

LARRY OTOO



LOST IN THE CROWD

24 October - 29 November 2020

Barcelona - Spain



The artist
Larry OTOO
(Ghana)

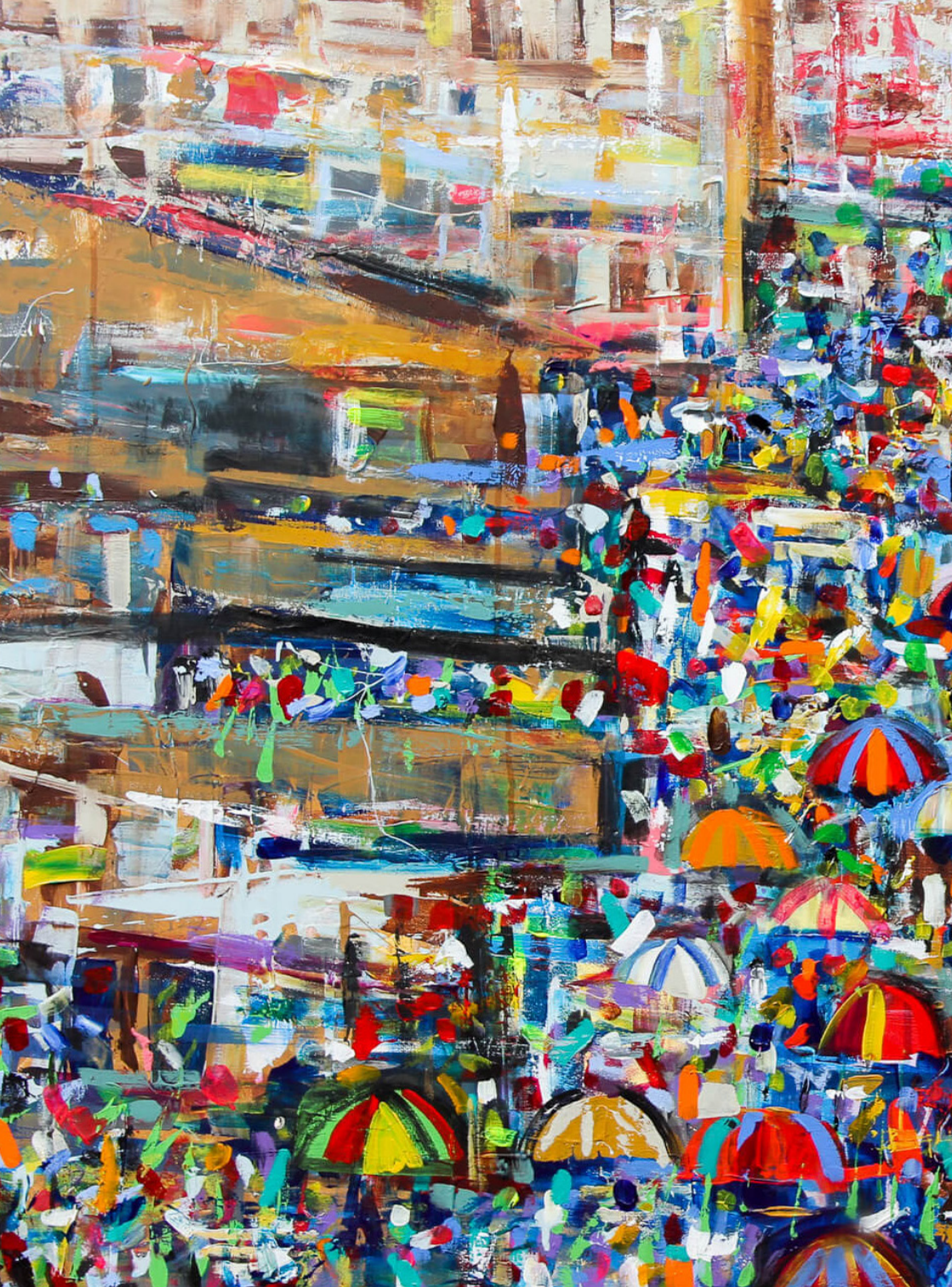
Larry Otoo is represented by OOA Gallery since 2013, but it is always a real pleasure for connoisseurs to embrace his new work, never the same, yet not completely different. This is what we call style!

This accomplished artist, who has reached maturity, is in full possession of his creativity and technical skills, and the paintings he presents to us for this exhibition are further masterful proof of this as well as the promise of an ever ascending curve.

