Ochre and Ash

Press release

Concrete hours

Obinna Eze

7 November 2026 to 20 December 2026. Project room, first floor.
Opened Friday 6 November 2026.

Black and white photographs of modernist Lagos, made between 5:30 and 6:30 in the morning over three dry seasons.

Obinna Eze sets his alarm for half past four. By the time the first danfo leaves Obalende he has usually made his one exposure of the day, standing on a pavement in Marina or Surulere with a medium format camera on a tripod, waiting for the light to come over the lagoon and strike a facade side on.

The buildings he photographs were put up in the two decades after independence, when concrete was the material of the future and architects in Lagos were designing for a climate rather than against it. Their brise soleils, louvred stairwells and raised water towers were built to make shade and catch breeze. Many are now altered, some are empty, and a few have already gone.

Eze trained as an architect and his pictures are precise in the way drawings are precise. Verticals stay vertical. Nothing is cropped for drama. What gives the work its feeling is the hour: a city not yet awake, and buildings shown at the only time of day they look exactly as they were meant to.

Notes to editors

Ochre and Ash, 7 Alexander Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos. Open Tuesday to Sunday, free entry.
Press images and interviews: press@ochreandash.ng, +234 908 555 0142.
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