

Ouattara Watts
Lives and works in New York
Born 1957 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Solo exhibitions

- 2026 *Ouattara Watts in Abidjan*, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan
- 2025 *Ouattara Watts : 80's paintings*, Ikeda Gallery,
- 2024 *Ouattara Watts : 90's paintings*, Karma, New York
Ouattara Watts, Karma, Los Angeles
Jean-Michel Basquiat et Ouattara Watts, a distant conversation, Currier Museum of art, Manchester (USA)
- 2023 *Ouattara Watts in Dakar*, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Dakar
Ouattara Watts in Paris, Galerie Almine Rech, Paris
- 2022 *Paintings*, Karma, New York
- 2019 *Résonnances*, Fondation Paul Rebeyrolle, Eymoutiers, France
Magazzino d'Arte Contemporaneo, Rome
- 2018 *Before Looking at This Work, Listen to It*, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan
Get Ready, La Rotonde, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- 2016 *New paintings*, Magazzino, Rome
- 2015 Galerie Boulakia, Paris, France
- 2013 *Ouattara Watts: The Project Room*, FIAF Gallery, New-York
- 2012 *Vertigo*, Vladimir Restoin Roitfeld, New York
- 2011 Hong Kong International Art Fair, Galerie Charest-Weinberg
- 2009 *Andy Goldsworthy and Ouattara Watts*, Hess Art Collection International Contemporary Art at Glen Carlou, Paarl, Afrique du Sud
- 2008 *Outlaw*, Magazzino d'arte Moderna, Rome, Italie
Galeria Leyendeker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Les Canaries, Espagne
Hess Art Collection, Paarl, Afrique du Sud
- 2007 *Ouattara Watts: For Lily*, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, USA
- 2006 *Ouattara Watts: Works on Paper*, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, USA

- 2004 *Crossing Currents – The Synergy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts*,
The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA
Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italie
Tracy Williams Gallery, New York, USA
Opere Recenti curated by Okwui Enwezor, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome
- 2002 Leo Koenig, New York, USA
- 1999 *Ouattara in Roma*, Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italie
- 1998 *Ouattara New Work*, Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, USA
- 1996 *Ouattara Dark Star*, The Kemper Museum, Kansas City, USA
- 1995 *Ouattara: New Paintings*, Gagosian Gallery, New York, USA
- 1994 *Ouattara*, University Art Museum, Berkeley, USA
- 1993 Galerie Boulakia, Paris, France
- 1992 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, USA
- 1990 Galerie Boulakia, Paris, France
Akira Ikeda Gallery, Nagoya, Japon
Vrej Baghoomian, New York, USA
- 1989 Marilyn Butler Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 1986 Centre Culturel de la Rochelle, La Rochelle, France

Group exhibitions

- 2025 Paris noir - Circulations artistiques et luttes anticoloniales, 1950-2000, Centre Pompidou, Paris (France)
- 2024 Cosmos Cinema, 14th biennale de Shanghai (China)
Day for night : New american realism, Gallerie Nazionali Barberini, Rome (Italy)
1-54, Coalescent lights, Christies, Hong-Kong (China)
Ablakassa, Wisdom, freedom, Opulence and Responsability, Assinie, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)
- 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, Bienvenu Steinberg & Partner, New York (USA)
- 2020 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakech (Maroc)

- 2019 Fiac, Grand Palais, Paris
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, Roma, Italy
L'heure rouge, 13th Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal
- 2017 Afriques Capitales, Grande Halle de La Villette, Paris, France
The White Hunter, FM, Milan (Italy)
- 2016 Réenchantement , Biennale de Dakar, Sénégal
Armory show New York City, Magazzino d'art Moderna, Rome, Italie
- 2014 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Galerie Sitor Senghor, London, UK
- 2011 Ouattara Watts and Katy Schimert, Bertrand Delacroix Gallery, New York, USA
- 2010 In Dialogue : Four Generations of Painting, Charest-Weinberg Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2009 Herd Thinner, Charest-Weinberg Gallery; Miami, USA
Armory show New York City, Magazzino d'art Moderna, Rome, Italie
- 2006 Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art, Kohler Arts Center, WI, USA
Realm of the Spirit, Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, NY
Body of Evidence, National Museum of African Art
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, USA
- 2003 Black President - The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
- 2002 Documenta 11, Kassel, Germany
Whitney Biennial, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994, Moma P.S.1, Long Island City, USA
- 2001 Gorney Bravin Lee, New York, NY
- 2000 Transatlantic Dialog - In And Out of Africa, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, USA
- 1997 Fukui Fine Arts Museum, Fukui, Japon
Chiba Museum of Art, Chiba, Japon
- 1995 *An Inside Story African Art of our Time*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Travelling exhibition: The Tokushima Modern Museum, Tokushima; Himeji City Museum of Art, Himeji; Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama; Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Marugame; The Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Gifu.
- 1994 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, USA
Un Altre Pais, Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas Fundacion, Espagne
La Virreina Expositions, La Caixa, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelone, Espagne

