

# OLIVIA MAE PENDERGAST



## LOST IN THE CROWD

24 October - 29 November 2020

Barcelona - Spain



The artist  
**Olivia Mae Pendergast**  
(USA/Kenya)

It was in 2008 that this American-born artist discovered Africa, Malawi in particular. There she tirelessly painted the people she saw around her. Other trips would follow, Haiti, Bangladesh, but in 2016, her decision was made, she left to settle in Kenya, where she is still established. Even while she has recently painted landscapes, Olivia Pendergast's favorite theme is the portrait, the figurative in the most literal sense.

Painting the world around her in Kenya does not in any way imply the search for effects that could be described as sensational. She captures "ordinary" people in their "quotidian" activities and makes them enter our visual field with ease. She saw a taxi driver, a man seated on a chair, a mother with a child; she painted them, as she saw them, without pursuing seduction, neither from the model or the observer.

The characters are painted from the front or in profile, without any particular pose, captured "as they are". The body always occupies much more space in proportion to the head; the effects of volume reside much more in the traces left by the brushes than in a deliberate search for structure.

However, if you take the trouble to observe the canvas, nothing is left to chance. First, the backgrounds are very

worked, but at the same time very discreet, all in lightness, embellished with decorative patterns (arabesques and interlacing) generally completely out of context. They assume their role, but nevertheless they carry their own strength and evocative power.

The artist breaks down light and color into a sort of very balanced checkerboard dominated by shades of red which nevertheless show black people; the effect is very striking!

This apparent simplicity conceals great creativity and the search for undetectable effects and the results are obvious, these paintings are beautiful and they move us. Their share of mystery also tickles our imagination; who is this woman?; who is this boy and even this tuk-tuk driver posing proudly in front of his vehicle? Each one carries their share of shadow, in a work which does not precisely include any.

All the poetry of her work emerges in this way, with great subtlety. And you feel its charm and sweetness at the same time as its force, not an aggressive, invasive, obvious force, but one of those forces which start from the bottom of the soul and can overturn worlds.

Olivia Pendergast is a very experienced artist! She completed her BFA at Columbus College's five years Art and Design

**WOMAN AND CHILD WITH ROSES** | 2020

91cm H x 91cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



program and began exhibiting her work in 1999. She first worked as a conceptual designer in the film industry in Los Angeles for five years. And then, the call of artistic creativity was at its strongest; she left California and retired to the mountains of Utah to paint full time, away from the world and its artificial temptations. In 2007, she moved to Seattle to invest more in her artistic activity before discovering Africa the following year and finally deciding not to leave.

A renowned artist with multiple distinctions since 1999, Olivia Pendergast has also exhibited on three continents (America, Asia, Africa), in thirty exhibitions, with equal success and her works are in several important collections, including that of the Kenyan president, Uhuru Kenyatta.

Let us enter her universe, which claims to be the only dimension of man, take hold of her share of humanism which she generously offers us and take away this piece of soft light that she spreads through our souls.

## **Sylvain Sankalé**

Art Critic

Dakar, Senegal

***GIRL ON COLD DAY*** | 2018

91,2cm H x 91,5cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



## LIST OF SHOWS

- 2020** | OOA Gallery “Lost in the Crowd” - Duo Show - Barcelona, Spain  
OOA Gallery “Humanism” - Duo Show - Barcelona, Spain  
One Off Fine Art Gallery "Facing Change" - Solo Show - Nairobi, Kenya
- 2019** | One Off Fine Art Gallery "Aura" - Solo Show - Nairobi, Kenya
- 2018** | Tralevolte Gallery "Gentle" - Solo Show - Rome, Kenya  
Showcase Gallery - Group Show - Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2017** | One Off Fine Art Gallery "Nudes" - Group Show - Nairobi, Kenya  
One Off Fine Art Gallery - "Nudes II" - Group Show - Nairobi, Kenya  
One Off Fine Art Gallery "Kenyan Atmosphere" - Solo Show - Nairobi, Kenya

*LUCY HOLDING RABBIT* | 2020

91cm H x 61cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





**2016** | Hardware Gallery - "Home" - Vashon, Washington, USA

**2015** | Showcase Gallery - Solo Show - "Portraits of the Middle Way" - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**2013** | Blue Heron Group Show "Elders" - Vashon, Washington, USA

