

Born in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), 1958.  
Lives and works in New York City.

*Short Biography*

Ouattara Watts is an American painter, born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. He studied at L'Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux- Arts Paris. Lives and work In New York. In other words, Ouattara Watts is a citizen of the world. As he puts it, "There's no point being a painter if your work doesn't speak to people everywhere". Watts is a neo-expressionist painter. He is a jazz enthusiast, who merges music and art in paintings and collages by using recycled everyday materials. With sustained colors, dynamic forms, hypnotic signs and symbols, Ouattara Watts explores spiritual connections that transcend geography and nationalities. By fusing found objects, photographic clichés or other raw materials, Ouattara's painting evokes the multicultural identity of the artist and gives us different levels of reading, socially and historically. Always imbued with lyricism and wit, he combines imaginary worlds and magical visions, urbanity and ancestry, to show us the metaphysical relations between beings.

Ouattara Watts has exhibited at MoMA PS1, the Whitney Biennale, and the New Museum in New York. He has also held solo exhibitions at various institutions and galleries including: Hess Art Collection, San Francisco USA and Paarl, South Africa; Magazzino d'arte Moderna, Rome, Italy; Galeria Leyendeker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canay Island, Spain; The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; Leo Koenig, New York, NY; Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO; The Kemper Museum, Kansas City, MO; Gagosian Gallery, New York, NY; and, Documenta in Kassel, Germany Berkeley museum, San Francisco USA.

*Solo Exhibitions (selection)*

- 2022  
Paintings, Karma, New York (USA)
- 2019  
Resonances, Fondation Paul Rebeyrolle, Eymoutiers (France)
- 2018  
Before Looking at This Work, Listen to It, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)  
Get Ready, La Rotonde, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)
- 2016  
New Painting, Magazzino, The Armory Show, New York (USA)
- 2015  
Galerie Boulakia, Paris (France)
- 2013  
Ouattara Watts: The Project Room, FIAF Gallery, New York (USA)
- 2012  
Vertigo, Vladimir Restoin Roitfeld, New York (USA)
- 2011  
Hong Kong International Art Fair, Charest-Weinberg (China)
- 2009/2010  
Hess Art Collection, International Contemporary Art at Glen Carlou, Paarl (South Africa)
- 2009  
Galeria Leyendeker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canay Island (Spain)  
Hess Art Collection, Paarl (South Africa)

- 2008  
Outlaw, Magazzino, Rome (Italy)
- 2007  
Ouattara Watts: For Lily, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York (USA)
- 2006  
Ouattara Watts: Works on Paper, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, NY (USA)
- 2004  
The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover (Germany)  
Crossing Currents-The Synergy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts, Magazzino, Rome (Italy)  
Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milan (Italy)
- 2002  
Leo Koenig, New York, NY (USA)
- 1999  
Magazzino, Rome (Italy)
- 1998  
Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO (USA)
- 1996  
The Kemper Museum, Kansas City, MO (USA)
- 1995  
Gagosian Gallery, New York, NY (USA)
- 1994  
University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA (USA)
- 1993  
Galerie Boulakia, Paris (France)
- 1992  
Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, NY (USA)

*Collections (selection)*

- Fondacao Sindika Dokolo (Luanda, Angola)
- Fondation Antoine de Galbert (Paris, France)
- Fondation Dapper (Paris, France)
- The Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (New Jersey, USA)
- The Hess Art Collection (Usa, Argentina, South Africa)
- The Hood Museum of Art, Darmouth College (New Hampshire, USA)
- The Tang Museum (Saratoga Springs, New York, USA)
- The UC Berkeley Museum of Art and Film Archive (California, USA)
- Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (Washington, USA)

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*Group exhibitions (selection)*

2021

Minds Rising, Spirits Tuning, Gwanju Biennale, Gwanju (South Korea)  
Surface Tension, Museum of Modern Art, New York (USA)  
The Queen of Spades... and other stories, Biennu Steinberg & Partner, New York (USA)

2020

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakech (Moroc)

2019

Foire internationale d'art contemporain, Paris (France)  
L'Esprit du large chapitre II, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan (Ivory Coast)  
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK  
L'Esprit du large, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Dakar (Sénégal)  
Prête-moi ton rêve, exposition panafricaine itinérante (Casablanca, Maroc)

2018

African Metropolis, an Imaginary City, MaXXI, Rome (Italy)  
L'heure rouge, 13th Dakar Biennial, Dakar (Senegal)

2017

The White Hunter, curated by Marco Scotini, FM, Milan (Italy)  
Afriques Capitales, Grande Halle de La Villette, Paris (France)

2016

Dakar , Biennale; May 3 (Senegal)  
Armory show -New York City, Magazzino d'arte Moderna, Rome (Italy)

2011

Ouattara Watts and Katy Schimert, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York, NY (USA)

2009

Armory Show New York City, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome (Italy)  
HERD THINNER, curated by David Hunt, Charest-Weinberg Gallery, Miami, FL (USA)

2006

Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI (USA)  
Realm of the Spirit, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, NY (USA)  
Body of Evidence, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC (USA)

2003

New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (USA)

2002

Documenta 11, Kassel (Germany)  
Whitney Biennale, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (USA)  
The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994, Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY (USA)

2001

Gorney Bravin Lee, New York, NY (USA)

1997

Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Fukui (Japan)  
Chiba Museum of Art, Chiba (Japan)

1994

Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, NY (USA)  
Un Altre Pais, Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas Fundacion (Spain)  
La Virreina Expositions, La Caixa, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona (Spain)

1993

Venice Biennale (Italy)

1992

Other Drums: Visionary Works, Calvin Morris Gallery, New York, NY (USA)  
Haessle, Ouattara, Ray Smith, Navara Gallery, New York, NY (USA)

1991

Syncretism: The Art of the 20th Century, The Alternative Museum, New York, NY (USA)  
Social Sculpture, Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, NY (USA)  
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (USA)  
African Explores: New and Renewed Forms in the 20th Century Art, travelling exhibition: University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA (USA); Dallas (USA); St.Louis Art Museum, MO (USA); Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC (USA); The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (USA); The Corcoran Museum of Art, Washington D.C. (USA); The Center of Fine Arts, Miami, FL (USA); Ludwig Forum, Aachen (Germany); Antoni Tapies Fondacion, Barcelona (Spain); Espace Lyonnais d'Art Contemporain, Lyons (France); Tate Gallery, Liverpool (UK)

1990

It Must Give Pleasure Erotic Perceptions, Vrej

Baghoomian Gallery, NYC (USA)

Images of Death in Contemporary Art, Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI (USA)

1988

Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, NY, Summer Exhibition (USA)

1986

Galerie Georges Lavrov, Paris (France)

1985

Musée National des Arts Africains et Océaniens, Paris (France)