



NEW  
THREADS





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KOFI SETORDJI | KOFI AGORSOR  
NII OBODAI | NICHOLAS KOWALSKI  
CONSTANCE SWANIKER  
NYORNUWOFIA AGORSOR  
NANA ANOFF

CURATED BY SANDRA MBANEFO OBIAGO

OCTOBER 8 - NOVEMBER 17, 2016



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# New Threads

I am delighted to welcome you to New Threads, an exhibition which presents recent paintings, sculptures and photographs created by seven of Ghana's leading and emerging contemporary artists.

New Threads is premised on a modern fabric of creativity woven within the context of an ancient loom of rich artistic ancestry, but presented in contemporary colors and expressions that address current global themes.

The idea of presenting exciting new works from Ghana came when I realized that besides our older collectors who have enjoyed cross border friendships with some of the best artists coming from the former Gold Coast – there is not enough artistic appreciation and regional cross-fertilization going on along the West African coast. We don't often reach out to consider how our neighbours are responding artistically to global current events – even though we have many new young collectors who have demonstrated a growing interest and appetite for contemporary African art.

We need to move beyond buying art from Africa at international auctions in London or at global art fairs in Dubai or Basel. We need to stretch out a hand of creative friendship across our porous borders and create more opportunities for showcasing cutting edge contemporary African expressions in each others' countries.

Ghana has long been a preferred holiday destination for long weekends away from hectic Lagos, and over the years, it has always been exhilarating, arriving in Accra and getting into the local creative groove. There is a certain refinement, maybe even a bit of quiet, cultured reservation that I perceive when I step into Ghana. A certain, deep-seated historic pride in their ancient Ashanti legacy, which has broken out into solid, powerful symbols and expressions of modernity.

New Threads presents my fascination with new expressions from Ghana; moving beyond the globally recognized symbol of African beauty, diversity and resilience in the tightly woven colorful Kente cloth, into teasing out a new, bold modern oeuvre that has grace, versatility, humour, and drama.

We present stunning works by the internationally celebrated sculptor and experimental artist Kofi Setordji, the grand master of contemporary expression in Ghana. His bold, colorful world of abstraction is deeply rooted in documenting the history of modern Africa with its political battles over power and the tensions and gaps in our leadership.

His work, Chairman, which depicts an elongated red human form standing next to a chair floating in space, both within the headspace of an egocentric character with no eyes but a head full of keys looking like a calculator, speaks volumes about his perception of leadership and the quintessential "chairman" mentality. From recently documenting the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States, to

creating works which reflected on the genocide in Rwanda, Setordji's abstract sculptures and paintings add color and political gravitas to our African narrative.

Kofi and Nyornuwofia Agorsor are a powerful creative couple who are both visual artists and talented musicians. Kofi's inspiration is deeply rooted in the traditional culture, rituals and beliefs of Ghana which he presents through a nuanced, transcendental interpretation of spirituality within a physical landscape. His vibrant red abstract canvases accentuated by dots and grids of color are a strong counterpoint to his elegant, fluid and minimalistic black felt tip drawings of human forms at rest, work and play. His small black and white drawings have a universal elegance and reflect the suave, stylistic sophistication of the African woman rendered with deft minimal strokes.

On the other hand, Nyornuwofia's intricately inscribed works in her signature naïve style draw their inspiration on education as a basic human right. Her large canvases are sub-divided into plains of colors which are inscribed with miniscule formulas and intricate childlike landscapes, buttressing our need for technological innovation and advancement to find the formula of progress for Africa. Her oil paintings on board show an artist whose oeuvre includes universal African scenes, such as a woman carrying a basket of fruit on her head, yet their representation reveals a deeper psychology in how she paints two faces or personalities under the same head-load.

Nyornuwofia's naïf style is perfectly juxtaposed against Nicholas Kowalski's paintings which revolve around imagery of the Baobab, the African tree of life, which is an important symbol of life, power, and resilience in a northern savannah landscape. Kowalski depicts landscapes and human imagery with geometric precision and plains, interspersed with intricately fragmented patterns often found in the colorful Ankara fabrics worn across the region. His works not only reveal rural people and architecture, they also draw on the rich history of the Adinkra symbols which draw on the, proverbs and philosophy of the Asante culture.

New Threads also presents contemporary expressions through sculpture with Nana Anoff's works created out of re-purposed, recycled metal objects and machine parts. His two dimensional metal sculptures depict scenes of migration on foot, on bike and on the quintessential "keke-na-pep" three wheeled scooters, so often found winding through the streets of West Africa. Anoff's work reflect a nuanced humour in his titles, such as from Labadi to Lagos, while his analysis of global politics through symbols of sports and migration, showing metal stick figures carrying all their belongings on their heads, including their "visas", is Anoff's way of drawing into focus the "push and pull of the positive movements as a continent".

Constance Swanicker, a sculptor and teacher who runs a flourishing Design Institute nestled in a small garden oasis on the outskirts of Accra, returns to Nigeria after showcasing her work at the Nike Gallery five years ago. Swanicker juggles her time between creating commercially viable decorative wrought iron functional art with her 40 strong workforce, and creating stylized surrealist sculptures in her personal art space. Her life size metal sculpture, pretty wings, which shows a bent female form in the process of morphing into an "African avatar" complete with Ankara adorned wings, reflects her views on feminism and emancipation, which is deeply rooted in her social activism.





Lastly, the poetic journey of Nii Obodai's poignant Who Knows Tomorrow series is a powerful photographic essay of his travels across Ghana in search of a fresh understanding of independence and the legacy of Kwame Nkrumah's vision. His wide open landscapes with blurred human forms cycling across or children running across a vast beach or caught playing in rivers alongside lush mangroves perfectly mirrored in coastal waters gives most West African viewers a strong sense of commonality and feelings of 'deja'vu'. His landscapes and iconic portraits touch on Obodai's commitment to telling positive everyday stories of life in Africa with a "desire to engage the past, traveling the places that create memory and thus to see a way into the future. I explore the zones between tradition, improvisation and modernity, documenting a New Africa."

I sincerely hope that New Threads opens new cross-border conversations around what it means to share our African narrative across global and regional space through art. I also hope it encourages new artistic friendships and a commitment to draw deeper from the common wells of inspiration.

This exhibition would not have been possible without the kind assistance of one of our most important art patrons, Dr. Myma Belo-Osagie, whose knowledge and passion for African art helped me to navigate new artistic territory in her homeland. We are indebted to her for her advice, support as well as opening her spectacular home for the Collectors' preview of the exhibition.

We are also grateful for the valuable support of our lead sponsor, UBS, the Swiss global bank, and for the long-standing support and friendship of Moët-Hennessy who have supported every single exhibition since we began presenting art at Temple Muse.

Thank you and enjoy!

Sandra Mbanefo Obiako  
Curator



Pretty Wings by Constance Swaniker  
(Detail), WireMesh/Fabric  
53 inches x 27 inches  
2014



Spirit  
culture  
landscape  
earth  
music  
dance  
poetry  
space



structure  
people  
infinity  
light.  
Cosmic  
tension  
and  
release.  
Healing.

NII OBODAI





The Flower In A Woman by Kofi Agorsor (Detail), Acrylic on Canvas, 183 x 152 cm, 2015

KOFI  
SETORDJI





Kofi SETORDJI, born 1957, is an internationally renowned Ghanaian sculptor and painter. His practice extends into designing of fabrics, houses, and furniture.

Setordji is widely exhibited locally and internationally. He mentors young artists, and works with creative communities developing new ideas.

Kofi is the founder of ArtHaus artist residency, and co-founder Nubuke foundation.



“ My art is an extension of my self to  
the observer in the form of painting,  
sculpture or any other....my eternity.”

Kofi SETORDJI





## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **KOFI SETORDJI**

#### **SELF TAUGHT ARTIST**

1984 – 1988 Studied with the sculptor Saka-Acquaye

#### **AWARDS**

1990 “Sculptor of the Year” Leisure Award

1999 “Bartimeus Prize” Ghana

2000 Honourary Citizen of St.Paul Les Dax France.

2009 Rockefeller fellowship award

#### **TEACHING POSTS**

1996 Gallery 37 Chicago, U.S.A.

2000 St. Paul les Dax, France

2004 Abaye de Bon Repos, France

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

1982 “HIGHLIFE”, British Council (Solo Exhibition) Accra

1982 Arts Centre (Dual Exhibition) Accra

1983 Goethe-Institut (Dual Exhibition) Accra

1984 Commonwealth Institute (Group Exhibition) London

1986 Goethe-Institut (Solo Exhibition) Accra

1987 Goethe-Institut (Dual Exhibition) Accra

1992 “PAINTING AND SCULPTURES”, Ghana National Museum  
(Solo Exhibition) Accra

1992 84 Avenue Brugmann (Group Exhibition) Bruxelles, Belgium.

