



ART RESPONSIBLE



ACCRA
ART
WEEK



A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN
ACCRA ART WEEK AND BRITISH COUNCIL

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Background

The Art Responsible project is a special initiative of the Accra Art Week collective inspired by the evolving needs of urban youth and a deteriorating climate. What better way to teach the values of sustainability and eco-consciousness than by transforming waste into valuable art?

Reflecting upon the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of promoting Sustainable Cities and Communities as well as Responsible Consumption and Production.

This initiative challenges conventional art practices and creatives of future generations to create Art Responsibly without destroying the environment. The main objective of the project is to encourage young creatives and art students to come up with innovative solutions to help create awareness and curb the rapid accumulation of waste in Ghana.

The artworks transform recycled waste materials such as newspapers, discarded leather, and cow-horns to create unique, one-of-a-kind artworks that give the materials new life and meaning. Symbolising renewed hope, evolution, and progress.



The project was officially launched last year in partnership with the **Embassy of France in Ghana** and **Societe Generale**, during which an indoor/outdoor Art Installation was put together at the **Residence of the French Ambassador in Accra**. The installation brought together an eclectic combination of mixed media upcycled art of all shapes, sizes, and forms.

Values



Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing, now and in the future. This is evident in the innovative application of waste materials throughout the project. As will be discussed further.

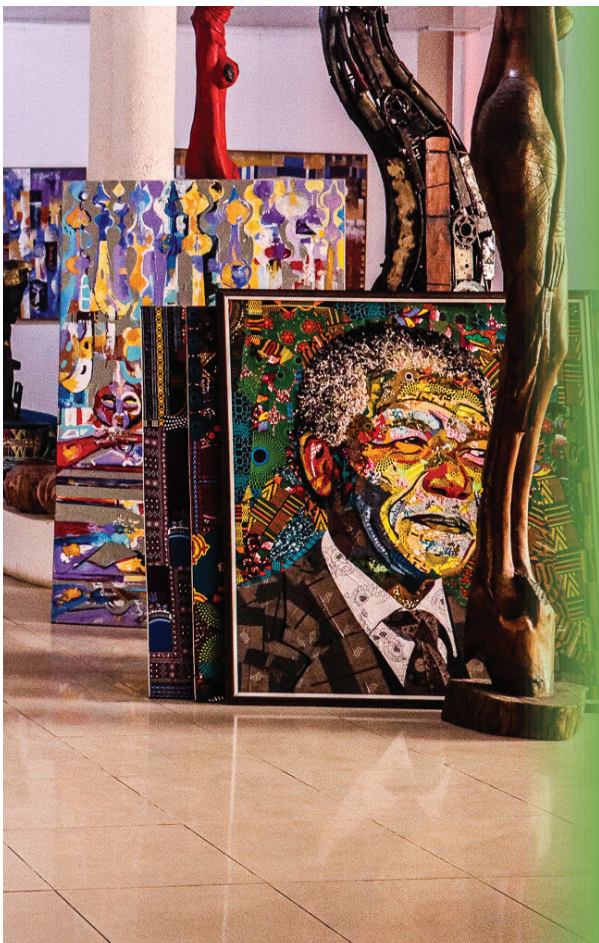
Cultural Awareness

Deepening cultural understanding and awareness of British & Ghanaian cultures in their differences and ways they complement each other. Participants will be exposed to new cultural norms and ways of doing things. During the course of the project, participants will meet and interact with people from all walks of life. Art is a great way to explore cultural differences and address them in a creative and subtle manner.



Passion for Knowledge/ Life-long learning

As this project is primarily focused on creative career development for local urban youth, we intend to inspire a thirst for knowledge which should be a guiding principle for participants to succeed not only within this project but also in their creative professional careers.



Accessibility: To cultural art spaces, art materials and an arts education

Access is a core principle of the Art Responsible project as a major problem for urban youth is access to cultural spaces. Being from less privileged backgrounds, access to art materials is a deterrent to artistic development and career progression. Lastly, public schools in Ghana do not offer anywhere close to a comprehensive art education and therefore the youth are left without guidance.

Objectives

Research & Feasibility

The first step in this project will be a research phase in which we collaborate with DTI, a local educational institution, their students and established local artists, such as Serge Attukwei Clottey, as mentors to discover what local waste materials are most suitable and accessible (such as plastic, textiles, glass, scrap metal) as well as the appropriate working methods, tools and techniques that would be suitable for a large-scale art installation.

