

JD MALAT GALLERY | FYND

KOJO MARFO

Beyond the Visible

5 – 30 November 2026

FYND, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

JD MALAT GALLERY × FYND

JD MALAT GALLERY IN COLLABORATION WITH FYND
PRESENTS

KOJO MARFO

Beyond the Visible

THE EXHIBITION

Beyond the Visible

The exhibition begins with a simple proposition: no two people see the world in quite the same way. Through imaginative compositions, Kojo Marfo invites us to look beyond immediate appearances and consider what might otherwise escape our attention.

Marfo's practice is deeply rooted in his Ghanaian heritage, particularly the traditional Akan sculptures, carvings and ceremonial objects he encountered during childhood. These early influences continue to inform the distinctive visual language he has developed through a concept he calls AfroGenesis.

Human faces take on animal characteristics, while horses, flowers and decorative motifs emerge in elaborate arrangements of colour and form. The figures resist fixed interpretations: each composition suggests a story without revealing it entirely, allowing meaning to remain open to the viewer.

"I make my work bright and colourful so that people will look at it. But I don't just want them to look, I want them to come closer and see the story behind it."

KOJO MARFO



KOJO MARFO IN HIS LONDON STUDIO

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kojo Marfo

Kojo Marfo (b. 1980) was born in Kwahu, Ghana, and moved to Accra as a boy. He grew up among carvers and sculptors, and the Akan artefacts he encountered then (fertility figures, ceremonial objects, carved masks) remain the foundation of his visual language. Reading as a young man about Pablo Picasso's encounter with African sculpture, he recognised his own inheritance in the story of modern art and resolved to become an artist.

After time in New York, Marfo settled in London in 1999, where he lives and works. Largely self-taught, he built his practice outside the mainstream art world until JD Malat Gallery discovered his work through the open-call exhibition *Isolation Mastered* in 2020. His first solo exhibition with the gallery, *Dreaming of Identity* (London, 2021), sold out. It was followed by *Gatekeepers of Heritage* (New York, 2022), *Crucible of Hope* (London, 2023; Istanbul and the Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, 2024) and *HOME: Heart of My Existence* (Dubai, 2025).

Marfo calls his approach AfroGenesis: a synthesis of the Akan traditions of his childhood, the visual language of Cubism and a life lived between continents. Working in acrylic, he builds layered, polychromatic compositions that counter narrow mainstream representations of African people and address inequality, religion, politics and spirituality.

"I want my artwork to create a connection with people, to be a symbol for everyone to relate to."