1993 Artists Alliance Gallery (Group Exhibition) Accra

1993 W.I.P.O. H.Q. (Group Exhibition) Geneva, Switzerland

1993 Galerie Plurel (Group Exhibition) Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire

1994 Centre Culturele Français (C.C.F.) (Group Exhibition)  
Cotonou, Benin

1994 Artists Alliance Gallery (Solo Exhibition) Accra

1994 Ghana Embassy (Group Exhibition) Washington D.C.,  
United States

1995 Novotel (Solo Exhibition) Accra

1995 Parish Gallery (Group Exhibition) Washington D.C.,  
United States

1995 Blackburn Centre (Howard University) (Group Exhibition)

- Washington D.C., United States
- 1995 AFRICUS Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1995 Galery U Zlate'Koruny (Group Exhibition) Prague, Czech Republic
- 1995 Art Cologne, Galerie Dany Keller (Group Exhibition) Germany
- 1996 "KOEPE" Dany Keller Galerie (Solo Exhibition) Munich, Germany
- 1998 Arte Fiera (Group Exhibition) Bologna, Italy
- 2000 DAKART Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
- 2000 MC2a, (Solo Exhibition) Bordeaux, France
- 2000 Abzac Sculpture Biennale, France
- 2002 "MODERN ART FROM GHANA- GHANA-HOLLAND 300 YEARS" Hal 1 of Oude Remise (Group Exhibition) Bellamyplein, Amsterdam, Holland
- 2003 WCC (Solo Exhibition) Geneva, Switzerland
- 2003 ICC (Solo Exhibition) Berlin, Germany
- 2004 "THE SCARS OF MEMORY" Museum fuer Voelkerkunde, (Solo Exhibition) Munich, Germany
- 2004 "CHARACTER HEADS" Dany Keller Galerie (Solo Exhibition) Munich, Germany
- 2004 Betty Morton Gallery (Solo Exhibition) London, U.K.
- 2004 Abaye de bon repos (Group Exhibition) Gouarec, France
- 2004 Group Touring Exhibition in Denmark
- 2005 Villa Waldberta (Solo Exhibition) Feldafing, Germany
- 2005 Overcoming Barriers (Group Exhibition) Alliance Francaise, Accra
- 2005 Africa Screams (Group Exhibition) Touring Exhibition in Europe
- 2006 "HANDS OF FATE", IWALEWA Haus (Solo Exhibition) Bayreuth, Germany
- 2007 Best of ArTHAUS (Group Exhibition) Goethe Institute, Accra
- 2007 IDEPENDENCE IN DEPENDENCE (Group Exhibition) Artists Alliance, LA.
- 2007 CONTACT ZONE (Group exhibition) Musee National du Bamako, Mali
- 2008 Valeurs sûres (Group exhibition) BICICI, Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire
- 2013 Artzuid (Group Exhibition) Netherlands

KOFI  
AGORSOR

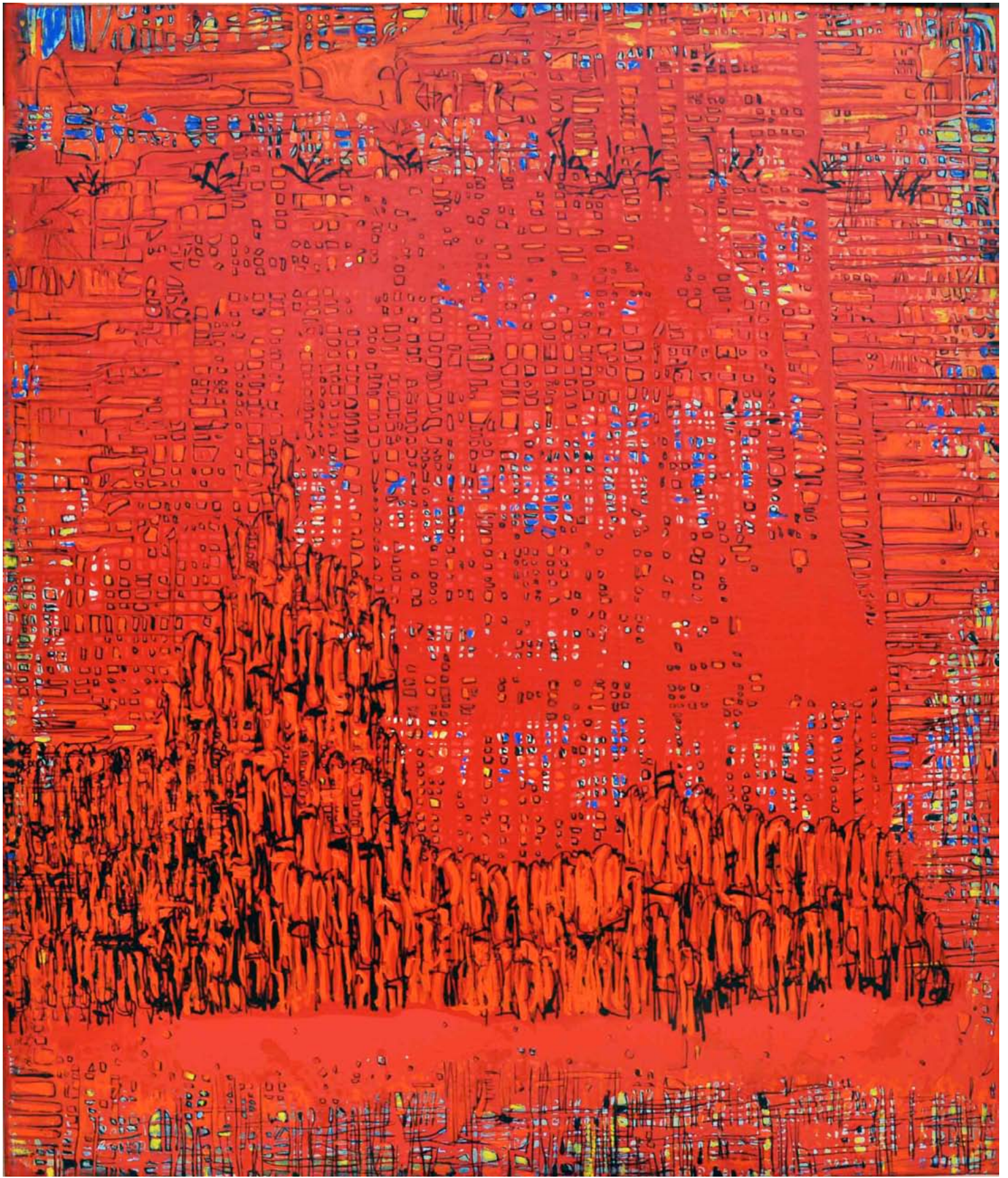




Kofi Agorsor, born 1970 in Volta region of Ghana, studied Architecture for two years before switching to Art at the Accra Ankles College of Art, where he obtained his degree in 1989.

In addition to being a contemporary artist, Agorsor is also a great composer and musician who plays in a Jazz group. His music is a great source of inspiration, and his art often reflects the animated dynamics of the group. He uses bold and vibrant colors, to portray the daily lives of people in a modernizing Ghana, often in an upbeat and humorous way.

Kofi has participated in several solo and group exhibitions, as well as auctions both locally and internationally. He also contributes to his country as a humanitarian missionary.



I waged war into the spiritual kingdom. On my return, I became positively sound, and sleepy. The most interesting part of it was that it lasted only 17 minutes. On the soil of Ghana, I had a dream. When I woke up, I found myself permanently in Gagahuli, Ouida, in the Republic of Benin.