Larry Otoo is Ghanaian and lives in Ghana, that fascinating West African country that combines tradition and modernity so well. Holder of a Master's Degree in African Art and Comparative Literature from the prestigious "Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology" in Kumasi, in his country, Otoo has participated in exhibitions and residencies around the world and today is considered one of the famous painters from Ghana. Otoo's works have been presented in Ghana, of course in Spain, but also in prestigious institutions in the United States, Denmark, The Netherlands, Ivory Coast, Italy, Canada and Germany, and some can be found in public collections as far away as Japan. This does not disturb the life or the creativity of the artist, who traces his path with constants, revealing an infinity of variables.

UMBRELLA ALLEY | 2020

99cm H x 149cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





As Larry Otoo himself explains, “All paintings have three things in common. First, they are dedicated to the human being; second, I only use tones derived from a limited number of primary colors that sometimes break down into secondary colors. This is my specialty as a painter. Third, they are all paintings of an unusual style.” From the market scenes he is famous for to the most unusual portraits of women, Otoo’s work comes from an alchemy that only its author understands.

Therefore, we could expect some form of fatigue, from the systematic impact of pure color, but the artist's talent makes it possible to ensure that this is not the case and that he does not tire of discovering the different forms and combinations that his works take in a multitude of variants. African markets are all alike, except no one is alike. If the abundance of the crowd, the smells, the colors of the clothes of the people who come there and the products that are offered there to the curiosity of the buyers are a constant, the dryness of the air, or the persistent rain, the luminosity, the passages from shadow to light, everything differentiates them and everything recreates them both similarly and differently.

The objects used by both the merchants and buyers, depending on the circumstances, also create variables that have a strong identity. The power of the artist, using the old formula of the alchemists, is to find order; order from the primordial chaos. Loving to represent human encounters in

traditional situations (markets, festivals, etc.) in his country, Larry Otoo finds there his favorite material; the play of tin roofs, that of umbrellas and parasols that mark elegant territories, the contours of the narrow streets that make up the many graphic motifs that structure his paintings, especially since the often unusual point of view helps to give them an attractive new perspective.

A Ghanaian painter, Larry Otoo is also a painter from Ghana, this country, his country, which inspires his creation. The small portraits of women that accompany these larger works are apparently only a fragment, the best chosen, of his most ambitious works. The palette remains the same, the intention as well and the isolation and solitude of the subject do not give it less strength or charm. These colorful portraits are as if descended from other paintings to be better admired and it is with great pleasure that we admire them as well. In these gloomy and distressing times, Larry Otoo's paintings are like a ray of sunshine that soothes, warms and invigorates us.

