



Toyin Ojih Odutola Becomes 3rd Highest Selling Nigerian Artist Of All Time.



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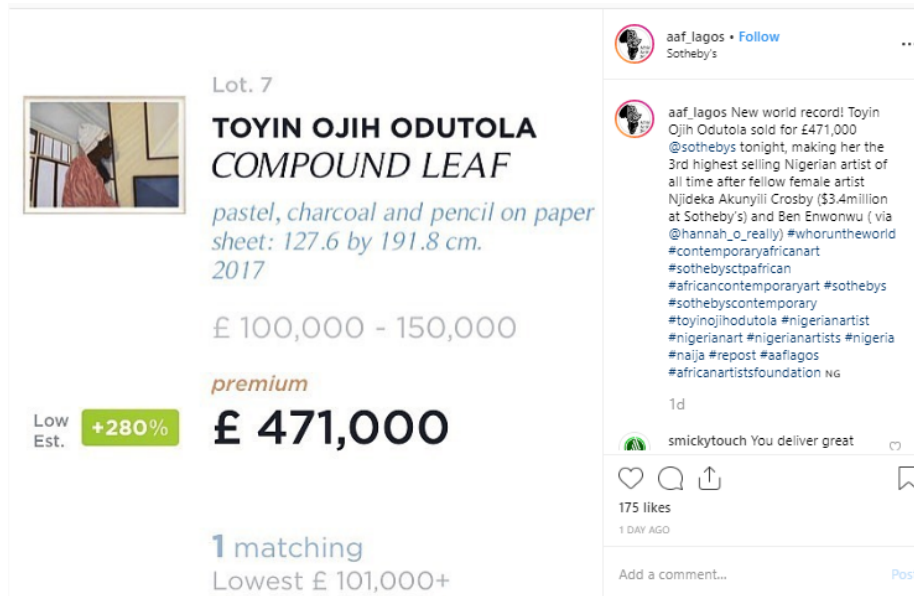
US based Nigerian artist, **Toyin Ojih Odutola**, has made history by becoming the third highest selling Nigerian Artist of all time. She has gained a lot of popularity over the years for her pen ink drawings, which raise pertinent questions about the construct of blackness.

Having moved from Nigeria to America at the age of five, Ojih Odutola became aware of her blackness and began questioning her true identity. She made use of art as a coping mechanism, and over time, it transformed into an *"investigative, learning activity"* for her.

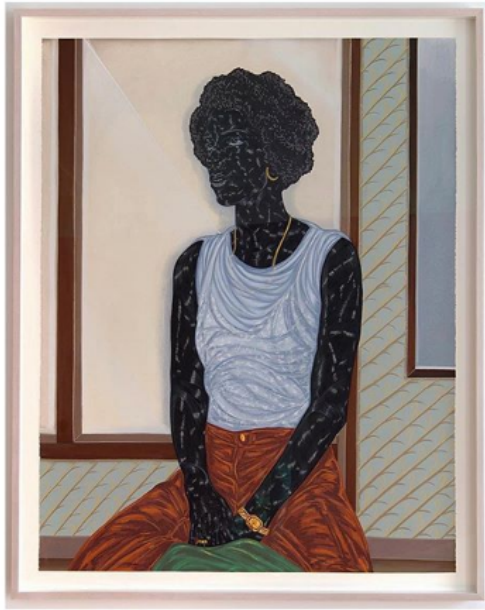
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"I was obsessed, capturing everything I saw and being fascinated with the incredibly simple task of looking at something and transmitting it onto paper. It's an immediate magic."

At the Sotheby's on Thursday, Toyin sold one of her fantastic drawings, titled *'Compound Leaf'*, for **£471,000 (roughly N215 million)**, making her the **3rd highest selling Nigerian artist of all time** – behind fellow female artist, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, and the legendary Ben Enwonwu.



The image shows a screenshot of a Sotheby's auction listing and a social media post. The auction listing on the left features a small image of the artwork 'Compound Leaf' by Toyin Ojih Odutola. The text reads: 'Lot. 7 TOYIN OJIH ODUTOLA COMPOUND LEAF pastel, charcoal and pencil on paper sheet: 127.6 by 191.8 cm. 2017'. The estimated price is '£ 100,000 - 150,000' and the final sale price is '£ 471,000', marked as 'premium' and '+280%' above the low estimate. It also notes '1 matching' bids with a lowest bid of '£ 101,000+'. The social media post on the right is from 'aaf_lagos' on Sotheby's, celebrating the sale as a 'New world record!' for Toyin Ojih Odutola at £471,000, making her the 3rd highest selling Nigerian artist of all time. The post includes various hashtags like #sothebys, #contemporaryafricanart, and #nigerianartists.



Charcoal, pastel and pencil on paper. // IG



Detail, Diptych (left): He just was, 2014. Charcoal, pastel, marker and graphite on paper // IG