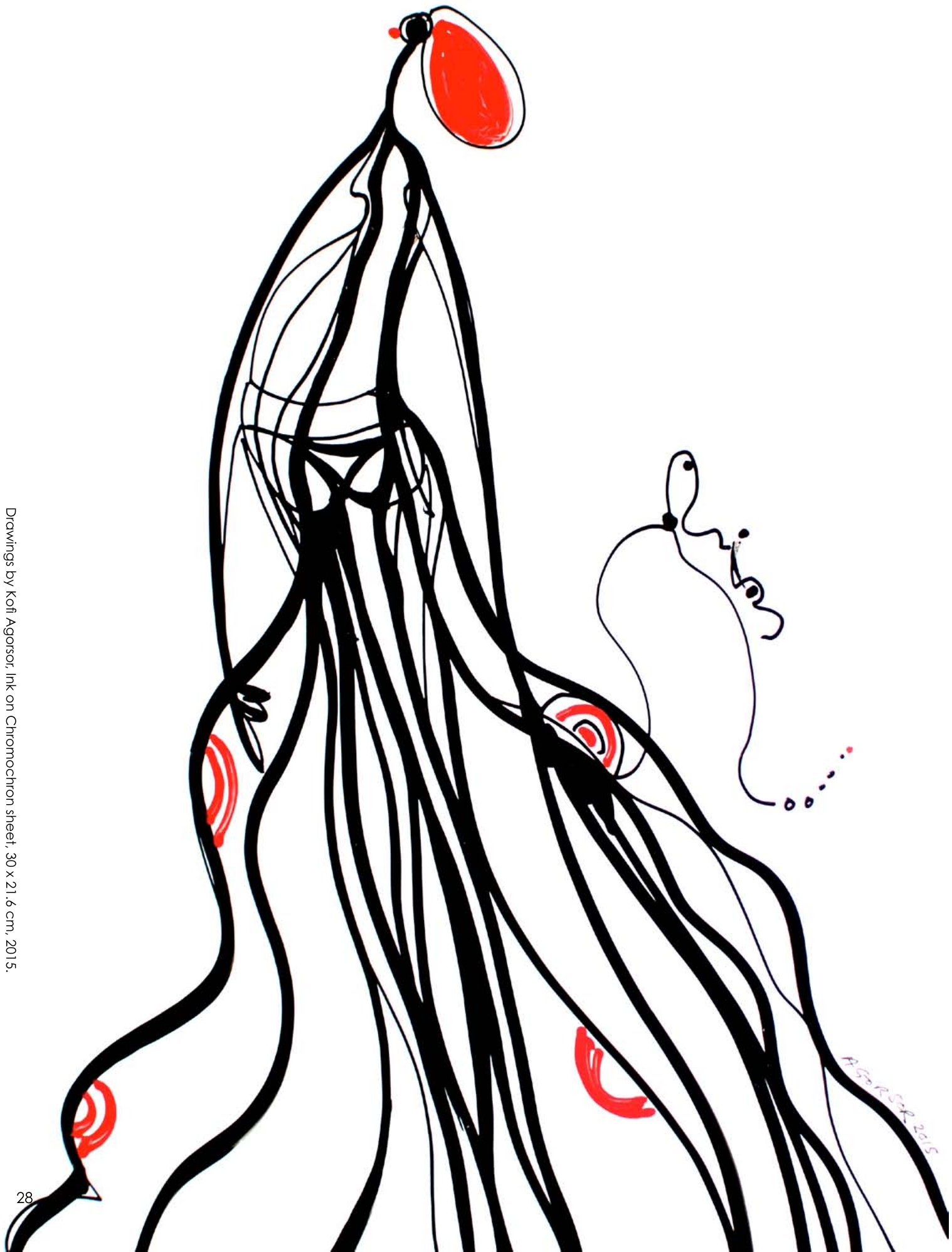
This is how art is for me. It is a constant battle between the material and the spiritual. To be an artist doesn't just mean painting, playing music, sculpting or even acting, it also means opening up to such ideas as preserving and developing one's spiritual cultural heritage into Science and Technology.

My work is generally about love and affection; about simple everyday situations like relationships, music, religion and being at peace with one's self and the world at large. Some people have said that my work has characteristics that can be likened to a European or American's interpretation of African life. Some would say it is the work of an African, interpreting the contemporary concerns of my age. Yet others will also say my work is universal. I feel very universal.

I am always happy as an artist. Art makes me see both in the physical and the spiritual.

The purpose of art then is about brightening the corner where you are. The purpose of art is to be sound in mind, body and soul. It's not about what others are doing or what someone decided. Art does not depend on someone prescribing a mainstream system. Art is freedom.

KOFI AGORSOR



Drawings by Kofi Agorsor, Ink on Chromochron sheet, 30 x 21,6 cm, 2015.



## **CURRICULUM VITAE KOFI AGORSOR**

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 1990 "OURA" NOVOTEL HOTEL, ACCRA - GHANA  
1993 NOVOTEL HOTEL, ACCRA-GHANA  
1993 SIGNATURE GALLERY, ABUJA-NIGERIA  
1996 GATOBAR, LOME -TOGO  
1997 SIGNATURE GALLERY, LAGOS - NIGERIA  
1998 MANY MOUTHS TO FEED, ALLIANCE FRANCAIS, ACCRA - GHANA  
2000 THE AGORSOR: THE PAINTER - PLAYER – GOLDEN TULIP - GHANA  
2003 TOTAL FINA ELF NIAMEY AND CCFN, NIAMEY – NIGER  
2004 FIMA NIAMEY CCFN, NIAMEY- NIGER  
2004 THE BISCUIT FACTORY, NEWCASTLE – UK  
2004 AGORSOR THE PAINTER PLAYER, GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL,  
ACCRA - GHANA  
2005 ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, ACCRA -GHANA  
2005 AGORSOR - HOTEL BERCHTOLD, BURGDORF – SWITZERLAND  
2008 MY MOTHER, NOVOTEL HOTEL, COTONOU- BENIN  
2010 AGORSOR IN LUSAKA, ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, ZAMBIA  
2011 "TOTOBIE TO" (INTO THE DEPTHS OF LIGHTNESS, DARKNESS AND  
THE SPACES IN-BETWEEN.) ESSAY BY BERNARD AKOI-JACSON.  
ACCRA, GHANA.  
2013 "ETERNAL FEELING" BAGINSKAYA GALLERY AND STUDIO.  
DUBAI – UNITED ARAB EMIRATE  
2014 "I SING INTO THE COSMOS" ART PLACE INTERPRED-WORLD  
TRADE CENTRE, SOFIA – BULGARIA  
2014 "COLOURS IN WATER" AN EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOURS,  
SOFIA – BULGARIA.  
2015 "THIS IS LOVE" BAGINSKAYA GALLERY AND STUDIO, DUBAI –  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATE

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 1990 INNER EXPRESSIONS, GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL, GHANA  
1995 OF MINES AND MEN ,NATIONAL THEATRE , GHANA  
1996 AGORSOR AND TULLY, ALLIANCE FRANCES, GHANA  
1998 ARTE FIERA, BOLOGNA - ITALY  
1998 GALERIE DAUPHIN, SINGAPORE  
1999 ART EXPO 98, LOS ANGELES - U.S.A.  
2003 BETTENDORFF'SCHE GALERIE, HEIDELBERG - GERMANY  
2003 FRESH ART SHOW, LONDON- UK  
2004 BLACK HISTORY MONTH, ALLIANCE FRANCAIS, GHANA  
2004 CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS, REGUS BUILDING, CHIPSWICK,  
LONDON - UK  
2004 CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS, BUSINESS PARK, LONDON - UK  
2005 CONTEMPORARY COLOURS II, FITZROY SQUARE - LONDON  
2006 WOHN-ART INGOLD, ROHRBACH -SWITZERLAND  
2006 DIVERSE COLOUR I, MAYFAIR ZIZI GALLERY, SHEPHARD MARKET,  
LONDON - UK

2006 SLIDES OF COLOURS, OSO ARTS CENTER, BARNES LONDON - UK  
 2006 DIVERSE COLOURS II, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON - UK  
 2007 FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY ART  
 EXHIBITION AND LIFE AUCTION, GENEVA - SWITZERLAND  
 2007 CONCENTRATION, NOVOTEL HOTEL, ACCRA -GHANA  
 2007 CONCENTRATION, GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL, ACCRA -GHANA  
 2007 ANANSI MASTERS,TROPEN MUSEUM - HOLLAND  
 2007 RHYTHMS OF LIFE, OSO ARTS CENTER, BARNES, LONDON - UK  
 2007-2008 TRAVEL TO THE AFRICAN MUSUEM, BERGENDAL -  
 NETHERLANDS  
 2008 – 2009 AFRICA/NOW: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM AFRICA -  
 NORWAY  
 2009 AFRICA/NOW: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM AFRICA, TAMPARE  
 MUSEUM - FINLAND  
 2009 AFRICA/NOW: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM AFRICA,  
 COPENHAGEN - DENMARK  
 2009 ART IN THE GARDEN WITH FRED SPINNLER (CATALOGUE LAUNCH)  
 SWITZERLAND EMBASSY - GHANA  
 2009 WORLD CLASS CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS, THE HAYLOFT  
 COURTYARDS, 3 BOND STREET, CHIPSWICK, LONDON- UK  
 2009 RENDEZVOUS EXHIBITION AND ARTISTS MEET , NUBUKE  
 FOUNDATION, GHANA.  
 2010 FIFA FINEART, SOUTH AFRICA  
 2010 WORLD CLASS CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS,  
 THE AFRICA CENTER, LONDON - UK  
 2010 PAUSE THE PULSE: PORTRAIT OF ACCRA, ACC GALERIE,  
 WEIMAR - GERMANY  
 2010 PAUSE THE PULSE-THE PORTRAIT OF ACCRA, ACC GALERIE,  
 WEIMAR - GERMANY  
 2011 3+3. 3 ARTISTS FROM DENMARK, 3 ARTISTS FROM GHANA,  
 GALLERY GOFS – DENMARK  
 2011 "MUNYU" MATTERS ARISING .ESSAY BY BERNARD AKOI-JACKSON.  
 ACCRA GHANA  
 2012 ACROSS THE VOLTA TO THE NIGER. ACCRA GHANA  
 2012 PEACE SPLASH "THE ARTIST VOICE FOR THE PEACE OF MOTHER  
 GHANA" . ACCRA GHANA  
 2012 GALLERIE BENEDICT "KUNSTREFF SONNENFELSGASSE " VIENNA -  
 AUSTRIA  
 2013 GHANA CONTEMPORARY " KALEIDOSCOPE" ACCRA - GHANA  
 2013 CELEBRATING ACCRA AND TWENTY YEARS OF THE ARTIST ALLIANCE,  
 ACCRA – GHANA  
 2013 OREZE (THE KING'S CROWD) ONITSHA – NIGERIA  
 2013 "SPORT LIGHTING ARTIST OF THE ALLIANCE" THE ARTIST ALLIANCE  
 GALLERY, ACCRA-GHANA.  
 2015 "SIX ARTIST FROM GHANA" SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.  
 2015 "SIX ARTIST FROM GHANA" MOSCOW, RUSSIA.