Knowledge and skills sharing

Another important objective of the project is to directly equip young people with the relevant skills and experiences for them to succeed in the creative industry. Combining both theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Right from conceptualisation to production and installation. Co-operation between Ghanaian and British educational institutions will ensure a more inclusive outcome. The installations will appeal to a wide audience of both Ghanaian and British as well as mixed heritage and diaspora networks. Thus, the participants will learn to communicate their ideas to a wider audience. Besides the practical experience they gain during the creation of the installation, they will also receive theoretical knowledge and advice on how to apply the skills they learn beyond the Art Responsible project

Product development

A key outcome will also be to determine the long-term feasibility of waste art products which when scaled can provide direct employment and income to many households within the relevant communities.

Participating Artists

In partnership with the British Council, AAW is proud to present the following artists as the maiden cohort of the Art Responsible project. These artists align with the project values of environmental sustainability, cultural awareness, life-long learning and accessibility.

Their work is a testament of sheer mastery and conviction. That we all possess inalienable rights to express ourselves without limitation. To Art Responsible is a call to defy the ordinary and bridge the gap between the known and unknown worlds. In the year 2024 these (8) artists have satisfied this mandate;

-
- Nanoff

 - Wanssi Massimo

 - Edward Afadzi Larbi

 - Nii Nortey Dowuona

 - Timothy Gobah

 - Kofi Gadede

 - Albert Prince Muange

 - Salim Wumpini Fuseini
-



Edward Afadzi Larbi

Edward Afadzi Larbi is the name. A multidisciplinary visual artist from Ghana. I transform humble broomsticks into powerful symbols of unity, strength, and harmony. My work delves into the profound connections that bind us as humans, using broomsticks as a medium to embody the essence of togetherness and peace. Through intricate and layered compositions, my art invites viewers to see beyond the material, exploring the ways in which individual elements come together to create something greater than themselves. My work stands as a testament to the beauty of collaboration and the enduring power of collective resilience.

Nii Nortey Dowuona



Albert Nii Nortey Dowuona – alniinod (b. 1987) lives and works in Accra, Ghana. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Art (B.F.A.) in Painting and Sculpture from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi in 2010. Nii Nortey is interested in discarded materials as objects embedded with certain narratives and histories. He makes use of African Wax Prints, newspapers and lotto papers in creating his works. In my practice over the years, I enjoy using discarded materials because they are embedded with certain narratives, having lived through different experiences. Materials I am fond of using are fabric, newspapers and audio-visuals. I am drawn towards the concept and philosophy of relations that I think leads to social influences, social identity complexities, segregation and class.



Timothy Gobah

Timothy Gobah is a mixed media artist and fashion designer (b.2002). Raised by the city of Accra and influenced by the world of popular culture and media. His work primarily delves into the impact of the media industry on the perception of truth and reality. From his mixed media artwork to his bold fashion pieces; at the core of his practice is the circular nature of life and all matter from birth, the lifecycle and ultimately death.

Similar to the life cycle, the news cycle and how a story spreads and evolves with time taking on its own life is inevitably shaped by human interactions. Just as an old piece of clothing creates a new life and new meaning as it changes hands. Ironically like with art itself old ideas become new and what is news today is old tomorrow.

As a mixed media artist, the primary colours that seem to be consistent in his work is black, white and an inkling of gold. Symbolising that the difference between truth and reality is make believe. That what we choose to believe depends on our own individual biases, perceptions and influences. It also reflects the polarisation of the media which doesn't help build consensus but rather creates a divide in public opinion, based on race relations, based on faith, and based on ethnicity among other topics.

Nanoff



Nana Anoff a.k.a. **Nanoff** is a fine artist, sculptor and mixed media artist. He is most known for his metal scrap mixed media sculpture artworks which take inspiration from the environment around him. He primarily uses discarded metal scrap, bringing to life inanimate materials and transforming them into a familiar cast of characters. His studio space cum metalcraft workshop is a rare sight. Seeing the raw materials up-close it is hard to see what he sees out of such mundane discarded materials. The characters in his work remind us that everybody is born with an innate purpose. Although not everyone lives up to their full potential, we are all made of the same basic components and it takes the right environment, visionary and process to differentiate between trash and artwork.

