.

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