



The Letterpress Project

An Interview With Onyinye Iwu

Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?

I remember my school library was my safe space and I used to borrow piles of books a week. One of my favourite books was "Il corvo alfonso" or Alfons the Raven by Erwin Moser, it's a magical tale about a man turned into a raven by a wizard and his misadventures.

Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?

I loved drawing as a child to spend my time and i'd often write stories for my characters. Writing and Illustrating children's book has been a big dream of mine but one I didn't always think i'd achieve.

Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?

A successful book is able to make you forget about the world around you and keeps you complete immersed in its pages.

Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?

I think I create books for my childhood self, things I would have loved to see and read myself.

Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?

Nothing can replace paper, the feeling of turning a page, that new book smell and the old book smell, electronic books can be appropriate at times but the real companions to imagination are physical books

Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?

I am a bit of a book collector, but my collection isn't as large as i'd like it to be. Currently I am trying to get my hands on After God is Dibia – a book all about igbo cosmology and ancient spiritual systems of my tribe of origin.