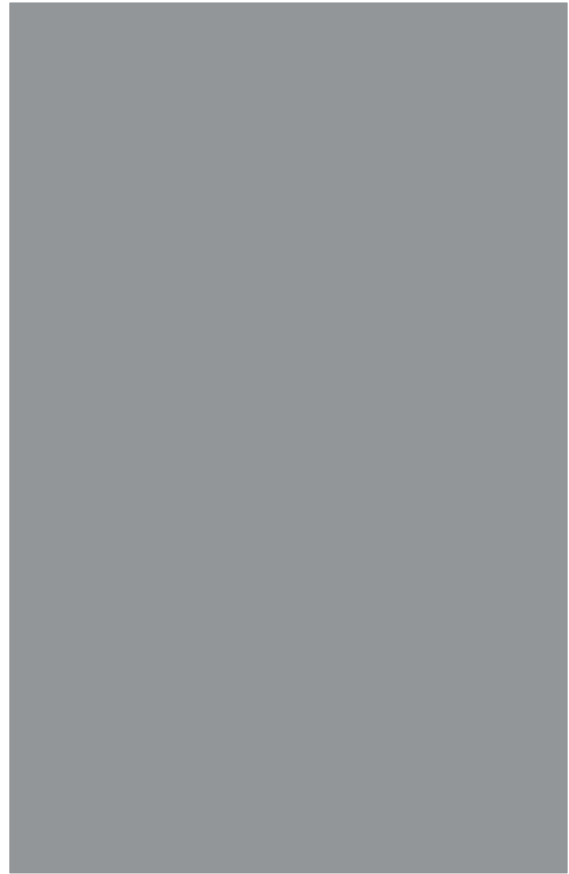


Salim Wumpini Fuseini

Salim Wumpini Fuseini was born in 1990 in Yendi in the Northern Region of Ghana. His artistic journey began with primary education at Service Basic School, followed by a formative period at Adisadel College, where he focused on Visual Art and continued his academic pursuits at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where his knowledge in Fine Art was deepened. This artistic journey took a significant turn during his time at KNUST, with the establishment of a project that creatively utilized discarded car tires as a medium to express his thoughts and ideas. This has led to the current series of work which apply the use of wire mesh as the foundation for contemporary figures defined by intricate tonal variations, expressive shades, and the unique texture of the wire mesh itself.

As an artist, I believe that each piece carries its own soul, and my sculptures aim to evoke emotions and resonate with viewers on a profound level. I invite you to explore my portfolio, a reflection of my artistic journey and the limitless possibilities

Wanssi Massimo



Massimo is well known for his unique style in scrap iron sculpture with which he has held several solo and collective exhibitions across the world. Massimo draws inspiration from the accidental relationships between forms of ready-made objects and that of natural forms.

For Massimo, discarded mechanical objects such as parts of machines and vehicles take a new life once recycled into sculpture. Most of his works are unique and free-standing, full of humour and symbolism in their originality. This suggests that utility is only limited by imagination and invention.

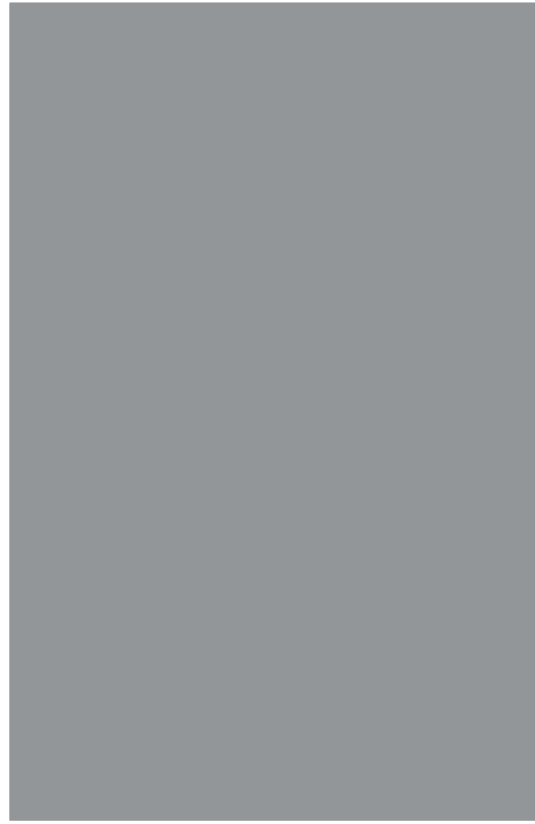


Kofi Gadede

Kofi Gadede is a Ghanaian contemporary artist whose work explores themes of identity, nature and abstraction. In his work, he seeks to capture the fleeting and uncertain nature of human emotion and the world around us through the medium of cotton crochet threads glued on canvases. By layering and manipulating these humble materials, I aim to create a sensory experience that evokes the fragility and transience of our subjective realities.