NII  
OBODAI





Francis Nii Obodai Provencal was born-and is currently based-in Accra, Ghana. He has also lived in England and Nigeria. Provencal's work explores our expansive relationship with aspects of urban and rural culture, and the environment. His camera is not a detached eye, but a tool for conscious expression of self-discovery: both on his part and for others involved in front of his lens or, part of the audience seeing his work. Nii Obodai has exhibited widely.

In 1998, Nii Obodai co-founded Nuku Café in Accra, a vibrant space for contemporary artists to exhibit their art and meet the people interested in engaging with their passion in a social and supportive environment. Nuku Café has now evolved into Nuku Studio. The studio facilitates an annual workshop program for photographers and offers photographic project management support.

Nii Obodai is a founding member of the Accra based, Beyond Collective (Established 2012).



Who Knows Tomorrow is a work I made collaborating with my friend French Algerian photographer, Bruno Boudjela. Over a period of two years we travelled through Ghana discussing and philosophising what independence meant to us and the legacy of Kwame Nkrumah's vision.

The photographs were made during a series of road trips. They become a poetic response to the dialogue and experience we had.

NII OBODAI





## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **NII OBODAI**

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 NEGOTIATING SPACE: OLD FADAMA, HYBRID ARCHITECTURES,  
LISBON, PORTUGAL, [HTTP://CEI.ISCTE-IUL.PT/HYBRID\\_ARCHITECTURES/  
PROGRAMME/](http://cei.iscte-iul.pt/hybrid_architectures/programme/)
- 2015 AKWAABYTES, THE BEYOND COLLECTIVE, LA MAISON, ACCRA,  
GHANA
- 2015 ANOMALY, IN GROUP EXHIBITION 'ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE  
DO NOT KNOW', PRICCAPRACTICE / ACADEMY MINERVA,  
GRONINGEN (NL)
- 2015 SPIRIT PLACES, MOESEGAARD MUSEUM, AARHUS, DENMARK  
[WWW.SPIRITPLACES.DK](http://www.spiritplaces.dk)
- 2014 WHO KNOWS TOMORROW? THE GHANAIAN JOURNEY, GALERIE  
PHILIP LAWSON, PARIS, FRANCE
- 2013 BEYOND, THE BEYOND COLLECTIVE, LA MAISON, ACCRA, GHANA
- 2013 PARTICIPATORY CITY: 100 URBAN TRENDS FROM THE BMW  
GUGGENHEIM LAB, SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, NEW  
YORK, USA
- 2012 THE BEAUTIFUL ONES ARE NOT YET BORN, STUDIO KURTYCZ, ACCRA,  
GHANA
- 2012 WE FACE FORWARD, WHITWORTH GALLERY, MANCHESTER, U.K.
- 2011 NEITHER BLACK NOR WHITE, STUDIO KURTYCZ, ACCRA, GHANA
- 2011 FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD, RENCONTRES DE BAMAKO, BAMAKO,  
MALI
- 2011 AFRICA.ES, AECID, MADRID, SPAIN
- 2011 IDENTITY BLUFFS, STEDELIJK MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND
- 2011 GHANA / WHO KNOWS TOMORROW, THE DEI CENTRE, ACCRA  
GHANA
- 2009 WHO KNOWS TOMORROW, ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, ACCRA, GHANA
- 2010 AFRICA: SEE YOU SEE ME, LISBON, PORTUGAL
- 2009 INVITATION AFRICAINES, CENTRE ATLANTIQUE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE,  
BREST, FRANCE
- 2005 ANOTHER WORLD, RENCONTRES DE BAMAKO, BAMAKO, MALI

#### **SYMPOSIUMS**

- 2016 PAUL STRAND AND GHANA, NII OBODAI IN CONVERSATION WITH  
OSEI BONSU, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON, UK

- 2015 BIG DREAMS, FACULTY OF CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN, GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS
- 2015 UNFIXING IMAGES, PHDARTS, ROYAL ACADEMY, DEN HAAG, NETHERLANDS
- 2014 3PA, WEST AFRICAN IMAGE LAB, RESOLUTION, PORTO NOVO, BENIN
- 2013 POWER IN WHOSE PALM? THE DIGITAL DEMOCRATIZATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY, SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA.
- 2013 ACROSS THE BOARD, TATE MODERN/NUBUKE FOUNDATION, ACCRA, GHANA
- 2013 CHOBI MELA, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2010 WHO KNOWS TOMORROW, ARTIST MONOGRAPH, IN COLLABORATION WITH BRUNO BOUDJELAL, PUBLISHED BY LES EDITION DE L'OEIL
- 2006 ZETAHEAL, PUBLISHED BY AFRIPHOTO
- 2001 NII KWEI'S DAY, CHILDREN'S BOOK, IN COLLABORATION WITH CATHERINE MCNAMARA, PUBLISHED BY FRANCES LINCOLN

## **RESIDENCIES**

- 2010 CASA AFRICA/AECID SPAIN
- 2007 CLARK BURSARY, WATERSHED, BRISTOL
- 2005 THE CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS, PARIS

## **GRANTS**

- 2015 MAGNUM EMERGENCY FUND GRANT: 'BIG DREAMS: LIFE BUILT ON GOLD' EXPLORES THE CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL GOLD MINING IN GHANA. THIS PROJECT IS IN COLLABORATION WITH WRITER, YITING SUN.

## **WORKSHOPS**

- 2016 OLHARES CRUZADOS, IMAGEM DA VIDA, SABARA, BRAZIL
- 2016 NUKU STUDIO 2016 WORKSHOP, NUBUKE FOUNDATION, ACCRA, GHANA\*
- 2014/2015 NUKU STUDIO WORKSHOP, ACCRA, GHANA\*
- 2007 50 YEARS GHANA INDEPENDENCE, ACCRA, GHANA
- 2009 BORDERS, ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, ACCRA, GHANA

\* <https://www.facebook.com/Nuku-Studio-1541913949441820/>

NICHOLAS  
KOWALSKI





Nicholas Kowalski was born in Ghana and holds a Bachelor of Art Degree in Drawing and Painting. He also holds a Masters Degree in African Art. Kowalski has been painting for close to 32 years and is widely travelled, taking part in many international exhibitions.

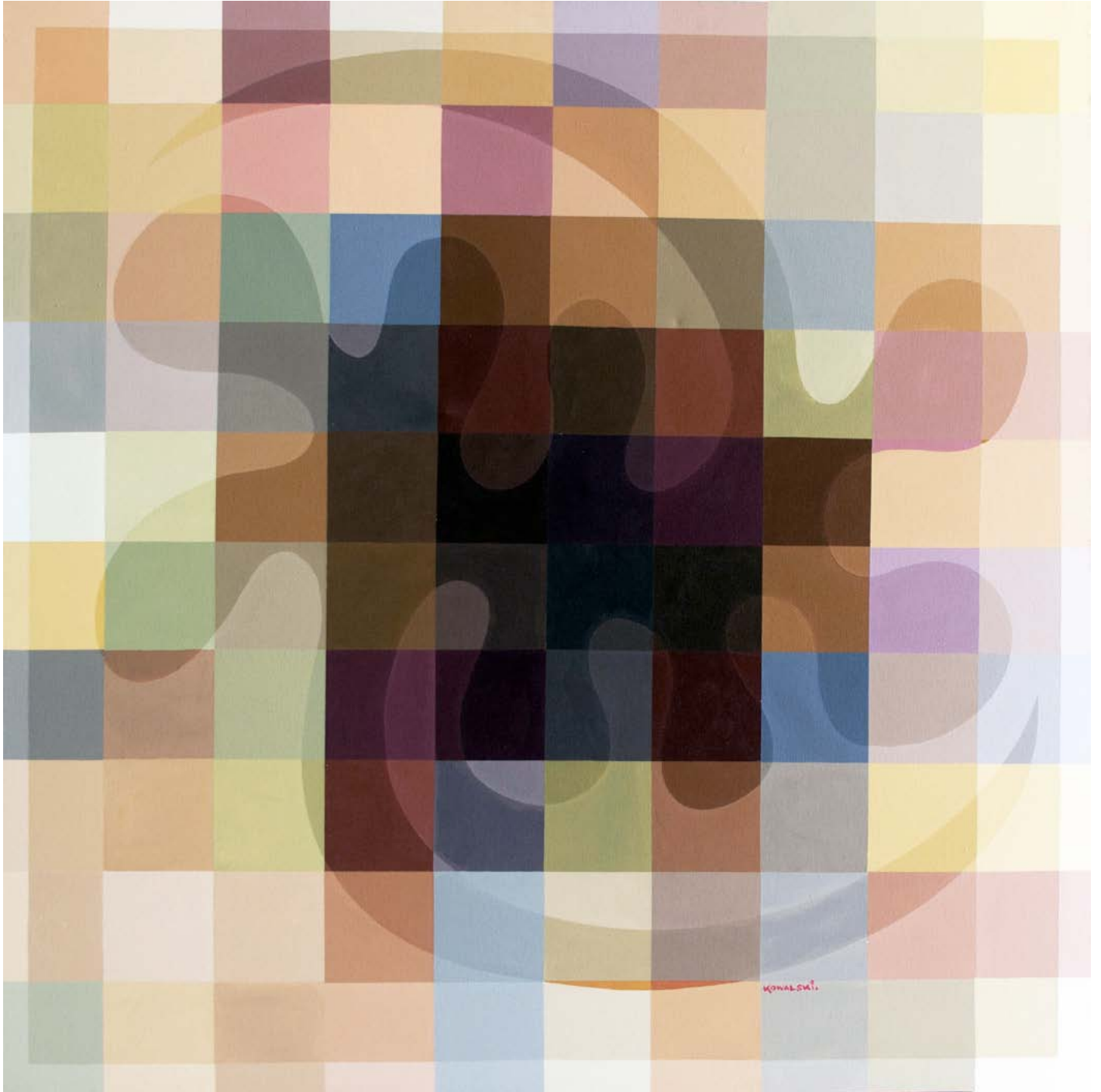
After his sojourn in the United States of America, he returned home and opened his own art gallery, "Step In", which he ran for many years. He is currently a partner curator at Tiga Art Gallery and also runs an Art House.



