

today, Jones is a celebrated painter, sculptor, print maker, installation artist and lecturer. Now he has become finely tuned into Africa.

"I always use Africa as a base in my work," he says. "As Black people, we need to be connected to our roots. I'm a contemporary artist, so I always like to paint things in the context of today, especially in terms of political, social and spiritual issues."

The religion and traditions of the Yoruba peoples of Nigeria are a recurring theme in Jones' work. He goes on to explain: "I draw on the Yoruba tradition in particular because many Black Americans have Yoruba heritage: also, it's one of the few remaining cultures that's still thriving and alive in parts of the Americas, particularly Brazil and Cuba."

## **Celebration**

His travelling expeditions read like a concise atlas of the world. In the quest for enlightenment on Black cultures he has visited the corners of the earth. Still, most of the roads in Jones' professional life traverse back to the Yoruba culture - and there is plenty more than paint in Ben's palette.