

## About Anya Paintsil

Anya Paintsil (b. 1993) is a Welsh and Ghanaian textile artist who lives and works in London. Drawing inspiration from her childhood in North Wales, and her ancestral, Fante tradition of figurative textiles, Paintsil combines craft practices she was taught as a young child; rug making, appliqué and hand embroidery with afro hairstyling techniques to create large scale portraits. Paintsil's figures explore the possibilities and politics of non representative depictions of the Black figure.

Often mistaken as subversion of 'primitivism', Paintsil deliberately and consciously refuses to root her work in the European Fine Art Canon, Paintsil's visual language finds its basis in traditional West African crafts and art - carvings, wood sculptures, masks - exchanging the hard materials for soft, in an interrogation of gendered labour, particularly the labour of working class women. Anya made her debut at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London in 2020, and since then Anya has received sustained interest from private collectors and public institutions. Recent acquisitions include Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, The National Museum of Wales, The Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and The Women's Art Collection at Cambridge University



Anya Paintsil, I am a one man band II, 2023

## CV

### Solo Exhibitions

2023

Proof of Their victories Hannah Traore Gallery, New York US

2022

We Are All Made of You Ed Cross Fine Art, London, UK

2021

Anya Paintsil Glynn Vivian Museum, Swansea, UK

### Group Exhibitions

2024

The Whole World Smiles with You Opera Gallery, London, UK

The Narratives of Black Hair MAGNIN-A, Paris, France

In Praise of Black Errantry Unit London, Venice, Italy

The Art of the Selfie National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales

Madrigals Her Clique Gallery, Lisbon Portugal

2023

Left Hanging: A curated selection of works from the Boafo Collection, Dot Ateliers, Accra, Ghana

Shipping Address Palazzo Monti, Brescia, Italy

Disrupted Harmony Public Service Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden

Are You A Woman in Authority? Broken Grey Wires, Phoenix Art Space, Brighton, UK

House Guests David Parr House, Cambridge, UK

Threads Arnolfini, Bristol, UK

New Collections, National Museum of Wales, Wales, UK

Hand over Hand: Textiles Today Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, US

Within + Without Unit London, London, UK

“baby hair and afros” (meditations on hair) Vortic Curated, London, (VR) & Santa Monica Art Museum, Los Angeles, USA

2022

Land of the Lotus Eaters Louise Alexander, Porto Cervo, Italy

Homo Faber Event; Michelangelo Foundation, Venice Italy

Exchanges Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, UK

Hair Untold Stories Tullie House

What Lies Beneath: Women, Politics, Textiles The Women’s Art Collection, Cambridge, UK

Anya Paintsil Salon 94, New York, USA

2021

Bold Black British Christie’s, London, UK

Hapticity: A Theory of Touch and Identity, Lychee One, London, UK

Makers Eye The Craft Council Gallery, London, UK

In the Beginning Ed Cross Fine Art, London

Collections

The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL  
Amgueddfa Cymru/The National Museum Of Wales, UK  
Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/The National Library of Wales, UK  
The Women's Art Collection, Cambridge University, UK  
The Whitworth, Manchester, UK  
Glynn Vivian, Swansea, UK  
Tullie House, Carlisle, UK  
Cambridge University Judge Business School, Cambridge, UK  
Arts Council Collection England, UK  
The Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn Collection, NYC, USA  
Private collection of Amoaka Bofo, Accra Ghana  
The Gochman Collection, NYC, USA

Residencies

2023  
Palazzo Monti, Brescia, Italy