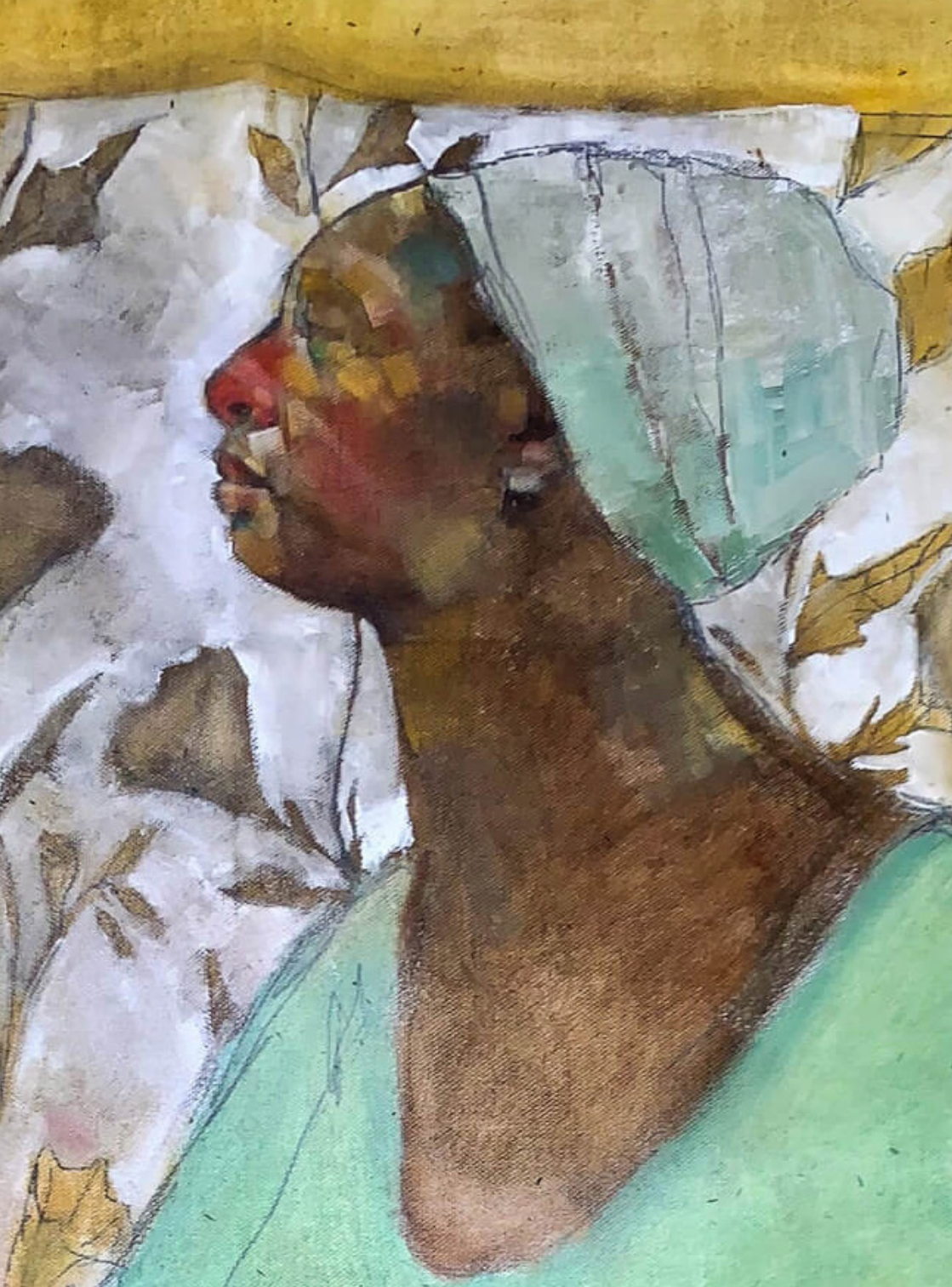
Solo Show Hardware Gallery "World of Women" - Vashon, Washington, USA

**2012** | Blue Heron Gallery - Commissioned Artist - Gala Fundraiser - Washington, USA

Children of OFK - Serenade Gallery - Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

