"Why I wrote a book on Awo"

Dr. Iona Noble is a lecturer in African Studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. Recently, she wrote a book on Chief Obafemi Awolowo. In this interview, Adewale Oshodi talks to Dr. Iona Noble about her book on Chief Obafemi Awolowo and how she has come to discover that the former Premier of Western Region remains one of the defining figures in the politics of post-independence Nigeria and, indeed, Africa. Excerpt:

I did not actually set out to write a book on Chief Obafemi Awolowo. In a way, the book is the result of my longstanding interest in Nigeria and Yorubaland in particular, and in the end, it seems to me that it is this quality which still divides opinion about him. But whatever one’s view about Obafemi Awolowo is, he remains indeed African post-independence politics.

I am not a politician so I may not be the person championing the programme in Nigeria or Ghana and supporting African and dynamic arts world. The person championing the programme is Ruth Sacks, a South African artist who has taken part in a variety of exhibitions, including .ZA giovane arte dal Sud Africa e dintorni at Galleria Cortex Athletico in Bordeaux, France (2007) and Liquid History at Galerie Cortex Athletico in Bordeaux, France (2007).

The event, which will take place at the Columbia University School of the Arts, will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, in the Dixon Auditorium at 595 West 125th Street. The event is free and open to the public.

Briefly:

Profling of African artists in the US

The event will take place at the Columbia University School of the Arts, 611 W 114 St, New York, NY 10027, will run from 9am to 5pm, and will provide several important exhibitions, panels, workshops, and discussions in the fields of art and culture. The event will feature a diverse range of artists, including South African artists, such as Dr. Insa Nolte, who is the director of the programme.

If you are interested in attending the event, please contact the Columbia University School of the Arts at arts-info@cornell.edu or (212) 998-1911. For more information, please visit the website at artsinfo.columbia.edu.