Solitude’s Sanctuary

Acrylic on canvas

2026

39 3/8 × 47 1/4 in

100 × 120 cm



Monolith of One

Acrylic on canvas
2026
39 3/8 × 47 1/4 in
100 × 120 cm



Neither Shall Yield

Acrylic on canvas
2026
68 7/8 × 74 3/4 in
175 × 190 cm



Until We Became Strangers

Acrylic on canvas

2026

74 3/4 × 69 1/4 in

190 × 176 cm



Beneath a Dying Sun

Acrylic on canvas

2026

68 7/8 × 65 3/8 in

175 × 166 cm



Reign of Shadows

Acrylic on canvas
2026
68 7/8 × 74 in
175 × 188 cm



The Girl Beneath the Pearls

Acrylic on canvas

2025

47 1/4 × 39 3/8 in

120 × 100 cm



Fever Dream

Acrylic on canvas
2026
14 × 14 in
36 × 36 cm
Framed



Velvet Static

Acrylic on canvas
2026
14 × 14 in
36 × 36 cm
Framed



Whispers in Colour

Acrylic on canvas
2026
15 3/4 × 15 3/4 in
40 × 40 cm
Framed



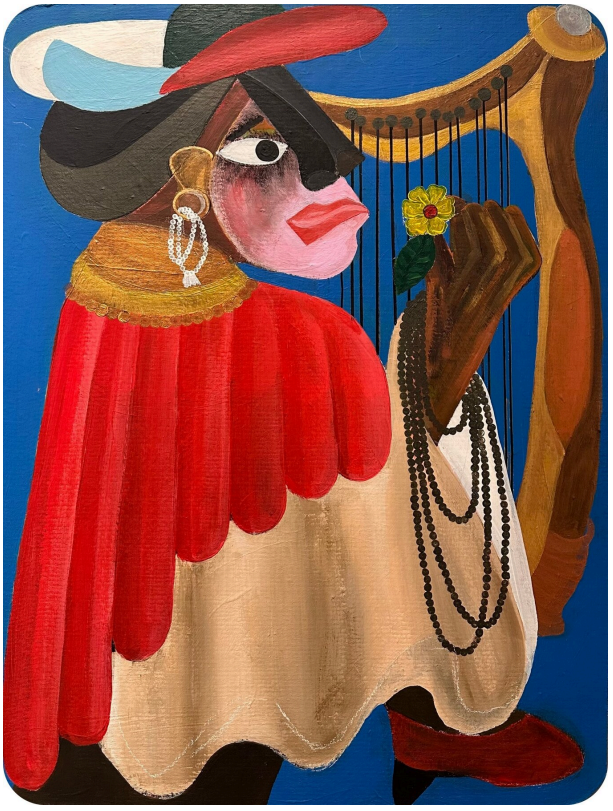
Beautiful Disarray

Acrylic on canvas
2026
15 3/4 × 15 3/4 in
40 × 40 cm
Framed



Debutante Gown

Acrylic on canvas
2025
15 3/4 × 15 3/4 in
40 × 40 cm
Framed



Strings of Serenity

Acrylic on board
2026
31 1/8 × 23 5/8 in
79 × 60 cm
Framed



Harmonic Haze

Acrylic on board
2025
31 1/8 × 23 5/8 in
79 × 60 cm
Framed



Shadows and Light

Acrylic on board
2025
31 1/8 × 23 5/8 in
79 × 60 cm
Framed



Over

Acrylic on paperboard
2014
30 7/8 × 23 in
78.5 × 58.5 cm
Framed



Flower Girl

Acrylic on paperboard
2014
30 7/8 × 23 in
78.5 × 58.5 cm
Framed



Made of Honour

Acrylic on paperboard
2014
30 7/8 × 23 in
78.5 × 58.5 cm
Framed



Page Boy

Acrylic on paperboard
2014
30 7/8 × 23 in
78.5 × 58.5 cm
Framed

Selected Exhibitions

Kojo Marfo · b. 1980, Ghana · Lives and works in London

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026	Beyond the Visible, JD Malat Gallery × FYND, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE
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 Center, 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, 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
2026	Points of View, 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, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2023	Past, Present, Future, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
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



Collections

The Charles Collection
Washington, D.C., USA

Carla and Pieter Schulting Foundation
The Netherlands

The Eleanor Crook Foundation
USA

Lithuanian National Museum of Art
Lithuania

Museu Inimá de Paula
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Art Fairs

Contemporary Istanbul
2026 · Istanbul, Turkey

Contemporary Istanbul
2025 · Istanbul, Turkey

ZONAMACO
2023 · Mexico City, Mexico

UNTITLED Art, *Stolen Stories*
2021 · Miami Beach, USA

Oxford International Art Fair
2015 · Oxford, UK

In Collaboration

JD Malat Gallery

Founded in 2018 by Paris-born art dealer and curator Jean-David Malat, JD Malat Gallery supports established and emerging artists. The gallery opened at 30 Davies Street, Mayfair, London, and expanded to Downtown Dubai in 2025. It has worked with Kojo Marfo since discovering his work through its 2020 open call, *Isolation Mastered*.

FYND

Co-founded by Ali Mohammadioun and Hana Jalalian, FYND is a design platform at Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, focused on making design accessible to new collectors.

Contemporary Spaces

Contemporary Spaces is a furniture studio in Dubai's Al Quoz, founded by Emirati siblings Alya, Maitha and Obaid Al Suwaidi. Having grown up in their father's furniture and interior manufacturing factories, they create locally made furniture rooted in that heritage of craftsmanship.

Experience the Exhibition

Kojo Marfo: Beyond the Visible

OPENS	Thursday 5 November 2026
CLOSES	Monday 30 November 2026
HOURS	Daily, 10am – 7pm
VENUE	FYND, Warehouse 64A, Alserkal Avenue 17th Street, Al Quoz Industrial Area 1, Dubai
ENQUIRIES	dubai@jdmalat.com · +971 (0)4 257 0076

JD Malat Gallery

www.jdmalat.com

@jdmalatgallery

Catalogue designed by Haseeb Qureshi

Front cover image Kojo Marfo, *The Girl Beneath the Pearls*, 2025, acrylic on canvas, 120 × 100 cm (47 1/4 × 39 3/8 in)

Back cover image Kojo Marfo, *Solitude's Sanctuary*, 2026, acrylic on canvas, 100 × 120 cm (39 3/8 × 47 1/4 in)

All works © Kojo Marfo. Courtesy of the artist and JD Malat Gallery.

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BEYOND THE VISIBLE