

## **Matchstick Crafts**

### **TRAILER**

*Gbenga Adeniyi is a self-taught artisan who makes crafts out of matchsticks. He hasn't broken into Nigeria's vibrant arts scene yet, so he recently organized an exhibition and is learning more about art to try and turn his hobby into a career.*

RUNTIME: 06:37

COUNTRY: NIGERIA

FILMING LOCATION: IBADAN

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

SOURCE: A24 MEDIA/REUTERS

### **SCRIPT**

### **COMMENTARY**

Since he started making handicrafts, Gbenga Adeniyi has used thousands maybe even hundreds of thousands of matchsticks.

He started making things out of matches about a year ago while studying business in the UK. Gbenga's now back in his home city of Ibadan, Nigeria and showed us the painstaking process he goes through that lasts anywhere from a few days to several months.

### **ITV, GBENGA ADENIYI, Artist (English)**

*"I have sold one or two and that was in the UK and that was for 100 quid and that was something like a dove, I have got like a replica of it but not the exact one and another one I gave it out like an offer for a friend, who was very close to me so it was just like a cheap bargain. These ideas it's just me sitting like this sometimes while reading a book or doing one or two things and I can just have the desire to create something. It's not as if I see like an object and I say ok I want to do it."*

## **COMMENTARY**

Though Gbenga is the only known matchstick crafts maker in Nigeria many people haven't heard about him so he's organized an exhibition of his work.

### **ITV, GBENGA ADENIYI, Artist (English)**

*"Today's exhibition is basically to create awareness for art lovers and school children. It's basically to make them understand the importance of matchsticks and what they can be used for because we come across them on a daily basis neglecting the fact that they can be used for another purpose except from lighting."*

## **COMMENTARY**

Soon people get a chance to assess the work Gbenga is most proud of like this bridge made out of about 100,000 sticks inspired by various bridges he saw in Europe.

### **ITV, GBENGA ADENIYI, Artist (English)**

*"This bridge took me more than six months – I started last year and I have been on it. Basically it took more than 6 months because I have been doing side jobs. I intend to sell it one, but let's say to the right buyer because it's a good work. It takes a lot to do."*

### **ITV, ADENIYI ADEJUMO (English)**

*"I think he has done a very wonderful work, the art works are really great. They are things I have never seen in my life so they are very classic and nice."*

### **ITV, AMADENI LAYETA (English)**

*"He is the only one I have seen doing this kind of work and he is very perfect and he should keep up with his work cause he is trying to show other people, encourage others, he should keep it up."*

**ITV, ODUNAYOMI OLORUNSOGO (English)**

*“I think it’s a lesson to everybody who sees matchsticks as something ordinary we use it to light your gas or your stove and then you discard it and then someone picks it and does something awesome with it, something beautiful I think it only instructs us that nothing is useless in this world.”*

**ITV, GBENGA ADENIYI (English)**

*“Do I think it’s the most successful one as a first time I would say yes? If I do another one then from today I believe I have made some mistakes which I am a good learner and fast learner too. I believe I can pick up from this one and I can turn it around to make a better exhibition next time.”*

**COMMENTARY**

Keen on developing his craft, Gbenga wanted to learn more about the local art scene so he found himself a mentor – artist and art collector Emmanuel Silva.

Whenever he visits, the two can spend hours trawling through Emmanuel’s extensive collection.

**ITV, EMMANUEL SILVA, Artist & Art Collector (English)**

*“This shows those houses on stilts in Lagos and not only in Lagos but different river areas across Nigeria. You see how they build the houses there, their entire livelihood is actually on top of water they don’t use cars they use boats and they are basically fishermen; they get their livelihood from fishing. So once again this is another document, all of them oil on canvas. This is slightly different because its oil on canvas. This is more of painting abstract – an abstract painting. Now here it is not as straight forward like the other three we saw, it’s more of something that you need to conceptualize and find out what he is trying to say. Now what can you see here?”*

**ITV, GBENGA ADENIYI (English)**

*“I probably see this artificial mask.”*

**ITV, EMMANUEL SILVA, Artist & Art Collector (English)**

*“Yes very good you can see a nose, an eye. Now look at this statue, this is a woman standing holding two balls of light. I got the concept from a scripture in proverbs chapter eight in the bible, talks of a woman of wisdom that stands in the streets and cries to whosoever will to receive wisdom. It’s a symbol of wisdom as well we call it ‘Ekutem’ the artist is from Calabar so I asked him to call it from his own language, so how do you call wisdom he said ‘Ekutem’, so this is wisdom.”*

**ITV, EMMANUEL SILVA, Artist & Art Collector (English)**

*“He is quite interesting because this is not someone who has had regular institutional training in art. He just came upon the material and his medium and he has worked on himself in a very short time and has such a good grip of that medium and his finishing is becoming better everyday which is an indicator that he is particular about details. So such a person and then working with something that is completely – it’s new it is literally new, I see great potential.”*

**COMMENTARY**

Gbenga and his mentor continue their discussion on Bowers tower which was constructed by British colonialists and is a point from which most of Ibadan is visible.

