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**DEPARTMENT OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS/MUSIC
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**A REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE FAA322 STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL
WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME**

(SIWES)

AT

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS OF ART

BY

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the almighty God who in his infinite mercy saw me through this period of Industrial Training.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chukwuemeka Ndukauba. It would not have been possible for me to embark on this industrial training experience in Lagos state, without the help of my parents. They gave me their personal, moral and financial support and great contributions at all times. My elder brother, Ndukauba precious, for giving me his unequivocal support throughout as always, for wish my mere expression of thanks likewise does not suffice.

I would like to thank my very kind hearted friends around me, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here. My stay in Lagos would not have been possible without the help, support, and great patience of my friend, Mr Owoamanam Kevin, who accommodated me in his house and fed me during the six months training exercise. Also to my friend, Mr. Uzodinma Edward, for his emotional and financial support at all times.

I would hereby like to express my profound sense of gratitude to the chairman, Mr. Bunmi Babatunde for giving me the opportunity to carry out my industrial training at Universal studios of art under their experienced and highly talented artists. Equally thankful I am to Mr. Abiodun Olaku,(head of painting unit) my industrial supervisor and Mr. josh Nmesirionye, who has the substance of a genius, they continually and diligently conveyed a spirit of adventure in regards to painting and drawing and an excitement in regard to learning.

I convey my sincere gratitude to my academic supervisor, Mr. Ifeanyi Egwu, lecturer of department of FAA, Federal university, Ndufu-alike, Ikwo, Ebonyi state. Without his kind direction and proper guidance, this training would have been a little success.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of my training experience. God bless you all!

Thanks

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The industrial training experience allowed me to have a better knowledge on how to go about my painting and drawing skills. It gave me a wider scope on how to use my colors to create a form, balance and harmony in my paintings. It enhanced my drawing ability through consistent sketches of life figure and portraiture drawings. The universal studios of arts was established in 1981, by a group of committed visual artists who felt then that they needed a place to express their artistic calling. Was assigned under the painting unit, according to my area of specialization in school. My industrial supervisor was Mr Abiodun Olaku (head of painting unit), and also Mr. Josh Nmesirionye, and other artists, who conveyed the basic skills in drawing and painting. My training proceeded from May 22nd – 18th October, 2017. My training included, daily life figure fast sketches, one hour figure drawing, also we participated in studio sanitations every Thursday. On weekends, I practiced on self-improvement through drawings and paintings using different painting mediums, watercolour based, pastel painting and oil colours on canvas. I faced some challenges trying to keep up with the transportation fare, from my house to the studio, every day. Other students faced such challenges too. I also faced the frustrating challenge of buying my materials because I had no means of earning to support myself financially, also, materials were quite expensive in the art market. In my view, I would suggest that an organization should be set up to diligently fund and accommodate fine art students an industrial training in their designated art industry. More so, an art market should be set up only for art students, where art materials can be purchased at a cheaper price for the students. I would also include the idea of an art awarding academy that would promote the works of art students through exhibitions, competitions and auctions to help foster their knowledge in the art world, even after graduation.

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INTRODUCTION

1.0 Brief history & purpose of SIWES

Students Industrial work experience refers to a program which aims to provide supervised practical training for students within specified timeframe. This training can be carried out either in government organizations or in the private sector. SIWES was established in Nigeria by ITF in 1973 to solve the problem of lack of adequate practical skills preparatory for employment in industries by Nigerian graduates of tertiary institutions. Its objectives are to expose students to industry based skills necessary for a smooth transition from the classroom to the world of work, to afford students of tertiary institutions the opportunity of being familiarized and exposed to the needed experience in handling equipment and materials . A great deal of knowledge and tremendous skills related to fine and applied arts (painting), was imbibed on me during the six months of rigorous training I went through at Universal studios of arts in Lagos state. An enormous amount of physical and intellectual strength is required to survive on in the studio at the art industry. The painting processes involved a great deal of consistent drawing which is the foundation of every art work regardless of the area of specialization. The basic materials that can give you a desirable and appreciative work are the oil colours or acrylic, sable brushes (round brushes and flat brushes), palette knives, a colour palette, a dip washer, an easel stand, a primer (which consist of mixing top bond with emotion paint), a canvas of good quality, a wooden stretcher and turpentine (for washing your dirty brushes).

We all know that the state of art has for many years been a source of concern due to neglect. This neglect runs across primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Art education should be empowered to help in relocating art to the centre, away from the periphery, so that it can be a major instrument in our politics of development for the benefit of the fine art industry and our society.

