

Kojo Marfo

Kojo Marfo is a multidisciplinary artist born in Ghana in 1980. Currently living and practising in London, Kojo has spent a substantial amount of time living in New York City as well as travelling internationally. Kojo's passion for cultures has influenced the development of his unique style that engages with themes of universal heritage. A self-proclaimed afro expressionist, Kojo is inspired by the traditional Akan artefacts he was exposed to as a child. Most specifically, Akan



fertility dolls given to women of childbearing age. The wooden dolls are armless and have the same signature rounded head pictured in Marfo's paintings. Often depicted with frills and jewels, Marfo's figures are also in reference to 16th and 17th century European court paintings. Marfo claims his work is of cultural hybridity where he fuses traditional Akan iconography with references to Western art, whilst utilising contemporary techniques in an ultimate expression of his unique and distinctive artistic style.

Considering painting as a mirror to society, Marfo seeks to create a self-referential perspective of the black image while engaging with themes of identity, multiculturalism, and shared experiences.

"I want people to see my work as a reflection of my Akan culture and my struggles living in the West. I want my artwork to create a connection with people, to be a symbol for everyone to relate to," Marfo said. "No matter what you are going through, or where you live, I want my art to help people think and reflect on their inner lives and how it relates to the wider world."

JD Malat Gallery
30 Davies Street, Mayfair ,
W1K 4NB
+44 20 3746 6830

Kojo Marfo CV

b. 1980 – Ghana

Works and lives in London

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Crucible of Hope*, Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2024 *Crucible of Hope*, DG Art Project, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2023 *Crucible of Hope*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Gatekeepers of Heritage*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 *Dreaming of Identity*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *Spirit & Soul*, Originals Art Gallery, Poole, Dorset, UK
- 2009 *African Concept of Brutalism*, Martin Lockwood, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Africa Supernova*, Kunsthal KAdE, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2023 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Art Icon 2022 Charity Auction*, Whitechapel Gallery, Online
- 2021 *Say It Loud: Visionaries of Self*, Christie's, New York, USA
- 2020 *Summer Group Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Re-See*, Independent & Image Art Space, Chongqing, China
- 2020 *Isolation Mastered*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Threesome*, 19Karen Contemporary Gallery, Gold Coast, Australia

JD MALAT GALLERY

2014 Brick Lane Gallery, London UK

Art Fairs

2023 ZONAMACO 2023, Mexico City, Mexico

2021 *Stolen Stories*, UNTITLED, Miami Beach, USA

2015 Oxford International Art Fair, Oxford, UK

Collections

Carla and Pieter Schulting Foundation, The Netherlands

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), USA

The Lithuanian National Museum of Art (LNDM), Lithuania

Museu Inima de Paula, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Auctions

2023 Christie's New York, *Say It Loud, Visionaries of Now*, Online Auction, 5-19 August

JD Malat Gallery
30 Davies Street, Mayfair ,
W1K 4NB
+44 20 3746 6830

Selected Artworks



Kojo Marfo

Living Essence, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

75 ¼ x 67 ½ in

191 x 170.5 cm



Kojo Marfo

Pride & Joy, 2023

Acrylic on canvas

74 ¾ x 68 ½ in

189 x 174 cm