**2011** | "Forgetting Haiti" Show - Blue Heron Gallery - Washington, USA

Blue Heron Gallery - Group Show - Washington, USA



- 2010** | Utah Museum of Fine Art - Gala Invitational Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Salt Lake City Library Gallery - "African Violet" - Solo Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Art Access Gallery - "Our Father's Kitchen" - Solo Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- 2009** | Thomas Gilcrease Museum Invitational - Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA  
Turchin Fine Art Center - Appalachian State University - Solo Show, Boone, North Carolina, USA
- 2008** | Utah Museum of Fine Art - Monet to Picasso Gala - Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Phoenix Gallery - "View of Malawi" - Solo Show - Park City - Utah, USA  
Four Seasons - "Paintings of Malawi" - Solo Show - Lilongwe, Malawi

**YOUNG MAASAI HERDER** | 2019

122cm H x 91cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



**2007** | UVSC Woodbury Museum Invitational - "Art of Life" Group Show Provo - Utah, USA  
Thomas Gilcrease Museum Invitational - Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA  
Phoenix Gallery - "Lyrical Nature" - Utah Symphony Featured Artist Show - Park City, Utah, USA  
Art Access Gallery - "Women's Contour" Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Art Access Gallery - Invitational "Plates" Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

**2006** | Patrick Moore Gallery - "Terrain" Show - Landscape Show Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Phoenix Gallery - "Gentle Men" Show - Solo - Park City, Utah, USA  
Springville Art Museum - Spring salon Group Show - Springville, Utah, USA  
Art Access Annual - Group Show - Invitational - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
Museum Of Fine Art "Family Experience" - Group Show FSU - Tallahassee, Florida, USA  
Women's Art Center - Solo Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



**2005** | Juried show - Art Access Gallery - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

**2004** | Women's Art Center - Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

American Ass. of University Women - Utah Women's Artists Exhibition- Utah, USA

Thomas Gilcrease Museum Invitational - Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA

UVSC Woodbury Museum - Women's Show - Provo, Utah, USA

Provo Art Festival - Group Show - Provo, Utah, USA

Artspace Forum Gallery - Solo Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Best and Brightest Scottsdale Artist School Alumni Juried Show - Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

