

ADA \ CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

THE SHADES OF OUR PROVERBS

A PRESENTATION BY DERRICK OFOSU BOATENG

June – July 2022

Derrick Ofosu Boateng is a Ghanaian fine art photographer and practitioner, inspired by the rich and authentic traditional cultures of Africa and the continent's contemporary practices. Through the use of visual iconography and poetry, he brings the teachings and proverbs of Ghana's Akan tribe to life, revealing the positivity, strength and joys within his community.



Asafo Ntoma [One does not treat an important matter as if it were a mere trifle] 2021



Self Portrait [Prayer purifies the soul, charity purifies wealth, and the bath purifies the body] 2021

The Shades of Our Proverbs is a body of work from 2021 – 2022 that unveils Boateng's imaginary narratives through embedded proverbial sayings from the Akan tribe of Ghana. The bright-coloured pictographic images serve as a wonderful amalgamation of interpreting ancient rituals through a modern lense. Boateng wants his audiences to draw on indigenous knowledge in their critical understanding of the world around us. *Asafo Ntoma*: (*One does not treat an important matter as if it were a mere trifle*), for example, boards on the universal ethics of taking matters seriously and acknowledging the superficial. The subject, draped in traditional Ghana kente cloth, playfully poses with his boxing gear, ready to take the world on.

The vibrant digital portraits, take the viewer on an exciting visual journey, bursting with life, feel-good mundane scenes, saturated colours, whimsical motifs and emotive metaphors.

"I started this journey with passion and that passion is what has led me to perceive an extraordinary beauty. Nothing has changed in respect to the richness of African art, it is the bridge of understanding that is broken. Many see but they do not understand the intensity of the messages that are being disseminated, look closely and witness visual proverbs."- Derrick Oforu Boateng

The Shades of Our Proverbs is viewed as a vehicle for communicating Boateng's visual proverbs as crafted from belief systems and behavior of groups and individuals within the society. Each subject or image is inspired by an Akan proverb, creating enhanced realities and interactive energies.

ABOUT

Derrick Oforu Boateng

Derrick Oforu Boateng is a fine art photographer and practitioner of an African Art movement that creates through the lens of Hue-ism. Inspired by the richness of African culture, Derrick's contemporary photography aims to influence the world's perception of Africa and its art, often viewed through a limited lens in film and media. Through Derrick's art, he is inspired to represent the beauty in the meaning of color and visual poetry of everyday African culture, lifestyles and behaviors thereby "changing the perception on how the world views Africa."

Though taken in Ghana, Derrick believes that the intimate images he captures are a representation of life anywhere on the continent. "Photography has always made me happy, since I was a child, and now it means something important to me because it is the way I have to defend the idea that there is more to Africa than the negativity portrayal." In the global art industry, Africa is still underrepresented, and Derrick strives to connect with an international audience through the reach of his social media platforms, art fairs and respected global galleries.

ADA \ contemporary art gallery

Based in Accra, Ghana, ADA \ contemporary art gallery specializes in the work of emerging artists across Africa and its diaspora. Established in 2020 by contemporary African art advisor Adora Mba, ADA is committed to nurturing Ghana and the continent's contemporary art community and to fostering its ties and influence amongst global audiences. Highlighting individual early career artistic practices, the gallery's program includes dedicated solo exhibitions; offsite projects and exhibitions; site-specific commissions; talks; creative partnerships and philanthropic activities with local actors; and international art fairs.

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