1.1 Benefits of SIWES programme

Benefits accruing to students who participate conscientiously in industrial training are the skills and competencies they acquire. These relevant skills remain a part of the recipients of industrial training as a lifelong asset which cannot be taken away from them. This is because the

knowledge and skills acquired through training are internalized and become relevant when required to perform jobs or functions (Mafe, 2009).

- Opportunity for students to blend theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom with practical hands-on application of knowledge required to perform work in industry.
- Exposure of students to the environment in which they will eventually work, thereby enabling them to see how their future professions are organized in practice.
- Minimization of the bewilderment experienced by students, particularly those from a non-technological background, pursuing courses in science, engineering and technology with regard to different equipment, processes, tools etc. available in industry.
- Enabling SET students appreciate work methods and gain experience in handling equipment and machinery which may not be available in their institutions.
- Preparing students to contribute to the productivity of their employers and national development immediately after graduation.
- Provision of an enabling environment where students can develop and enhance personal attributes such as critical thinking, creativity, initiative, resourcefulness, leadership, time management, presentation skills and interpersonal skills, amongst others.
- Preparing students for employment and making the transition from school to the world of work easier after graduation.
- Enhancing students' contacts with potential employers while on training.
- Enabling students bridge the gap between the knowledge acquired in institutions and the relevant production skills (RPSs) required in work organizations.
- Making SET students appreciate the role of their professions as the creators of change and wealth and indispensable contributors to growing the economy and national development.
- Enabling students appreciate the connection between their courses of study and other related disciplines in the production of goods and services.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Brief History of Universal Studios of Art

For over thirty years now, the Universal Studios of Arts (USA) has been in the forefront of training artists in the visual arts to help develop the art industry. It is known as one of the oldest studio groups in Nigerian visual arts profession. It is located inside the national art theatre, Iganmu, Lagos mainland, Lagos state, Nigeria.

The universal studios of arts was established in 1981, by a group of committed visual artists who felt then that they need a place to express their artistic calling. It became imperative due to the fact that they were no jobs either in the private or public sectors. And these group of artists were bubbling with ideas, energy and zeal to make money and fulfill their professional training in schools.

The founding fathers of universal studios of art includes late Baba Bisi Fakeye(1942- 2017), who we lost on the 8th of October, 2017 after a brief illness, I was privileged to meet him once, Mr Bunmi Babatunde (the chairman), and Mr Abiodun Olaku (head of painting department). With other great artist who later became a member such as, Mr Fidelis Eze Odogwu, Mr Ejoh Wallace, Mr Josh Nmesirironye.

2.1 Description Work place & Service

Universal studios of arts is located inside the national art theatre, Iganmu, Lagos mainland, Lagos state, Nigeria. The concept and horizon of the universal studios of arts has been expanded to accommodate other ideals and needs. today, apart from the numerous art studios owned by artists who have been producing array of works there, it has come to be a home to many other young artists – students artists in short, who are being given the opportunity to train and be trained.

Almost on daily basis, students from different institutions are sent to the studios for their industrial training. There are others who go there also to fine-tune their skills. Every day, these categories of artists are given one assignment or the other to do. Universal studios of art majors more on painting, wood carving sculpture, metal sculpture, moulding and casting sculpture. According to the chairman of universal studios of arts, Bunmi Babatunde, “we have been

training students from different higher institutions. They come for one year, some six months, four months... it is a mentoring process, a mentoring programme by us for over 31 years now. And we believe that we should train young artists to be able to grasp the profession better. It is also to expand and prosper the visual art industry” (Bunmi, Babatunde, 2017)

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Industrial Training Experience

I commenced work at the Universal studios of art, Iganmu, Lagos state on the 22nd of May, 2017. When I resumed work, I met other students who have already spent weeks, months in the studio. We had a timetable containing exercises to do each day. On Mondays, we had fast figure sketches. Each student was expected to pose for five minutes, by 12p.m, we had our ten minutes break. Then after break, we had two hours life detailed drawing with two models.

On Tuesday, we also had five minutes fast figure sketches in the morning, by 1p.m, we the students face each other and draw our portraits. (Life portraiture)

On Wednesday, in the morning, we were expected to draw the object being composed by our art instructor (Mr Salako), it is either landscape or still-life drawing. By 1p.m, we were expected to start Mr Abiodun Olaku's assignment. He took us on painting composition. While we paint, our art instructors supervise us, to correct us and put us through it.

