



HERITAGE ELEGANCE SERIES

**YUSUF DONGO**  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTOR

## FROM THE HERITAGE DESK

### **Art as Cultural and Environmental Revolution**

Yusuf Dongo represents a new generation of cultural custodians who understand that heritage preservation must evolve to remain relevant.

From Ìjẹ̀bù-Ode to the UK, he has built a practice that honors tradition while addressing contemporary challenges. His monumental ITA OBA sculpture for Ojude Oba Festival exemplifies how traditional celebrations can embrace innovative artistic expression.

By transforming discarded materials into cultural monuments, he proves that sustainability and heritage are natural partners. His work challenges us to see waste as potential, tradition as evolution, and art as a tool for both cultural preservation and environmental activism. Full Blooded Ìjẹ̀bù.

**Full Blooded Ìjẹ̀bù.**

## ABOUT

Yusuf Dongo is a multidisciplinary artist from Ìjẹ̀bú-Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria, whose work bridges heritage, sustainability, and identity. Known for his United Kingdom-based practice, he transforms discarded materials into monumental sculptures that celebrate tradition while reimagining it for the modern world.

His practice is rooted in the philosophy of turning trash to treasure, using scrap metal and automobile parts to create works that are at once symbolic, cultural, and environmentally conscious.

Through his art, Yusuf demonstrates that heritage preservation and environmental sustainability are not opposing forces—they are complementary paths to creating meaningful cultural impact.

## THE JOURNEY

Yusuf's artistic journey began in Ìjẹ̀bú-Ode, where the richness of Yoruba traditions and festivals deeply shaped his creative vision.

After earning his Bachelor's degree in Fine and Applied Arts from Obafemi Awolowo University, he pursued a Master's in Fine Art at De Montfort University, UK, expanding his practice internationally.

From Nigeria to the UK, he has consistently explored how art can reflect and preserve identity while engaging community and environment. His work has been exhibited across both countries, including collaborations with STEAMhouse, Eastside Projects' EDP program, RBSA, LCB, and the RBMTWN collective.

The completion of ITA OBA, a monumental upcycled sculpture for the Ojude Oba Festival, stands as a milestone—a synthesis of his cultural roots, artistic vision, and dedication to reimagining heritage through contemporary forms.



YUSUF  
DONGO

## VISION AND LEGACY

Yusuf's vision is to ensure that heritage is not only remembered but redefined for the future.

By resurrecting materials once deemed worthless, he aims to show that culture can be renewed, adapted, and celebrated in new contexts.

"I want to leave behind a legacy of works that speak to resilience, innovation, and community pride, works that encourage the next generation to see tradition as a living, evolving force rather than a relic of the past."

His mission extends beyond personal artistic achievement to inspiring communities, especially in places like Ìjẹ̀bú-Ode and Birmingham, to see heritage as a resource for creative expression, environmental consciousness, and economic opportunity.

## BUSINESS & CULTURAL IMPACT

Through his practice, Yusuf brings together cultural preservation and environmental consciousness.

By creating sculptures from discarded materials, he addresses pressing issues of waste and sustainability while celebrating Yoruba identity and history.

His work fosters pride among his people, encourages entry points for diasporic communities to reconnect with heritage, and contributes to the cultural economy of places like Ìjẹ̀bú-Ode. In Birmingham, his ongoing projects engage Black British identity and join new spaces for dialogue, commemoration, and belonging.

His art becomes a bridge between communities, proving that cultural expression can drive both environmental responsibility and economic innovation



**"Heritage is not a static memory of the past; it is a living force that adapts, inspires, and sustains us across generations."**

**- Yusuf Dongo**

@fullbloodedijebu

## THE CALL

"I encourage everyone—artists, communities, and future generations—to see heritage as a resource to be cherished and renewed.

Let us not simply inherit tradition but reinterpret it, celebrate it, and carry it forward in ways that resonate with today's world. By honouring our roots, we create a stronger cultural foundation for the future.

Heritage is not a relic—it is a living, breathing force that adapts, inspires, and sustains us across generations."



# HERITAGE ELEGANCE SERIES

BY

TIMI ADEGUNWA

@fullbloodedijebu

This profile is part of our ongoing series celebrating ìjẹ̀bú heritage worldwide. To feature your profile or nominate someone for our Heritage Elegance Series, contact us at [fbi@fullbloodedijebu.com](mailto:fbi@fullbloodedijebu.com)