As an eclectic, I dabble in most of the painting mediums particularly, acrylics, oils, watercolor, pen and ink and collage. My works basically reflect my environment and experiences, and also my intense desire to free the human spirit. My focus therefore lies in common place subject matter and the driving forces of the Universe, which enhances continuity. These I capture in bright and brilliant colours, manifesting a personality desiring to stay happy to enjoy this beautiful world of ours.

Painting gives me fulfillment, the essence of which transcends into unfamiliar territories, manifesting ungrudging imagery.

NICHOLAS KOWALSKI





Entangle by Nicholas Kowalski, Acrylic on Canvas, 40 x 30 inches, 2016

## **CURRICULUM VITAE NICHOLAS KOWALSKI**

### **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2012 "RECENT PAINTINGS" ALISA HOTEL, ACCRA, GHANA  
2011 "REMINISCENCE" CFAO MOTORS SHOWROOM, ACCRA  
2010 "ART ON WHEELS (LAGOS TO ACCRA) CFAO MOTORS SHOWROOM,  
ACCRA  
2007 "ANANSE" KIT MUSEUM, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
2005 "KUNST UIT GHANA" MUSEUM JAN VAN DER TOGT, NETHERLANDS  
(GROUP SHOW)  
2001 GHANA/ NETHERLANDS 300 YEARS ANNIVERSARY MUSEON DAN  
HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (GROUP SHOW)  
2000 "HUNGHANA" BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (GROUP SHOW)  
1999 MWOYO ARTS, SEATTLE, USA (SOLO)  
1999 "SHADES OF COLOUR" PORTLAND – OREGON, USA (SOLO)  
1999 "MOMENT IN TIME" MILLENNIUM ART GALLERY VANCOUVER,  
CANADA (SOLO)  
1999 "WINDOW TO MY WORLD" MAPLE RIDGE ART GALLERY, VANCOUVER,  
CANADA (SOLO)  
1990 " ROAD SHOW" TRICYCLE THEATER, KIBURN, LONDON,  
ENGLAND (SOLO)  
1998 GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1998 NOVOTEL, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1997 "RETURN" STEP IN GALLERY, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1996 "COLOUR SPLASH" BADALABOGOU, BAMAKO, MALI (SOLO)  
1996 " ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1996 "VISION 96" ANYINAM LODGE, OBUASI, GHANA (SOLO)  
1995 "PEMPAMSIE" PARISH GALLERY, GEORGETOWN, USA (GROUP SHOW)  
1995 "CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1994 "TALENTED SIBLINGS" FENCHURCH GALLERY, LAGOS, NIGERIA  
(GROUP SHOW)  
1994 "ARTIST OF THE MONTH" THE LOOM GALLERY ACCRA, GHANA  
(GROUP SHOW)  
1993 "A CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION" THE LOOM GALLERY ACCRA, GHANA  
(GROUP SHOW)  
1993 "FACE TO FACE" BRITISH COUNCIL HALL, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1992 "REFLECTIONS" BRITISH COUNCIL HALL, ACCRA, GHANA (SOLO)  
1990 "TRIO" THE LOOM GALLERY ACCRA, GHANA (GROUP SHOW)  
1988 "AN EVENT" THE LOOM GALLERY ACCRA, GHANA (GROUP SHOW)  
1987 OLD ACHIMOTA ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION GHANA HOUSE, ACCRA,  
GHANA (GROUP SHOW)



CONSTANCE  
SWANIKER





Constance Swaniker, born 1973, is a renowned Ghanaian sculptor making her strides in the arts and craft sector with global recognition. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Sculpture at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi in 1999.

After graduating from KNUST, Constance established Accents and Art Limited, the premier purveyor of iron mongery in Ghana and arguably, West Africa. She is the recipient of several awards, and her works can be found in a wide range of upscale homes, offices and diplomatic missions both home and abroad. Her works have been showcased in both solo and group exhibitions in Ghana, Nigeria, France, and Germany.



As one peers into a kaleidoscope, life's challenges reflect how frequently our circumstances change. Drawing emotions which remind us to celebrate the myriad of colors it brings.

CONSTANCE ELIZABETH SWANIKER





Peacock Mirror by Constance Swaniker, Hand Painted Metal/Mirror, 65 inches diameter, 2013

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **CONSTANCE ELIZABETH SWANIKER**

#### **EDUCATION**

1982-1991 SELEBI PHIKWE SEC. SCH. BOTSWANA, GIRLS COLLEGE,  
BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE (O'LEVEL)

1991-1993 ACCRA ACADEMY, GHANA, (A LEVEL)

1994-1999 KNUST COLLEGE OF ART , GHANA (BA SCULPTURE)

#### **GRANTS/AWARDS**

COTVET SKILLS ENHANCEMENT TRAINING WITH SPONSORSHIP  
FROM WORLD BANK, DANIDA AND GOVERNMENT OF  
GHANA-2014.

REGIONAL AND COUNTRY WINNER, AFRICA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL  
WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND

GOVERNMENT BY CEO MAGAZINE -2014

METAL PRODUCT OF THE YEAR BY ENTREPRENEURS FOUNDATION  
OF GHANA- 2013

VLISCO BE YOUR DREAM AWARD-2013

THE NETWORK JOURNAL AFRICA 40-UNDER FORTY ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD-2010

GHANA ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS, BEST SME INNOVATION AWARD –  
2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AWARD -2010

OUTSTANDING INDUSTRIAL METAL FURNITURE FIRM IN GHANA

TV AFRICAN GOLDEN AWARD FOR WOMEN ACHIEVERS

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

##### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011 ARTIST ALLIANCE GALLERY, ACCRA- GHANA.

2011 NIKE GALLERY, LAGOS-NIGERIA.

##### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 UNESCO, PARIS-FRANCE.

2014 LOOM GALLERY, ACCRA-GHANA

2013 GOETHE INSTITUTE, ACCRA-GHANA

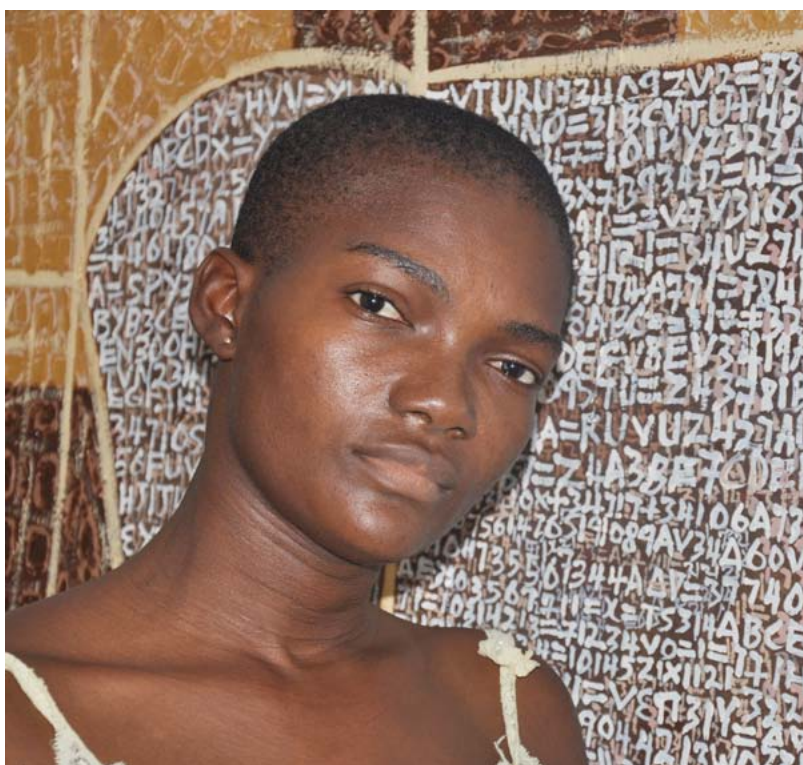
2013 TOBIASHAMER OHRDRUF, GERMANY



Walk a Mile In My Shoes by Constance Swaniker (Detail), Hand Painted Metal/Rubber, 38 inches diameter, 2011