Sylvain Sankalé

Art Critic

Dakar, Senegal

CROWD CARNIVAL | 2020

100cm H x 148,5cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





LIST OF SHOWS

SOLO SHOWS

2019 | Vibrant Colours - OOA Gallery - Barcelona, Spain

2018 | Melcom Art Exhibition with Larry Otoo - Achimota - Accra, Ghana

2017 | Sight and Style - Labone - Accra, Ghana

Art Exhibition with Larry Otoo - Holiday Inn Hotel - Accra, Ghana

2016 | Gallery My Trunk - Denmark

2015 | Gallery My Trunk - Denmark

AfroJazz - OOA Gallery - Barcelona, Spain

2011 | Happy in Segovia, Residency - Galeria Afrika, Segovia, Spain

SUNNY DAY | 2020

100cm H x 149,5cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



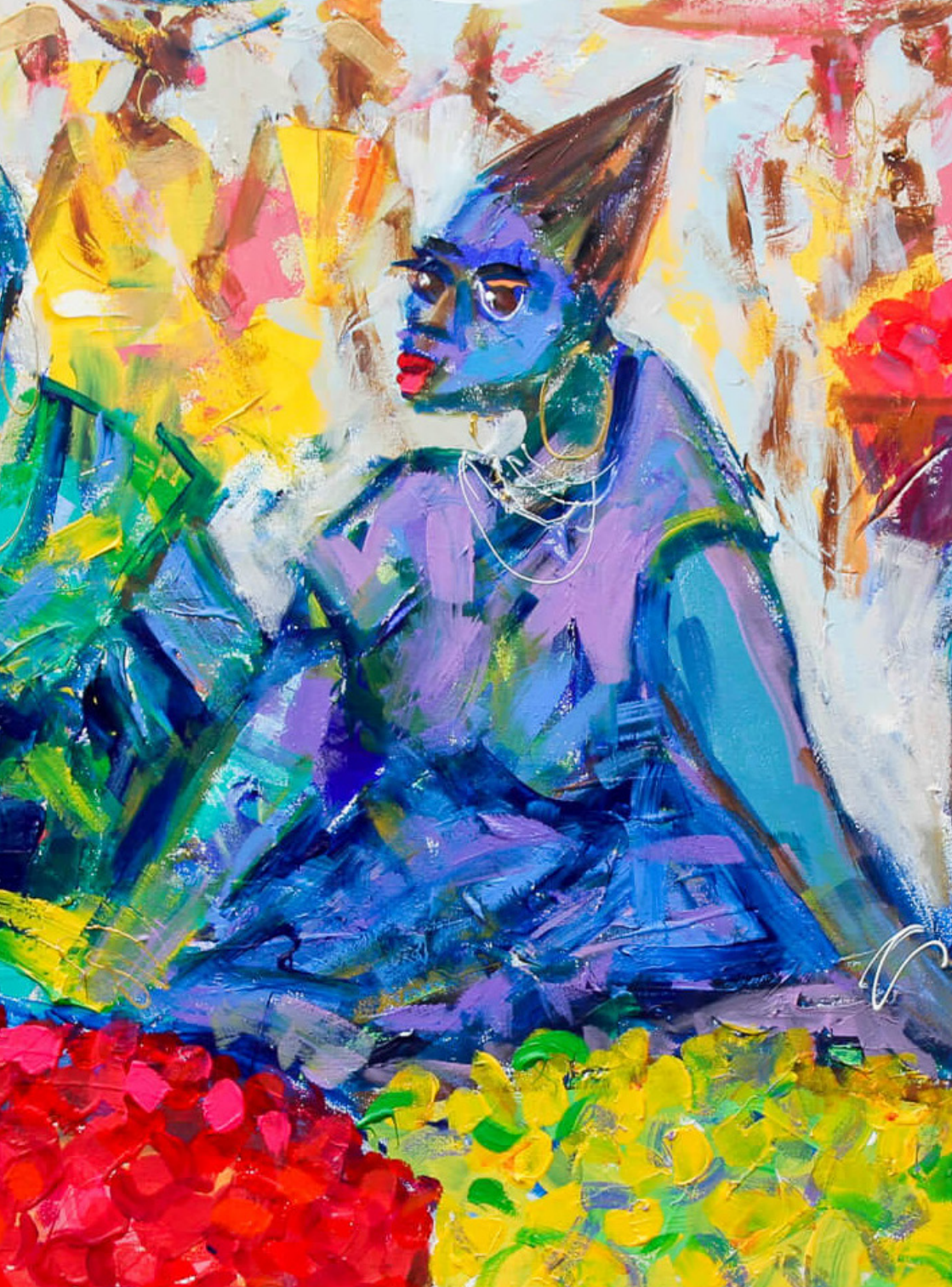




- 2009** | Meet the Artist Exhibition - Alliance Francaise, Accra, Ghana
- 2008** | End-of-Residency Show, Vermont Studio Centre,
Johnson, VT, USA
- 2006** | Larry Otoo - Headlines Hospitality, Accra, Ghana
- 2005** | Watershed - Pictorialist Studio, Accra, Ghana
- 2004** | Contemporary Encounters - Kuaba Gallery, Indianapolis, USA
- 2002** | Isn't It Romantic: Flowers - Leasafric, Accra, Ghana
- 2000** | Colours of Life - Mmofra Foundation, Accra, Ghana
- 1997** | Retrospective - National Theatre, Accra, Ghana

PALM FRUITS AND MANGOES | 2020

100,5cm H x 149,5cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)











FESTIVAL | 2020

101,5cm H x 148,5cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





DRONE VIEW | 2020

100cm H x 149cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





BLUE TREK | 2018

121cm H x 151cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)

