

Oscar Korbla Mawuli Awuku

Multi - Disciplinary Artist

Accra, Ghana

Email: Oscarqorbla@gmail.com

Skills: Photography, Digital Painting, Canvas Painting, Creative Director

Oscar korbla Mawuli Awuku, also known as Yonga Arts, is an Accra-based multidisciplinary Ghanaian artist born on May 18th, 1999. After receiving his elementary school education at Senajoy Preparatory School in Accra, he studied Visual Arts at Mawuli School in the Volta region.

He holds a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Commercial Art (Painting) and Bachelors Of Technology in (Studio Practice Painting) from Takoradi Technical University.

ARTIST STATEMENT

His body of work is a celebration of his own lived experiences as well as those in the communities in which he finds himself. His works involves vivid colours to break free from the traditional way of painting only on canvas. He explores precolonial culture as well as decolonizing practices in contemporary culture, the essence of black identity, advocates for women and seeks to ask empowering questions in society. His patterns which he calls Anansinism, takes advantage of the intricate design of spider webs, their complexity, and their symbolizing effect.

Through fusing visual design networks in a syncopated manner, and infusing Adinkra symbology from Ghanaian history, he creates both original and traditional designs that are painted onto the body. His works are fueled by the African traditional mask and its creators as well as re-echoing the collective knowledge and wisdom of his ancestors, which is gradually losing their vigor among contemporary audiences.

ARTISTIC PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS

2023 Art patnership with Samsung for thier frame Tv

2021 Collaborated with Lorraine Lion Heart on a song titled Coochoo

2021 Collaborated with R2Bees featuring Sarkodie on a song titled Yawa

2021 Collaborated with Darko Vibes Featuring Davido on a song titled Je Mappelle

2021 Directed a short film featuring Moesha Buduong titled Kplorla for my YouTube ch

2020 Worked on an advertisement campaign for First National Bank

2019 Worked with Club Ghana for their bottle lunch

2018 Worked with Becca featuring Sarkodie on a song titled Nana

EXHIBITIONS

2024 Coast Group Show, Grays Wharf Gallery, Penryn, UK

2024 30 Years of Wishful Thinking Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

2024 The Agitation of Africa Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

2024 Converging Timelines, La Foundation For The Arts Ghana

2023 Heritages Group Show, Villa Karo - Finish West African Cultural Centre Benin

2023 Beautiful Nonsense Group Show, Science And Technology Museum Ghana

2023 MoMo SA Group Exhibition of Pan African Contemporary Art In Collaboration with MTN, Melrose Gallery
Johannesburg

2023 Summer Group Exhibition, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

2023 Autumn Group Exhibition, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

2022 Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

2024 Shortlisted For Global Peace Images Award - Single Images

2024 Shortlisted For Milim Community Bursary, Millennium Images

2022 Second Place, Photo Of The Year, Agora

2020 Nominted, Ghana Arts And Culture Awards

PUBLICATIONS

Charles Mgbolu, (2023) TRT Africa. Body Of Work: A Young Ghanaian Artist Fights To Save A Dying Art.

<https://www.trtafrika.com/lifestyle/body-of-work-a-young-ghanaian-artist-fights-to-save-a-dying-art-12138610>

Bird, (2022). BelleNaija. Mawuli Awuku Is That Multi Dicipinary Artist & Cultural Activist You Should Know

About <https://www.google.com/https://www.bellanaija.com/2021/11/mawuli-awuku-yonga-arts/.bellanaija>.

Nutsugah, (2022). Oscar Awuku's Body Painting Woos The World. The Ghanaian Spectator Front Cover

<https://www.thespectatoronline.com/body-painting-the-sensual-works-of-yonga-the-oscar-awuku-way/>

Chad Anthony, (2022). iol South Africa. Remember His Name: Talented Ghanaian Multidisciplinary Artist Oscar Korbla Mawuli Awuku Redefines African Art. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/opinion/remember-his-name-talented-ghanaian-multidisciplinary-artist-oscar-korbla-mawuli-awuku-redefines-african-art-f3a068a2-6416-4012-8f0f-fc3cc2f49153>

Chad Anthony, (2022). Meet Oscar Mawuli, Ghanaian Artist Who Creates Awareness About Breast Cancer With His Work. iol South Africa <https://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/meet-oscar-mawuli-ghanaian-artist-who-createsawareness-about-breast-cancer-with-his-work-1a0bc7ba-ffe8-4b4c-972a-bac7428c262b>

Edwin Lamptey, (2021). YEN Ghana. Meet Oscar Awuku: The Ghanaian Artist Making Waves With His

Inspiration From Spiders & Adinkra Symbols <https://edwardasare.com/oscar-awuku-young-ghanaian-artist-who-got-inspired-by-spider-webs/>

Patrick Nelee, Bird (2021). The African Mirror. Ghana's King Of Body Painting Seeks To Colour World. <https://heaficanmirror.africa/tag/mawuli-awuku/>

Charles Ayitey, (2021). My Joy Online Ghana. Beyond The Return: Customer Service, Business Friendly Reforms , A Knack For Arts To Test Ghana's 10-year Diaspora Programme <https://www.myjoyonline.com/beyond-the-return-customer-service-business-friendly-reforms-a-knack-for-arts-to-test-ghanas-10-year-diaspora-programme/>

Abrantie, (2020). GhanaWeb. Ghana Arts And Culture Awards: Mawuli Awuku Earns Nomination <https://mobile.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/entertainment/Ghana-Arts-and-Culture-Awards-Mawuli-Awuku-earns-nomination-1076953>

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