NYORNUWOFIA  
AGORSOR

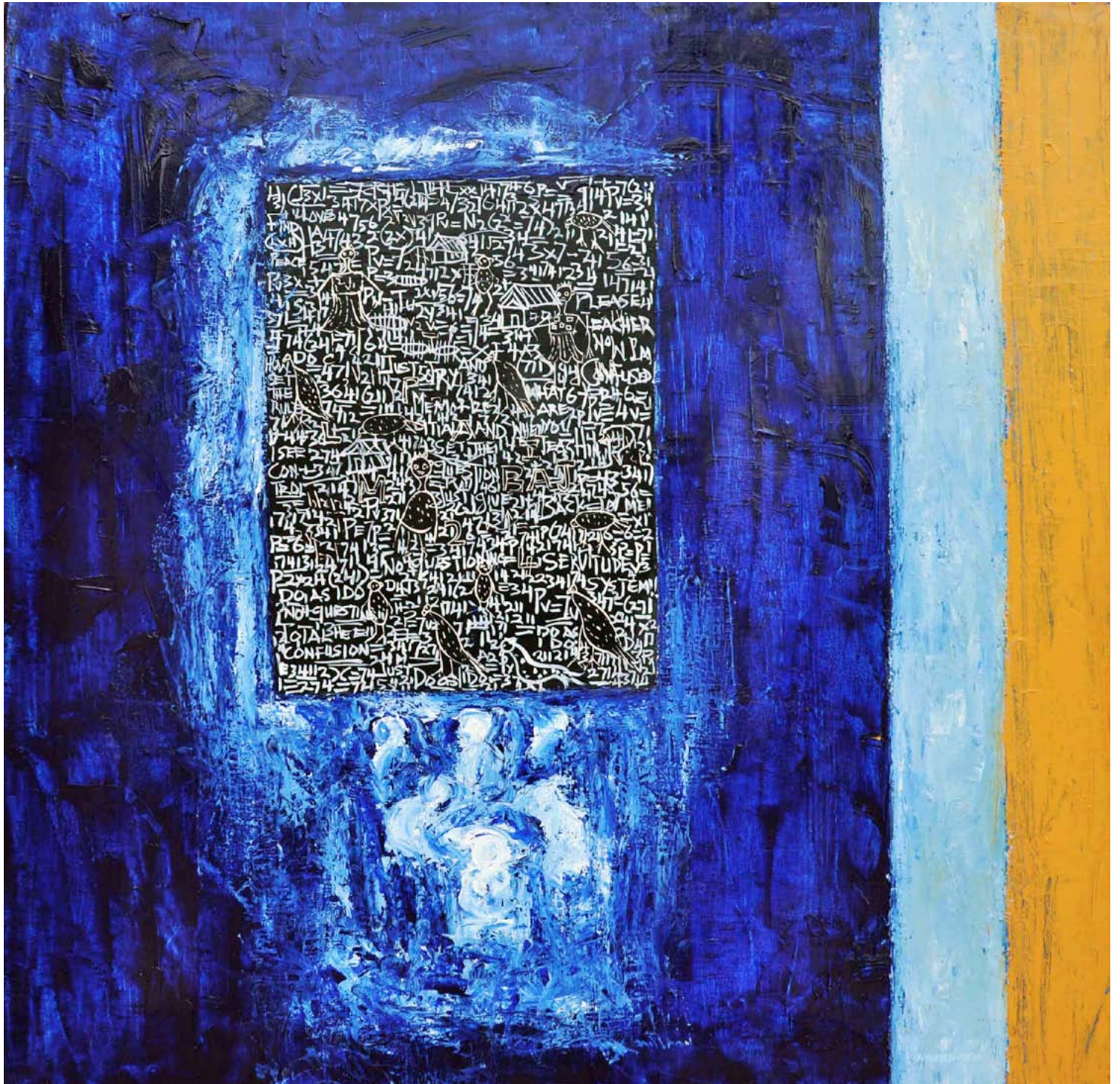




Nyornuwofia Agorsor (B. 1983) is a Ghanaian artist (Painter/Musician). She is also a Musician (Vocalist, Instrumentalist, Composer and Performer). Even before she completed her secondary education, she took keen interest in art. Being largely an autodidact, she supplements her skill with studies at the studio of Kofi Agorsor, and she has been at it since completing secondary school.

Nyornuwofia's work is generally characterized by a childlike innocence that makes it appeal to all, especially children. Being so accessible, her friendly, almost jovial canvases readily disperse their poignant messages without the dizzying pretensions and trappings of the adult world.

She believes in the essence of quality family moments and spends a great deal of her time sharing both artistic and academic knowledge with her kids. She says she likes teaching her kids to "keep them on track." She thinks this part of her life has so much influence on her paintings. Nyornuwofia is the lead Vocalist of the Agorsor Band.



“Never capture comfort and forget the laws, it's  
the laws that maintains the comfort.”

NYORNUWOFIA AGORSOR





Solution by Nyornuwofia Agorsor, Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2015

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

NYORNUWOFIA AGORSOR

### **EDUCATION**

2004 HARVARD COLLEGE, ACCRA – GHANA  
SELF TRAINED PAINTER

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 "MUSIC AND AFRICAN PAINTS" SHEREMETEV'S PALACE MUSEUM OF MUSIC FONTANKA STAIN. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.
- 2016 "BRIGHT COLOURS OF AFRICA", TRADE FAIR CENTER – KOSMONAVTOV HIGHWAY, PERM CITY ,RUSSIA.
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK THE CITY HALL IN SILKEBORG – 8600 SILKEBORG, DENMARK.
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK LANDOWNERS' INVESTMENT COMPANY (GI) - NY KONGENSGADE 15, 1472 COPENHAGEN K, DENMARK
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK- 3F -DENMARK'S LARGEST TRADE UNION - KAMPMANNSGADE 4 1790, GALLERY MY TRUNK, COPENHAGEN V, DENMARK
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK- EXPEDIT, TOFTEGAARDSVEJ 4 ,8370 GALLERY MY TRUNK- HADSTEN, DENMARK
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK, TELIA ( HEADQUARTER OF THE PHONE COMPANY), HOLMBLADSGADE 139 2300- COPENHAGEN,DENMARK
- 2016 DELIOTTE (INVESTMENT COMPANY) – WEIDEKAMSGADE 62300 GALLERY MY TRUNK - COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- 2016 TETRA PAK (COMPANY) - GALLERY MY TRUNK - SØREN NYMARKS VEJ 13 .8270 HØJBJERG, DENMARK
- 2016 HIGH SCHOOL IN EGMONT – GALLERY MY TRUNK- VILLAVEJ 25, HOV -8300 ODDER, DENMARK
- 2016 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, GALLERY MY TRUNK STRANDGADE 29, 1401 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- 2016 ART SOCIETY IN HAMMEL – THE CULTUREHOUSE: GALLERY MY TRUNK, INSIDE, DALVEJ 1, 8450 HAMMEL, DENMARK.
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK, KOLDING HOSPITAL - SKOVVANGEN 2-8, 6000 KOLDING, DENMARK
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK, SPX FLOW TECHNOLOGY - PASTEURSVEJ 1 8600 SILKEBORG, DENMARK
- 2016 GALLERY MY TRUNK, THE CITY HALL IN VEJEN -RÅDHUSPASSAGEN 3. 6600 VEJEN, DENMARK
- 2015 GALLERY MY TRUNK, ANA ART ASSOCIATION (THE UNIVERSITY IN AARHUS) AARHUS C, DENMARK.
- 2015 COWI ART ASSOCIATION (ECONOMIC ADWICE CENTER) GALLERY MY TRUNK ,JENS CHR. SKOUS VEJ 9, 8000 AARHUS C, DENMARK.

