

About Anya Paintsil

Anya Paintsil (b. 1993, Wrexham, Wales) is a Welsh-Ghanaian artist with a practice focused on textiles.

Paintsil's practice is largely autobiographical, taking inspiration from her childhood in Wales, family stories, and Welsh and Ghanaian mythologies. From rug hooking to embroidery, her assemblages evoke tactile tapestry on the one hand, and constitute semi-sculptural interventions on the other. Frequently using weaves, braids and other hair pieces, Paintsil laces debates around race and gender into the very fabric of her work. Playful and profound, flippant and forceful, her practice engages the language of fibres with interrogations of materiality and political personhood.

She completed her BA in Fine Art at the Manchester School of Art, Manchester, UK in 2020, and made her debut that same year at 1-54 in London. Recent institutional acquisitions include the National Museum of Wales; Arts Council Collective, London; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea; The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Tullie House Museum, Carlisle; the Women's Art Collection, Cambridge; Arts Council Collection, London, and The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Private collections include Amoako Bofo and Mark Quinn. Anya was awarded the prestigious Wakelin Prize 2020 (exhibited at the Glynn Vivian in 2021), and featured in Crafts Council Gallery's exhibition 'Maker's Eye', London and Salon 94 in New York, both 2021; in 2022, Anya presented her first London solo show, 'We Are All Made of You' with Ed Cross, and in 2023, she presented a solo exhibition 'Proof of Their Victories' with Hannah Traore Gallery (New York).



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

CV

Education

BA Fine Art, Manchester School of Art, Graduate 2020

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

Confront and Constrain Ames Yavuz, Singapore

Conversation Not Spectacle The Women's Art Collection, Cambridge University, Cambridge UK

Don't Touch My Hair, Hannah Traore Gallery, NYC, USA

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 Bofofo 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