Perhaps the inspiration for his next matchstick creation will come from here and even if it doesn’t Gbenga is unlikely to run out of ideas living in a city like this.

**SHOTLIST**

(AJ) IBADAN, NIGERIA (RECENT) (REUTERS – ACCESS ALL)

1. VARIOUS OF GBENGA STICKING MATCHES TOGETHER

2. VARIOUS OF GBENGAS MATCHSTICK OBJECTS

3. VARIOUS OF GBENGA MAKING A MATCHSTICK KEYHOLDER

4. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST GBENGA ADENIYI SAYING:

“I have sold one or two and that was in the UK and that was for 100 quid and that was something like a dove, I have got like a replica of it but not the exact one and another one I gave it out like an offer for a friend, who was very close to me so it was just like a cheap bargain. These ideas it’s just me sitting like this sometimes while reading a book or doing one or two things and I can just have the desire to create something. It’s not as if I see like an object and I say ok I want to do it.”

5. VARIOUS OF MATCHSTICK CRAFTS

6. VARIOUS OF GBENGA AND FRIEND LOADING CAR WITH CRAFTS

7. VARIOUS OF GBENGA DRIVING TO EXHIBITION

8. VARIOUS OF PEOPLE LOOKING AT CRAFTS

9. VARIOUS OF PEOPLE LOOKING AT MATCHSTICK BRIDGE

10. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST GBENGA ADENIYI SAYING:

“This bridge basically took me more than six months – I started last year and I have been on it. Basically it took more than 6 months because I have been doing side works. I intend to sell it one, but let’s say to the right buyer because it’s a good work. It takes a lot to do.”

11. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ADENIYI ADEJUMO SAYING:

“I think he has done a very wonderful work, the art works are really great. They are things I have never seen in my life so they are very classic and nice.”

12. (SOUNDBITE) (English) AMADENI LAYETA SAYING:

“To me he is the only one I have seen doing this kind of work and he is very perfect and he should keep up with his work cause he is trying to show other people, encourage others, he should keep it up.”

13. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ODUNAYOMI OLORUNSOGO SAYING:

“I think it’s a lesson to everybody that everybody sees matchsticks as something ordinary we use it to light your gas or your stove and then you discard it and then someone picks it and does something awesome with it, something beautiful I think it only instructs us that nothing is useless in this world.”

14. VARIOUS OF PEOPLE LOOKING AT CRAFTS

15. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST GBENGA ADENIYI SAYING:

“Do I think it’s the most successful one as a first time I would say yes? If I do another one then from today I believe I have made some mistakes which I am a good learner and fast learner too. I believe I can pick up from this one and I can turn it around to make a better exhibition next time.”

16. VARIOUS OF GBENGA AND MENTOR LOOKING AT ART PIECES IN HOUSE

17. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST AND ART COLLECTOR, EMMANUEL SILVA SAYING:

“This shows those houses on stilts in Lagos and not only in Lagos but different river areas across Nigeria. You see how they build the houses there, their entire livelihood is actually on top of water they don’t use cars they use boats and they are basically fishermen, they get their livelihood from fishing. So once again this is another document, all of them oil on canvas. This is more of painting abstract – an abstract painting. Now here it is not as straight forward like the other three we saw, it’s more of something that you need to conceptualize and find out what he is trying to say. Now what can you see here?”

18. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST GBENGA ADENIYI SAYING:

“I probably see this artificial mask.”

19. VARIOUS OF GBENGA AND MENTOR WALKING OUT OF HOUSE AND LOOKING AT SCULPTURE

20. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST AND ART COLLECTOR, EMMANUEL SILVA SAYING:

“Yes very good you can see a nose, an eye..Now look at this statue, this is a woman standing holding two balls of light. I got the concept from a scripture in proverbs chapter eight in the bible, talks of a woman of wisdom that stands in the streets and cries to whosoever will to receive wisdom. It’s a symbol of wisdom as well we call it ‘Ekutem’ the artist is from Calabar so I asked him to call it from his own language, so how do you call wisdom he said ‘Ekutem’, so this is wisdom.”

21. GBENGA AND MENTOR WALKING INTO SHED

22. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ARTIST AND ART COLLECTOR EMMANUEL SILVA SAYING:

“He is quite interesting because this is not someone who has had regular institutional training in art. He just came upon the material and his medium and he has worked on himself in a very short time and has such a good grip of that medium and he is becoming better everyday which is an indicator that he is particular about details. So such a person and then working with something that is completely – it’s new it is literally new, I see great potential.”

23. GBENGA AND MENTOR ON TOP OF BOWERS TOWER

24. GBENGA AND MENTOR POINTING OUT DIFFERENT SPOTS IN THE CITY

25. VARIOUS OF THE CITY

26. VARIOUS OF GBENGA AND MENTOR LOOKING AT THE CITY