- 2015 THE CHURCH IN PAARUP SOLGÅRDSVEJ 40, 5210 ODENSE NV,  
GALLERY MY TRUNK, DENMARK.
- 2015 THE STATE LIBRARY, GALLERY MY TRUNK, VICTOR ALBECKS VEJ  
ÅRHUS C, DENMARK.
- 2015 GALLERY MY TRUNK GODSBANEN, SKOVGAARDSDGADE AARHUS C,  
DENMARK.
- 2015 GALLERY MY TRUNK, MAREL ART ASSOCIATION (SEAFOOD  
COMPANY) AARHUS N, DENMARK.
- 2015 GALLERY MY TRUNK, DUPONT ART ASSOCIATION (BIO SCIENCE  
COMPANY) AARHUS, DENMARK.
- 2015 GALLERY MY TRUNK, DANSK FJERNVARME MERKURVEJ , DENMARK.
- 2015 "SIX ARTIST FROM GHANA" MOSCOW, RUSSIA.
- 2015 "SIX ARTIST FROM GHANA" SAINT PETERSBURG RUSSIA.
- 2014 GALERIE GOFS "MØD VERDEN PÅ GOFS" - DENMARK
- 2013 CELEBRATING ACCRA AND TWENTY YEARS OF THE ARTIST ALLIANCE  
GALLERY , ACCRA, GHANA
- 2013 SALON DE ARTE, CHRIST MAS ART FAIR, BARCELONA-SPAIN
- 2013 "SPORT LIGHTING THE ARTISTS OF THE ALLIANCE" THE ARTIST  
ALLIANCE GALLERY, ACCRA-GHANA
- 2013 OREZE (THE KINGS CROWN) ONITSHA-NIGERIA.
- 2013 GHANA CONTEMPORARY "KALEIDOSCOPE" ACCRA-GHANA.
- 2012 THE ARTIST SHOWCASE-INTERNATIONAL FINE ART COMPETITION,  
NEW YORK-USA.
- 2012 GALLERIE BENEDICT "KUNSTREFF SONNENFELSGASSE "  
VIENNA-AUSTRIA.
- 2012 PEACE SPLASH "THE ARTIST VOICE FOR THE PEACE OF MOTHER  
GHANA". ACCRA-GHANA.
- 2012 5TH INTERNATIONAL ALL FEMALE ART EXHIBITION "COLOURS AND  
CREATIVITY" LAGOS-NIGERIA.
- 2007 "CONCENTRATION" GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL, ACCRA-GHANA.
- 2007 "CONCENTRATION" NOVOTEL HOTEL, ACCRA-GHANA.

NANA  
ANOFF





Nana Anoff is a self-taught artist who has explored charcoal, pencil, watercolor, acrylic and oil painting. In exploring these mediums, he created frames for his works, which then took on lives of their own by becoming the artwork.

Nana not only works with metals from automobiles, but also integrates other materials to create stories that highlight the hardworking African – a theme that runs through most of his works.

Since 2000 when he had his first exhibition, Nana has been exhibited both locally in Ghana, and internationally. His commissioned works are showcased in prominent spaces such as Coco lounge and Mercedes Benz dealership ( Silver Star), The Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Center, Center for Democracy and Development, Standard Chartered Bank head office, and the Supreme Court of Ghana.



The inspiration for my work emanates from the push and pull of the positive movements as a continent. Together in unity we can achieve our goals.

NANA ANOFF





## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

NANA ANOFF

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

FIRST EXHIBITION IN 2000 IN NOVOTEL (ACCRA CITY HOTEL)

FROM 2001 TO 2009 ANNUAL EXHIBITION AT NOVOTEL

2002/2003 EXHIBITION IN THE UK (LINKS GALLERY)