1993 | Larry Otoo - Beaux Arts Gallery, Trinity House, Accra, Ghana

1992 | Collector's Items - Goethe Institut, Accra, Ghana

1988 | Otoo '88 - British Council, Accra, Ghana

1987 | Holland Calling - University of Ghana, Legon / with KLM
airlines

Fontomfrom - Goethe Institut, Accra, Ghana

Impressionism Africa - Arts Circle Gallery, Munich, Germany

1983 | Culture Recalled - The Loom, Accra, Ghana

1981 | Courage in Heritage - USIS American Center, Accra, Ghana

PROFILE SPARKLE | 2020

60cm H x 60cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



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GROUP SHOWS

- 2020** | Duo show “Lost in the Crowd” - OOA Gallery - Barcelona, Spain
Pop up exhibition “Year of Return” - Tiga Art Gallery - Cantonments - Accra, Ghana
- 2018** | 8 artists @ Marriot Hotel - Airport City - Accra, Ghana
An exhibiton of paintings @ The Accra International Conference Center - Deutsch Welle and Multi-Media Group of Companies - Accra, Ghana
Tiga Art Gallery / Stanchart Bank @ Kempenski Hotel - Accra, Ghana
Gallery My Trunk Exhibitions - Aarhus, Denmark
- 2017** | Gallery My Trunk Exhibitions - Aarhus, Denmark - Exhibition for Ford Foundation Delegation at the Artist Alliance Gallery - Accra, Ghana
Sight & Style - Larry Otoo & Haila Sabah (Designer’s wardrobe) Accra, Ghana
- 2015** | An exhibition of paintings by 6 Ghanaian artists - St Petersburg & Moscow, Russia
- 2013** | Mar & Música - Larry Otoo & Kobina Nyarko - OOA Gallery - Barcelona, Spain



- 2010** | Pulse the Pulse: Portrait of Accra - ACC Gallery, Weimar
Jamestown Mantse Exhibition - Goethe Institut, Accra, Ghana
- 2009** | Nsoroma: Legacy of Joe Nkrumah - Dei Centre, Accra, Ghana
- 2006** | Four Ghanaian Artists - Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre (KA IPTC)
- 2002** | Ghana - S.B.K. Kunsthal, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Body Electric (Valentine Show) - National Theatre, Accra, Ghana
- 2001** | Just Women - Artists Alliance, Accra, Ghana
Akwaaba - Basilica del Santo, Padova, Italy
African Strides - Mmili Nma Center (opening), Lagos, Nigeria
- 2000** | Save our Soul 51st Anniversary - Novotel, Accra, Ghana
A Slice of Contemporary African Art - Gallery B: Fors, Stockholm and Frederiksberg City Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark

WATCHING | 2020

76cm H x 60,5cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



1980

- 1999** | 4-Man Show - Leasafric, Accra, Ghana
30th Anniversary - The Loom Gallery, Accra, Ghana
- 1998** | International Contemporary Art Fair - Arte Fiera, Bologna, Italy
- 1997** | Cross Currents: Journeys Within the Diaspora - Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, USA
- 1996** | Wiz, Larry, Kofi - Loft des Artistes Gallery, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Art in Corporate Environment - National Theatre, Accra, Ghana
Rise With the Sun Women and African - York Quay Centre Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1994** | Sixteen: Exhibition of Paintings and Prints - Savannah Gallery of Modern African Art, London, UK
- 1993** | Larry Otoo and Kofi Setordji - Bosman's House, Accra, Ghana
A Grain of Wheat - Commonwealth Institute, London, UK / with the Addax & Oryx Group, Ltd.

FACE RAINBOW | 2020

60,5cm H x 61cm W | Acrylic on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)



- 1992** | Paradox of the New - Laing Art Gallery, New Castle Upon-Tyne, USA
- 1990** | Portobello Festival - London, UK
Volunteer Service Overseas: Auction for the World - The Mall Galleries, London, UK
- 1989** | Africa Meets Africa - Pan-African Writers Association, Artists Alliance, Accra, Ghana
- 1987** | "Ghana" at IFA Gallerie - Bonn, Germany
- 1984** | 28th Ghana Independence Anniversary Art Exhibition - Westbourne Gallery, London, UK
Selected Ghanaian Artists - The Modern African Art Gallery, Accra, Ghana
27th Ghana Independence Anniversary Art Exhibition - Ghanaian Embassy in London, UK
- 1981** | BBC Silver Jubilee Art Exhibition - London, UK

GLASS STARE | 2019

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



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Artists Alliance - Accra, Ghana