- 1993 Biennale de Venise, Italie
- 1992 Other Drums: Visionary Works, Calvin Morris Gallery, New York, USA
Haessle, Ouattara, Ray Smith, Navara Gallery, New York, USA
- 1991 Syncretism: The Art of the 20th Century, The Alternative Museum, New York, USA
Social Sculpture, Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, USA
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, 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, New-York, USA
Images of Death in Contemporary Art, Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee
- 1988 Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York, USA
- 1986 Galerie Georges Lavrov, Paris (France)
- 1985 Musée National des Arts Africains et Océaniens, Paris (France)

Collections (sélection)

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (UC Berkeley, California, USA)
Cleveland Museum of Art (USA)
Collection Compagnie Bancaire Helvétique (Genève, Suisse)
Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon (France, South Africa)
Collection Jom (Dakar, Sénégal)
Collection Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire
Collection Société Générale de Banques de Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (New Jersey, USA)
Fondation Antoine de Galbert (Paris, France)
Fondation Sindika Dokolo (Luanda, Angola)
Fondation H (Madagascar)
Fondazione Gollinelli (Bologna, Italy)
Hess Art Collection (USA, Argentina, South Africa)
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College (New Hampshire, USA)
Kistefos Museum (Jevnaker, Norway)
Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Morocco)
Museum of Modern Art – MoMA (New York, USA)
Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University (Durham, North Carolina, USA)
Smithsonian National Museum of African Art (Washington, USA)
Tang Teaching Museum (Saratoga Springs, New York, USA)

Bibliographie

2025

Hoberman, Mara, Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, et Stéphane Vacquier. *Ouattara Watts*. Paris/Abidjan: Éditions Cécile Fakhoury / Atelier EXB, 2025.

2024

Abudu, KJ. *Ouattara Watts in Conversation with KJ Abudu*. New York: Karma, 2024.

Buchhart, Dieter, éd. *Ouattara Watts*. New York: Karma, 2024.

2019

Barat, Charlotte, Darby English, et Mabel O. Wilson. *Among Others: Blackness at MoMA*. New York: MoMA, 2019.

Vacquier, Stéphane. *Résonances*. Eymoutiers: Espace Paul Rebeyrolles, 2019.

Hoberman, Mara. « Ouattara Watts ». *Artforum*, février 2019.

2018

Goldcymer, Gaya, et Hafida Jemni. *Before Looking at this Work, Listen to It*. Abidjan/Paris: Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, 2018.

Njami, Simon. *African Metropolis. An Imaginary City*. Rome: MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, 2018.

Moroz, Sarah. « Thinking Global, Acting Local ». *Modern Painters*, 2018.

Sylvestre-Treiner, Anna. « Gardien du Cosmos ». *Jeune Afrique*, 2018.

2017

Konaté, Yacouba. « Ouattara Watts, Colors and Numbers ». In *The Juices of Time*, catalogue du pavillon ivoirien à la Biennale de Venise, 2017.

2015

Azimi, Roxana. « Ouattara Watts, le plus américain des artistes ivoiriens ». *Le Monde*, 2015.

2012

Day, Karen. « Studio Visit: Ouattara Watts ». *Cool Hunting*, 2012.

O'Brien, Glenn. Textes critiques divers, 2012.

2010

Hess, Donald M., et Myrtha Steiner. *Hess Art Collection*. Stuttgart: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2010.

Oguibe, Olu. « Art, Identity, Boundaries – Postmodernism and Contemporary African Art ».

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2007

Farris Thompson, Robert. *Ouattara Watts*. New York: Mike Weiss Gallery, 2007.

Finch, Charlie. « Watts Up ». *Artnet*, 2007.

2005

Amselle, Jean-Loup. *L'art de la friche. Essai sur l'art africain contemporain*. Paris: Flammarion, 2005.

2004

Thompson, Barbara. *Crossing Currents: The Synergy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts*. Hanover: Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, 2004.

Carboni, Massimo. « Ouattara Watts ». *Artforum*, mai 2004.

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2002

Cantz, Hatje, éd. *Documenta 11, Platform 5: Exhibition Catalogue*. Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2002.
Whitney Museum of American Art. *Whitney Biennial 2002*. New York: Whitney Museum, 2002.

1995

Enwezor, Okwui. « Ouattara: Beyond Shamanism ». *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* (spring/summer, no. 2): 24–29.

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Rinder, Lawrence. *Ouattara*. MATRIX 163, University Art Museum, Berkeley, 1994.

1993

McEvilley, Thomas, et Susan Vogel. *West African Artists at the Venice Biennale*. New York: Museum for African Art, 1993.

1991

Vogel, Susan. *Africa Explores: XXth Century African Art*. New York: Prestel Publications, 1991.

1990

Barrière, Gérard. « Ouattara ». In *Ouattara Watts*, catalogue. Paris: Galerie Boulakia, 1990.

Castle, Frederick Ted. *Ouattara*. New York: Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, 1990.

1989

Tsuzuki, Kyoichi. *Ouattara*. Introduction by Ben Michael Warren. Kyoto: Art Random no 7, Kyoto Shoin Publisher, 1989.

Warren, Ben Michael, et Vrej Baghoomian, éd. *Ouattara*. Kyoto: Kyoto Shoin / Art Random, 1989.

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