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

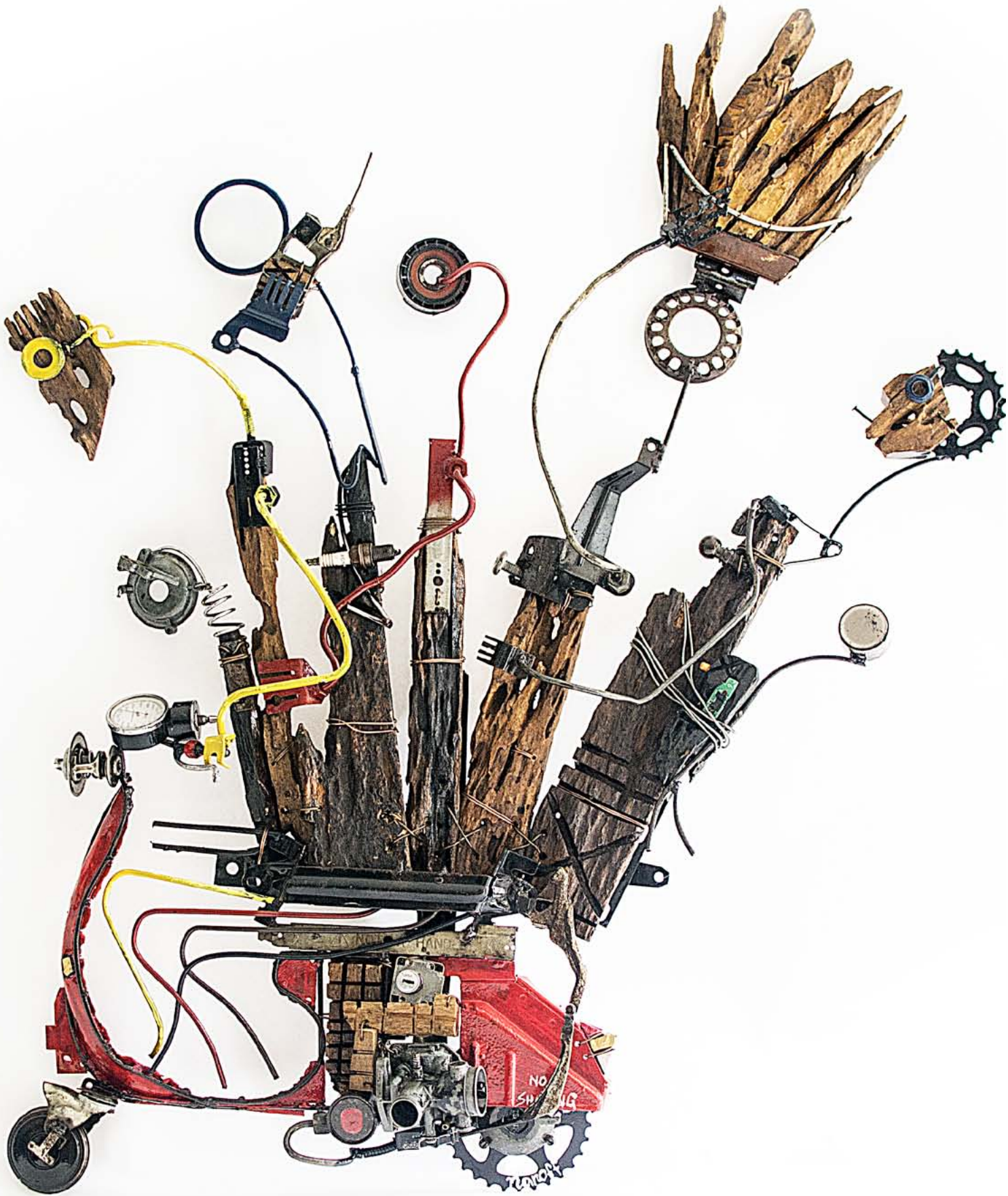
2005 TO 2010 PRIVATE SHOWING IN CALIFORNIA, US

2009,2010 ALLIANCE FRANCAIS ACCRA

2011 GOETHE INSTITUTE ACCRA

1013 BEYOND EXHIBITION (LA MAISON) OSU ACCRA.

1015 AKWAABYTES EXHIBITON (LA MAISON) AIRPORT ACCRA



One 4 All by Nana Anoff, Scrap Metal/Wood/Wire/Electronics, 33 x 40 inches, 2014

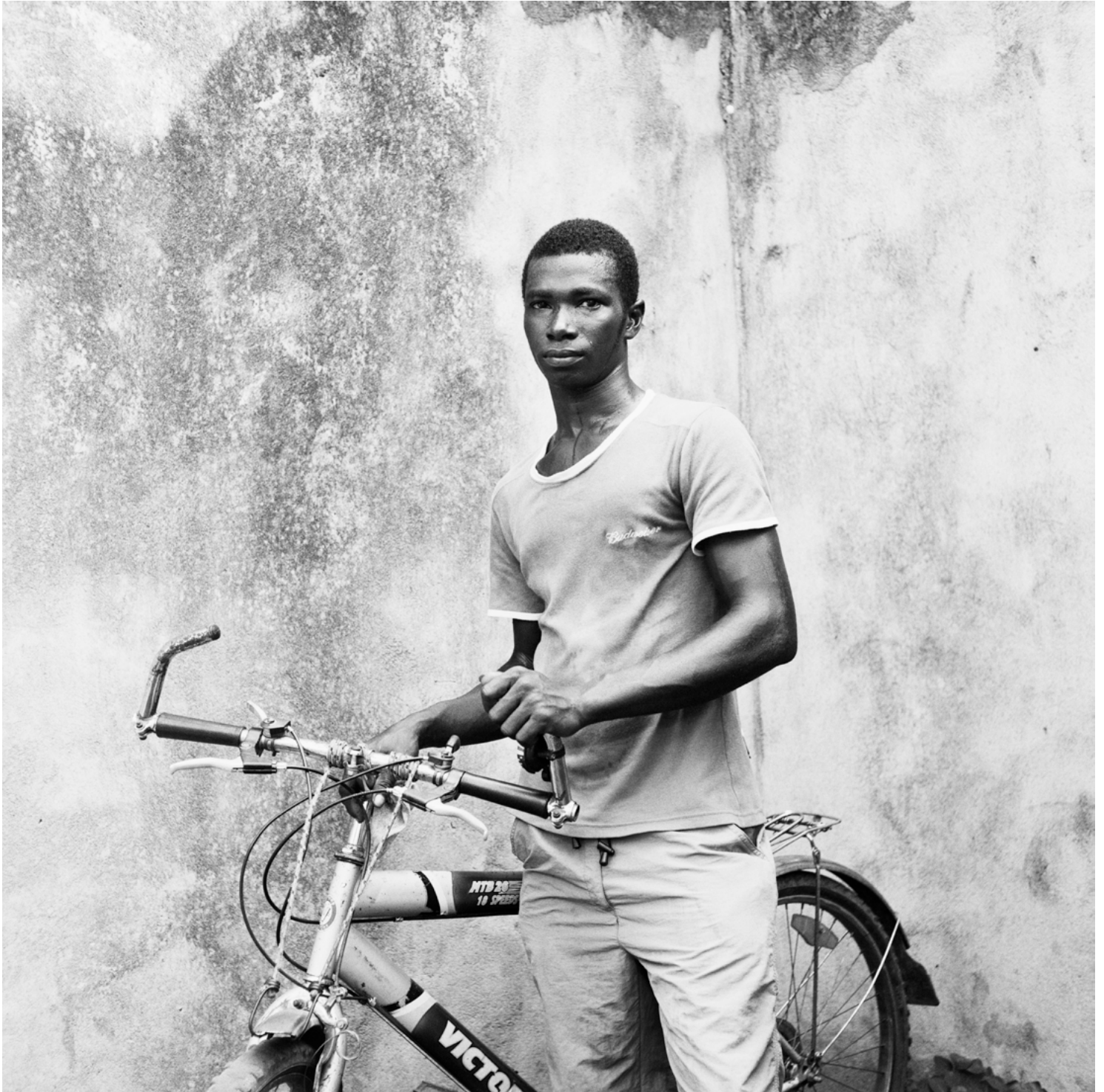
# GALLERY



Having opened its doors in May 2008 Temple Muse is West Africa's leading luxury concept store focusing on designer home & giftware, fashion & accessories as well as art & design. Our strength not only lies in offering the very best of world-renowned brands, but also in nurturing homegrown talent from across the continent.

The iconic flagship store equipped with its very own champagne bar is located in the heart of Lagos and possesses a "gallery-like" open feel, where clients can relax & indulge in all things wonderful. Over the years Temple Muse has developed a reputation as being one of the leading art spaces in Nigeria having hosted a number of critically acclaimed exhibitions, and through continuously offering its clients cutting edge contemporary art. [www.temple-muse.com](http://www.temple-muse.com)

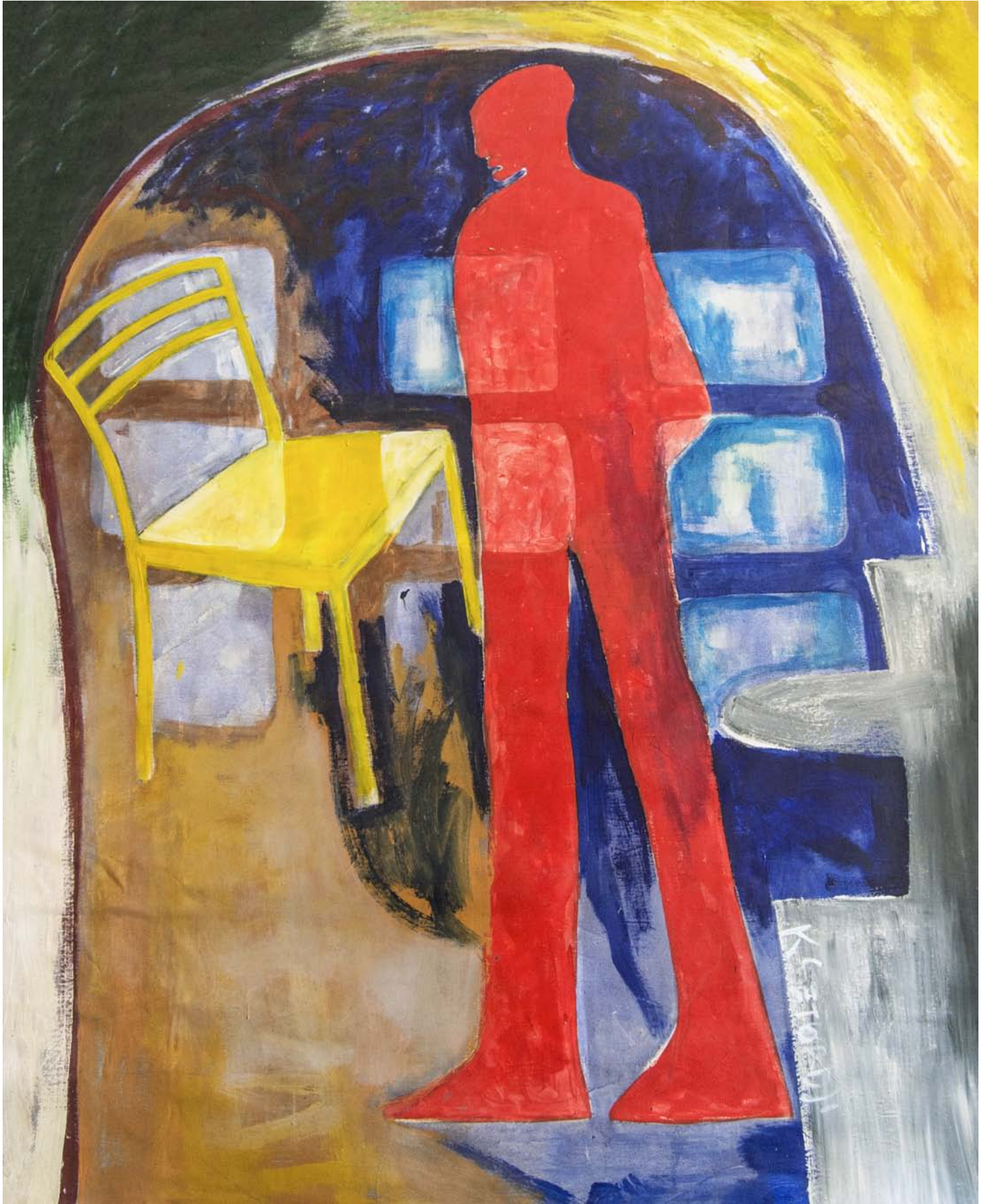




# CURATOR



Sandra Mbanefo Obiago is a multi-faceted curator, writer, photographer, poet, art collector and award winning filmmaker. She has curated art shows and worked with the local creative industry to promote the best of Nigerian art. She ran the communications program in Sub-Saharan Africa for environmental group, WWF International for eight years before founding and running Communicating for Change, a media for development social enterprise in Nigeria for fourteen years. She is a social activist and her campaigns, films, radio programs and publications have touched on themes such as human rights, women's empowerment, health including HIV & AIDS, environment, democracy and good governance. She organized conferences, workshops, and symposia for Nigeria's growing film industry and helped develop a course on Media Enterprise at the Pan African University. Obiago produced and directed many films over the years, including a five-part documentary film series, Red Hot: Nigeria's Creative Industries, featuring artists from the film, music, performance and visual arts sectors. She was Associate Producer of the feature film, Half of A Yellow Sun, adapted from the award winning novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She has been involved in many community initiatives and served as a trustee of the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), was a member of the Advisory Council of the Nigerian National Film Institute and has served as a member of the jury of the Nigeria Media Merit Awards. Obiago is a Fellow of the Aspen Institute's African Leadership Initiative for West Africa (ALIWA) and has served as Sunday School teacher since her teens. She received an M.A. in Telecommunications from Michigan State University, and a Bachelor of Education degree in English and German from the University of Manitoba, in Canada. She is happily married with three children.



Chairman by Kofi Setordji, Acrylic on Canvas, 200 x 160 cm, 2010

Lead Sponsor



# Sponsor



**Veuve Clicquot**

■ REIMS FRANCE ■

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Support for the arts and culture figures at the very heart of the Parent Company Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton. LVMH's diverse patronage for the arts and culture spans several areas in France and other countries: restoration of historical monuments, acquiring works for major museums, contributing to major national exhibitions and supporting the work of contemporary artists. The support given to more than 45 major exhibitions in France and overseas has enabled millions of visitors to discover important artists from both the history of art and more modern works.

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Assistant Curator: Nneoma Ilogu  
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Kofi & Nyornuwofia Agorsor, Constance Swaniker

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Front Cover:  
Horse Riders Study by Kofi Setordji,  
Acrylic on Canvas,  
200 x 160 cm, 2014

Back Cover:  
Pretty Wings by Constance  
Swaniker (Detail), WireMesh/Fabric,  
53 inches H x 27 inches W, 2014

Inside Back Cover:  
Mind of the Universe by Nyornuwofia  
Agorsor, Acrylic on Canvas,  
183 x 152 cm, 2015