**2003** | Maryland Federation of Art - Circle Gallery - Group Show - Annapolis, Maryland, USA

35x35 Art Space Forum - Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

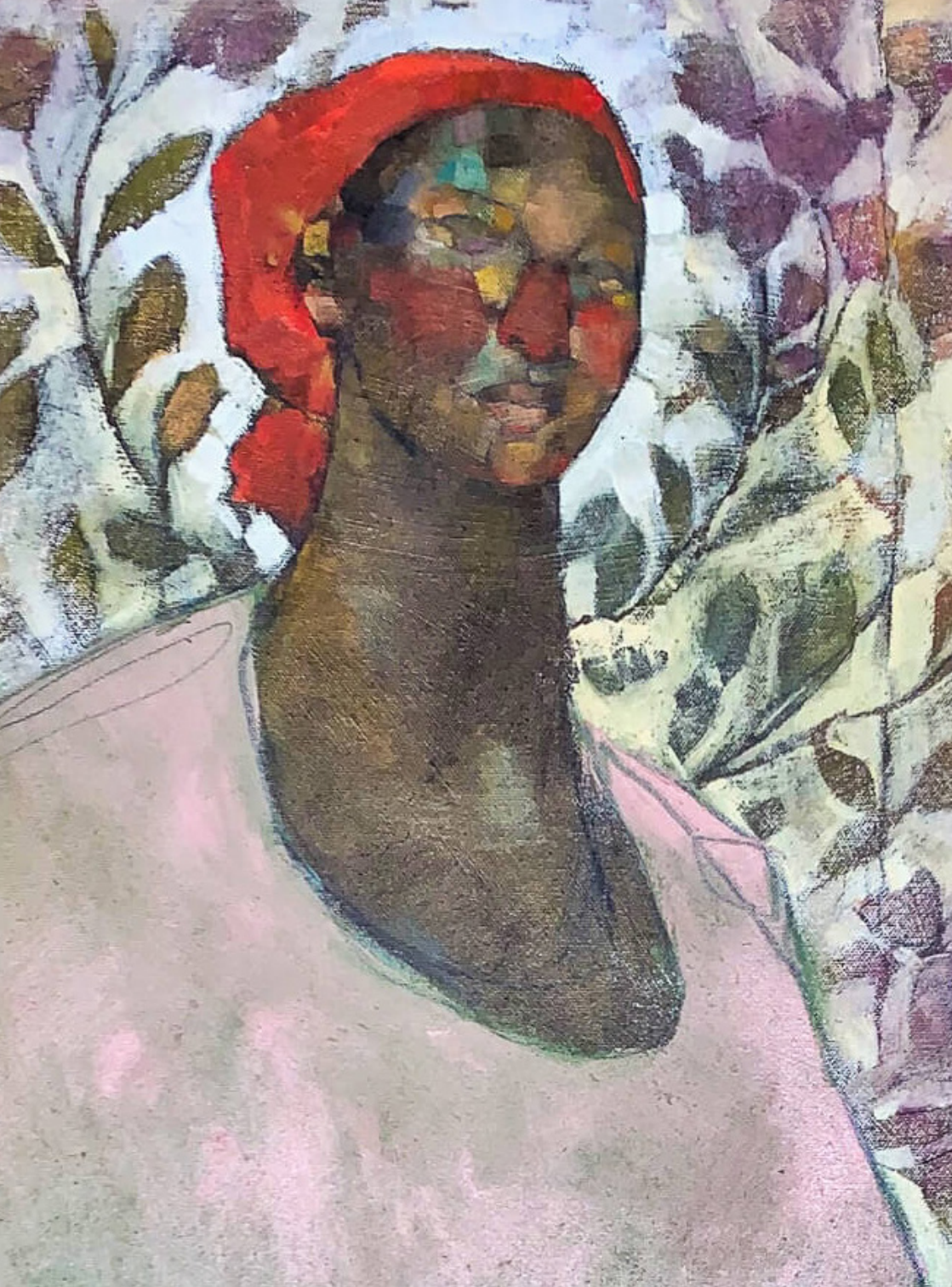
***WAITING IN BOUGANVILLIA*** | 2020

91cm H x 60,5cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





- 2002** | Thomas Gilcrease Museum - Invitational Competition -  
Juried Show - Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA  
Old Town Gallery - Featured Artist Show- Park City - Utah,  
USA  
Chroma Gallery - Group Show - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
"Faces V" - Period Gallery - Juried Show - two pieces -  
Omaha, Nebraska, USA  
Portraiture Show - Loge Gallery - Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
"Colors of Sainte Terre" Show - Park City, Utah, USA
- 1999** | Kimball Art Center - Group Show - Park City, Utah, USA  
Awards
- 2007** | City Weekly - Best Painter in Utah, USA
- 2006** | Springville Museum of Art - Spring Salon - Third Place -  
Springville, Utah, USA
- 2004** | American Ass. of University Women - Utah Women Artist  
Exhibition - Best of Show



- 2004** | UVSC Woodbury Museum - Women's Show - First Place and Honorable Mention
- 2002** | Scottsdale Artist School - Full - Merit Scholarship - Scottsdale, Arizona, USA  
"Art of the Parks" Competition Top Two Hundred Show - Jackson, Wyoming, USA
- 2000** | Vermont Studio Center Merit Scholarship - Johnson, Vermont, USA
- 1999** | Kimball Art Center - Honorable Mention Award - Park City, Utah, USA

***MAN SITTING WITH AURA*** | 2019

183cm H x 122cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



## COLLECTIONS

President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya, Permanent Collection

Art Access Gallery - Permanent Collection

Salt Lake County - Permanent Art Collection

Park City Mountain Resort

Juniper Sky Gallery - Permanent Collection

**WOMAN HOLDING CAT** | 2020

90,5cm H x 60,5cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



## **PRESS**

Business Daily - 01-02-2019 - Painting Ordinary People with Extraordinary Glows

15 Bytes - "From a Warm Heart" - 08/2008

<http://www.artistsofutah.org/15bytes/08june/page9.html>

Concert Program Magazine - 07/2007 - Featured Artist Utah Symphony and Opera

Salt Lake Magazine - 09/2006 - "Artists to Watch"

South West Art Magazine - 02/2005 - "Start Your Collection"

15 Bytes - 07/2005 - Contemporary Native American Show Review

15 Bytes - Holly Mae Pendergast" 03/2003 -

<http://www.artististofutah.com> - e-zine.

Park Record - "Behind the Mask"









**TUK TUK** | 2020  
183cm H x 183cm W  
Oil on canvas  
[ENQUIRE](#)

# OOA | OUT OF AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART

For enquiries please contact

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