Cal Merchant Bank - Accra, Ghana

Dei Centre - Accra, Ghana

Ghana's Washington Chancery - Washington, D.C., USA

Johnson Wax, Head Office - Accra, Ghana

Mövenpick Hotel - Accra, Ghana

Noguchi Memorial Institut - Tokyo, Japan

Presidential suite, State Protocol building, State house Accra, Ghana

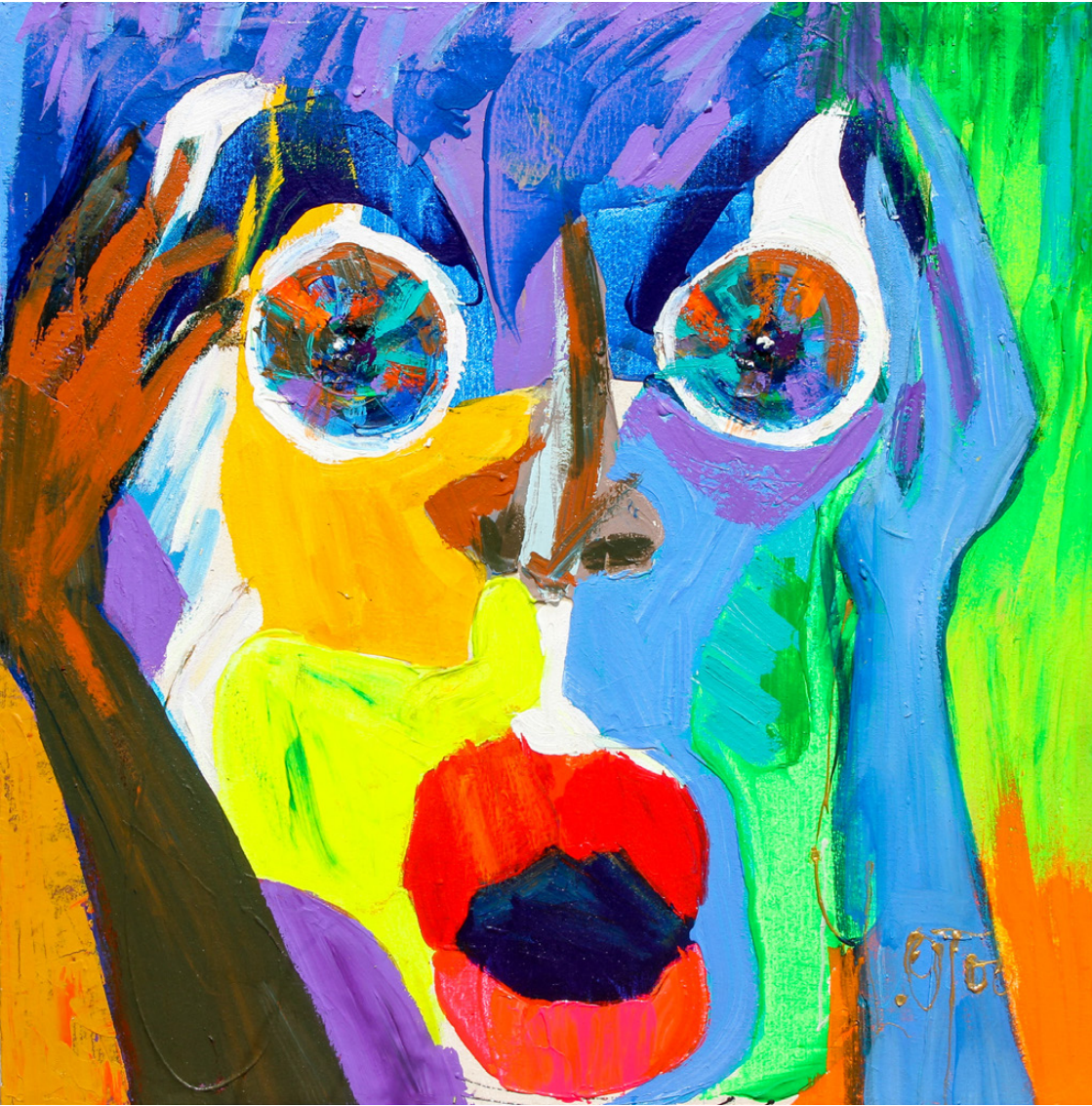
UNICEF House - Accra World Bank Office - Accra, Ghana

His Excellency Nana Akuffo-Addo and First Lady Rebecca Akuffo-Addo - Accra, Ghana

Francisco Hernandez - Murcia Street Art Festival - Murcia, Spain

JULIET'S SCREAM | 2016

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



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