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ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

## Nkpurumma: *Bridging History with Modern Art*

By Chuka Odike

Ozikoro.com · Anthropology and Ethnography · 1 min read

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FEATURE  
IMAGE

**A stunning colourized version by  
Chuka Odike, 2025.**

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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**NKPURUMMA**

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Left: Original photo of an Igbo woman, Puruma (Mkpurumma)?, photographed by Northcote Thomas, Onicha Olona, 1912. Right: A stunning colourized version by Chuka Odike, 2025.



Original photo of an Igbo woman, Puruma (Mkpurumma)?, photographed by Northcote Thomas, Onicha Olona, 1912.

This photograph of an Igbo woman, likely Nkpurumma, was originally captured by British anthropologist Northcote Thomas in Onicha Olona in 1912. The image highlights the beauty and cultural identity of Igbo women in the early 20th century. Over a century later, in 2025, Chuka Odike brought the photo to life through a vibrant colorization,

merging historical preservation with contemporary artistry. This reimagining not only honors the legacy of Igbo women but also invites a new generation to appreciate their cultural heritage.

Odike, C. (2025). Colorized photo of Nkpurumma.

Thomas, N. (1912). Photographs of Igbo culture.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Chuka Odike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explore ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.



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*History worth reading.*

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