The resulting surface is a palimpsest of these accumulated layers, where the viewer can glimpse fragments and traces of the underlying elements peeking through the surface. Up close, the surface of the work appears rough and uneven, with the individual threads and strands woven together in an almost haphazard manner. This tactile quality invites the viewer to engage with the piece on a physical level, to feel the tension and texture of the materials. However, when stepping back and observing the work from a distance, the individual elements coalesce into a seamless, mesmerizing whole, mirroring the way our perceptions and emotions can shift depending on our proximity and perspective. Through this juxtaposition of close-up tactility and distant smoothness, I aim to challenge the viewer's assumptions about the nature of reality and the reliability of their senses.

Albert Prince Muangé



Albert Prince Muangé is a multidisciplinary artist who works with leather as his primary material. He mainly plies his trade as a traditional leather craftsman and fashion designer. By transforming the offcuts from his traditional medium, Muange creates rhythmic pieces that speak to the process of leather craftsmanship. Moulding, gilding, embossing and treating his leather materials from discarded materials; by products of a past-life into sculptural masterpieces in their own right.

The stories Muange captures reflect the elegance of his chosen material. The subjects, objects and intention of his craftsmanship express a freedom and tranquility that is hardly visible in ordinary leather crafts. Elevating the material to a fine art.

Exhibition Catalogue



Artist: **Nii Nortey Dowuona**
Title: NMAA DOKUA, 2021
Size: 112cm x 165cm
Medium: Oils and gold leaf on lotto newspaper and African print fabric
Price:



Artist: **Nii Nortey Dowuona**
Title: Nmaa Akua Laryea, 2021
Size : 112 cm X 123 cm
Medium : Oils and gold leaf on lotto newspaper and African print fabric
Price:



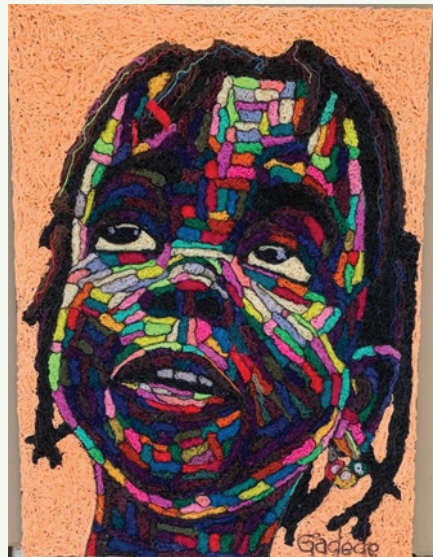
Artist: **Nii Nortey Dowuona**
Title: Adorkaville : Laura Adorkor Kofi, 2021
Size : 46cm x 58cm
Medium : Oils and gold leaf on lotto newspaper and African print fabric
Price :



Artist: **Nii Nortey Dowuona**
Title : Grandma Nmaa Akua Laryea - Passport, 2022
Size : 20 inches x 27 inches
Medium : Collage: Oil & Acrylic on canvas, wax print and newsprint
Price :



