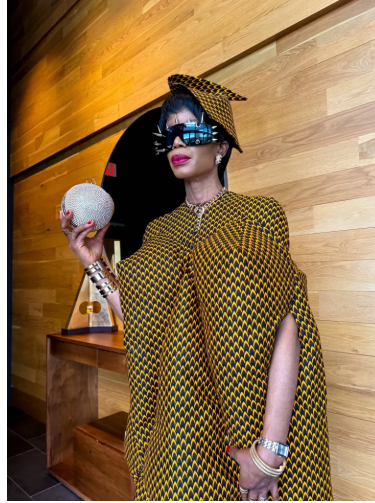


Tessy Oliseh-Amaize: Redefining African Fashion with Mathematics and Global Vision

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She may be the sister of Nigerian soccer legend **Sunday Oliseh**, but Tessy Oliseh-Amaize is carving out her own legacy in the world of fashion. As founder of the **Tesslo** brand, she has become one of the bold new voices redefining African fashion on the global stage, bringing mathematics, culture, and creativity together in her designs.

A former science student, Oliseh-Amaize draws heavily on **geometry and optical illusions** for inspiration. Her “**Africa to the World**” collection embodies this unique vision, with vibrant **ankara wax prints** reimagined through meticulously calculated shapes. Each piece can take up to eight weeks to create, crafted with the precision of equations and the flair of high art.

“**My designs are all mathematics**,” she explains. “You need to think of shapes and even calculate shapes that do not exist.”

Among her standout pieces are:

- “**Pyramids**” – a knee-length dress inspired by the **pyramids of Giza**, with alternating prism-like structures.
- “**Mpi**” – a bold take on the varsity jacket, adorned with cone-shaped embellishments, echoing the horns used in Nigeria’s **Igbo culture** for ceremonies and music.

From Nigeria to the US Runway

Oliseh-Amaize’s journey began at **Middlesex University London**, where she studied Fashion Product Management. Returning home, she was crowned **Best Designer at the 2006 Nigerian Fashion Show**, a breakthrough moment that set her career in motion. After designing for television, she relocated to the **United States**, starting afresh in a market less familiar with ankara fashion.

Her resilience paid off. Based now in **Washington, DC**, her designs have graced major events, including the **Ankara Festival Los Angeles**, **Philly Fashion Week**, and the **Congressional Black Caucus**. Celebrities like **Folake Olowofoyeku** (of US sitcom *Bob Hearts Abishola*) and celebrity stylist **J. Bolin** have also championed her work.

“**African fashion is rich, diverse, and deserves to be seen as sophisticated and high-quality**,” she declares.

Beyond Borders: The Global Mission

Oliseh-Amaize is not only focused on her own brand. Through her “**Fashion Professor**” project, she mentors aspiring designers via online sessions, offering lessons on fabrics, pricing, and industry survival skills. So far, she has held **35 mentoring sessions**, inspiring the next generation to think beyond local markets.

Her mission is clear: she wants African designers to be recognized as **global creators**, not confined to “ethnic” labels. “**I don’t want to be put in a box,**” she insists. “I want to be identified as a global brand designing for the global market.”

With her blend of mathematics, cultural heritage, and uncompromising craftsmanship, **Tessy Oliseh-Amaize is not just designing clothes—she is designing a new narrative for African fashion.**

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