

Kojo Marfo

Kojo Marfo (b. 1980, Ghana) is a Ghanaian artist based in London. Having grown up around individuals sculpting and carving he grew a keen interest in the arts and ultimately chose to work predominantly in a different medium - painting. Marfo found that he could best contribute to ongoing social conversations through acrylic on canvas. Marfo's work seeks to investigate and re-establish an immense richness that is lacking in



mainstream representations of African people. He hopes to channel a self-referential perspective on the Black image by representing abstracted figurative scenes through layered, polychromatic compositions. These showcase the hidden beauty woven into Africa's social and geographical fabric.

After travelling to New York and London, Marfo has combined a wide range of influences, traditions and experiences into a unique style and concept he has created

called *AfroGenesis*. Marfo blends the visual language of Cubism for example, with Ghanaian artistic traditions. Marfo's practice is rooted in traditional Akan artifacts he was exposed to as a child growing up in Ghana. These artifacts still remain a vital source of strength and inspiration to Marfo. He references traditional Akan art to highlight social issues such as inequalities, religion, politics, and spiritualism.

"I want people to see my work as a reflection of my Akan culture and my struggles living in the West. I want my artwork to create a connection with people, to be a symbol for everyone to relate to," Marfo said. "No matter what you are going through, or where you live, I want my art to help people think and reflect on their inner lives and how it relates to the wider world."

HOME: 'Heart of My Existence', his most recent solo exhibition at JD Malat Gallery Dubai (2025) reimagined home not as a fixed location, but as something carried within, transcending physical borders and structures. Home is conceived as a space shaped by subjectivity, memory, emotion and experience. This series marked an introspective shift in Marfo's practice, reflecting his evolving sense of place in the world. Rooted in his own experiences, Marfo invites art enthusiasts to reflect on the meaning of home in their own lives and to find connection and community through difference.

JD MALAT GALLERY

Marfo feels that becoming an artist was essential for him to express his experiences and personal observations and to hold a mirror to society. Having exhibited internationally from Paris and Barcelona to Tokyo and New York, it is clear Marfo's Afro-Surrealist work resonates across the globe, situating him as a prominent, exciting voice in contemporary visual culture.

Kojo Marfo CV

b. 1980, Ghana

Lives and works in London

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *La Maison Ani x Kojo Marfo*, La Maison Ani, London, UK
- 2025 *HOME: Heart Of My Existence*, JD Malat Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Crucible of Hope*, Heydar Aliyev Centre, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2024 *Crucible of Hope*, DG Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2023 *Crucible of Hope*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Gatekeepers of Heritage*, JD Malat Gallery, New York City, USA
- 2021 *Dreaming of Identity*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Spirit & Soul*, Johnson's Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *Spirit & Soul*, Originals Art Gallery, Poole, Dorset, UK
- 2009 *African Concept of Brutalism*, Martin Lockwood, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 *All at Once*, JD Malat Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Serenity*, JD Malat Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Portraits: Through The Looking Glass*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2025 *Carte Blanche*, JD Malat Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Here & Now* JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Journeys - 'On Paper'*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Africa Supernova*, Kunsthal KAdE, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2023 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

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- 2020 *Summer Group Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Re-See*, Independent & Image Art Space, Chongqing, China
- 2020 *Isolation Mastered*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Threesome*, 19Karen Contemporary Gallery, Gold Coast, Australia
- 2014 Brick Lane Gallery, London UK

Art Fairs

- 2025 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2023 ZONAMACO 2023, JD Malat Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021 *Stolen Stories*, UNTITLED, JD Malat Gallery, Miami Beach, USA
- 2015 Oxford International Art Fair, Oxford, UK

Collections

The Charles Collection, Washington DC, USA

Carla and Pieter Schulting Foundation, The Netherlands

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), USA

The Lithuanian National Museum of Art (LNDM), Lithuania

Museu Inima de Paula, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Auctions

2023 Christie's New York, *Say It Loud, Visionaries of Now*, Online Auction, 5-19 August

Selected Works



Kojo Marfo
Hope and Anchor, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
40 x 30 cm



Kojo Marfo
Solstride, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
80 3/4 x 71 5/8 in
205 x 182 cm