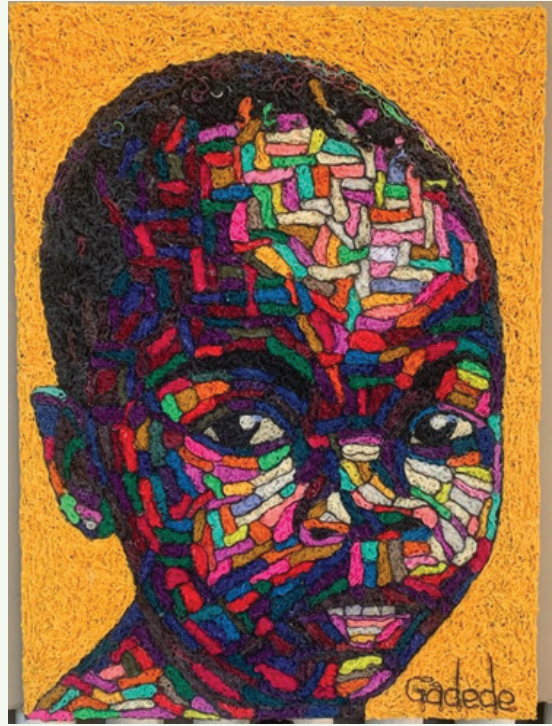
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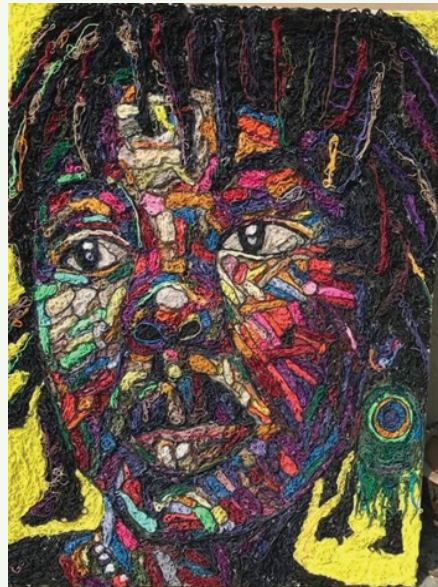
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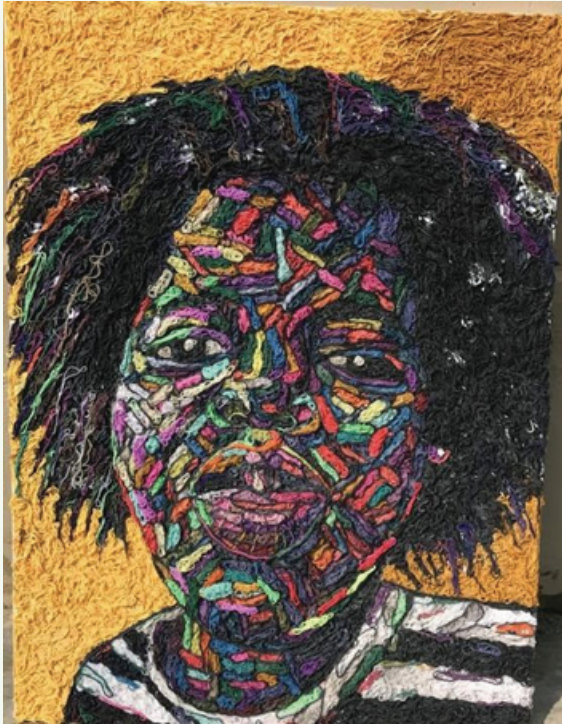
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Artist : **Wanssi Massimo**
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Artist : **Nanoff**
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Timeline

Project Launch

Thank you for joining and participating in the first collaboration with Accra Art Week and the British Council showcasing the first cohort of artists, between December 2024 till February 2025. Art Responsible will return in March of 2025 to a new cohort of artists experimenting with local materials and bending the boundaries of form, function and storytelling. As the project evolves so naturally will the scope of artists.

Applications for the next cohort will be announced in January 2025 to allow other interested artists to apply to exhibit as part of this dynamic platform on a quarterly basis on the premises of the British Council Accra which will support the development of emerging local artists with exhibition sponsorship as facilitated by Accra Art Week.

Apply for 2025 cohort

Are you an artist working with mixed media materials and interested in being part of Art Responsible?

Does your work align with the values mentioned above?

Consider the following questions;

- How does your art practice tackle pollution and waste?
- What are the tools you employ in the process?
- What are the primary materials you re-use in your production process?
- What is the value chain of this waste material?
- What is the beneficiary target audience your artwork impacts?
- Upload a portfolio of your existing artworks created from this material?
- How long do you take to produce your artwork?
- What are some of the costs associated with producing your artwork? (e.g. transportation, labour, machinery)

Support Art Responsible

T U R N I N G W A S T E I N T O W O N D E R S

At Art Responsible, we transform discarded materials into stunning, eco-conscious art that inspires change and promote environmental sustainability. Your donations empower us to:



Create Impactful Art

Help artists craft meaningful pieces from recycled materials, showcasing the beauty of sustainability.



Educate Communities

Fund workshops and programs that teach the value of recycling and environmental responsibility.



Drive Change

Support our mission to reduce waste, advocate for eco-friendly practices, and spark conversations about the greener future.

Contact

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