On Thursdays, in the morning, we engage in the studios sanitation, we are being shared to different parts of the studio to clean up. By 1p.m, a model is selected to pose for one hour, for life painting. The model poses three times in three weeks, before bringing a new model. While painting, our instructors come around to correct us and teach us on how to go about it when we are stuck with our work.

On Fridays, we were allowed to continue to work on our assignments with our art instructor aiding us and putting us through.

During the training, Mr Abiodun Olaku inspected our materials from time to time, we were expected to have five different sizes of brushes, a complete colour medium (oil colour, or acrylic), a set of pastel colors, a set of charcoal sticks, original pencils, a standard sketch pad (with nothing less than 100 pages), a dip washer, a primer, a palette knife, a large colour palette. Coupled with an easel stand and stretchers with canvass. On my second week, we were asked to pay one thousand naira for the donkey chairs.

Art exhibitions in lagos has the same value as weddings, its flamboyancy and beauty cannot be overemphasized. I was opportune to witness some of the exhibitions which hardly come by here

in the south-east. We need to produce artists that will not only have degrees in art, but also participate fully in art. While in Lagos, I saw paintings that were sold over a million naira in an exhibition. We need to promote the art industry through exhibitions, competitions amongst institutions of learning and art auctions. With this, the value of art would be highly recognized. With the help of my six months training, I was made to understand the need to work hard towards achieving the best skills that can take the art world to the next level, through consistent drawings and painting, trying out every medium, in other to recognize my style, which the world would know me for. According to Mr Abiodun Olaku, “art is more like your company, you must consistently invest in it, in other to be fully employed after graduation...” during the art discussion class, he made us to understand that, apart from pursuing a degree in art, we are expected to know that is a basic skill too, more like an entrepreneurial skill acquisition which can keep you self-employed even after obtaining a degree in the tertiary institution. Furthermore, the admonished us to practice art as a fulltime work in other to have a great balance in the art industry. If I continue spilling out all I learnt during my six months programme, I would fill an ocean. Nevertheless my work experience was worth documenting because I learnt a lot. My drawings improved, my paintings improved too. My eyes were opened to things I once didn't take note of. I tried doing some personal works on my own. I was not scared of making mistakes anymore. I also had the courage to start a new work which I didn't perform well on. I didn't want to shy away from trying again. Universal studios of art is a place every art student need to be to be re-molded. I am glad to be the first person in my department to go for such experience although I faced a lot of challenges but my experience was worth the sacrifice. I was cleared out on the 18th of October, 2017. My training is something I would want to experience more often and I will be willing to teach my colleagues all I learnt here if they are also willing to learn.

3.1

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Recommendations

I really didn't face any problem during work. The only two challenges I faced were the cost of transportation fare from where I lived to the studio every day. Secondly, replacing my materials after the using up the previous ones, took a huge toil on me. Sometimes, I had to starve, in other to buy my materials. I always felt handicapped when I didn't have my complete materials. I was not earning any money and I had no relative in Lagos state, so I had to squeeze out money from my upkeep money which my parents sent, to pick my materials from time to time. Although SIWES undergone did achieve quite a lot of its stated objectives, nevertheless, As I earlier stated on my executive summary, "In my view, I would suggest that an organization should be set up to diligently fund and accommodate fine art students on industrial training in their designated art industry. Furthermore, an art material market should be set up only for art students, where art materials can be purchased at a cheaper price by the IT students. I would also include the idea of an art awarding academy that would promote the works of art students through exhibitions, competitions and auctions to help foster their knowledge in the art world, even after graduation". Even though it seems impossible, but I strongly believe with this establishment, fine art students will be willing to learn without any negative factor subduing us.

4.1 Summary & Conclusion

The SIWES programme undergone at Universal Studios of Art afforded me an in-depth exposure to some of the basic aspects of painting and drawing skills and all about art as a profession. I was opportune to have known the right materials and original colours that I can use and it will give me a nice output that will attract rich buyers. Although the six months practical work experience without mincing words was exhaustive but the acquisition of knowledge relevant to my course of study has broaden my horizon and provided the much needed job experience for courses that demands exposure to industrial skills. The program also offered me the opportunity to access the labour market and its intricacies and as such prepared me on how to handle problems related to art when it arises. The programme has been highly enlightening, beneficial, interesting and successful. The objective of which the SIWES was undergone was however achieved.

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