

Rita Mawuena Benissan

Born 1995, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Lives and works in Accra, Ghana.

EDUCATION

- 2021 MFA in Photography, at University of Wisconsin- Madison
2017 BFA in Apparel and Textile Design, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *In the World not of the World*, Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana
2022 *Ghana, Land of Freedom*, The Mix Gallery, Accra, Ghana
2021 *Okoafo Pa*, Foundation of Contemporary Art, Accra, Ghana
Mo Apiafo, MFA Show, Arts + Literature Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
2019 *Power of the Crown*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
2018 *Survive in America*, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham, Michigan, USA
Survive in America, Baltimore Art Gallery, Detroit, Michigan, USA
Survive in America, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Worldmaking*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, New York
Unlimited II, Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana
2022 *Unlimited*, Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana
The Medium is the Message- The African Diaspora Story, Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA, USA
2021 *EFIE: The Museum As Home*, Museum Ostwall im Dortmunder U, Dortmund, Germany
The Medium is the Message- The African Diaspora Story, Taylor Hall Gallery, Newark Delaware, USA
2020 *Arbitrary Ground: Queers and Complacency Exhibition*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
6 - Feet, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

1957

Gallery 1957, I, II and III Accra
Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast
& Galleria Mall
PMB 66 – Ministries
Gamel Abdul Nasser Avenue
Ridge – Accra
Ghana
info@gallery1957.com

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- 2019 *Manifest Photo Exhibition*, University of Wisconsin- Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
What Now?, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- 2018 *Explore/Expose Photo Exhibition*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
MFA Photography Exhibition, University of Wisconsin- Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA
- 2016 Apparel and Textile Exhibition, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA
- 2015 Apparel and Textile Exhibition, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2024 Henrike Grohs Art Award
- 2023 Shortlisted for CIRCA Art Prize, *A Makers' Hope* video shown at Piccadilly Circus in London, London, UK
- 2020 Ghana Art and Culture Award: Media, Blog of the Year, Accra, Ghana
Racial Justice Award- African Studies Program UW-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin
- 2019 Professional Development Grant, Art Department, Madison, Wisconsin
IRIS Fieldwork Award, Institute for Regional and International Studies. Madison, Wisconsin
BLAC Foundation Grant. BLAC Foundation, Madison, Wisconsin
- 2017 Martin Luther King Scholarship, Detroit Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan
- 2016 Martin Luther King Scholarship, Detroit Annual Conference, Trenton, Michigan
Best Print Award, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

NOTABLE APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 Art Director at Open Society Foundation, Conference on Restitution
- 2021 Cultural Curator, The Noldor Residency
- 2020 Founder and Director, Si Hene

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FAIRS

- 2024 1-54 Marrakesh, with Gallery 1957, Morocco (forthcoming)
- 2022 Ghana Pavilion with Kwasi Darko and Kuukua Eshun, Dak'art Biennale, Senegal
- 2021 Afrochella, Accra Ghana

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana
- 2022 (Un)Learning Distances, (Hybrid), Dortmund, Germany

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Online

- 2023 Aug 31, FAD Magazine, "[THE CIRCA PRIZE 2023 ARTIST SHORTLIST REVEALED.](#)"
- Aug 23, New York Art Tour, "[Rita Mawuena Benissan in 'Worldmaking' at Mitchell-Innes and Nash Gallery](#)"
- July 4, Art News Africa, "[ANA Spotlight : Rita Mawuena Benissan](#)"
- June 10, ONART, "[Ceremonial umbrellas as works of art: The magical universe of Rita Mawuena Benissan](#)"
- May 12, Art News Africa, "[Rita Benissan is Preserving The History of Royal Umbrellas](#)"
- April, DW News, "[The hidden history of Ghana's royal umbrellas](#)"
- 2022 Aug 3, Braperucci, "[Art Attack: meet Rita Mawuena Benissan, visual storyteller reclaiming and curating Ghanaian history with Si Hene](#)"
- June, Widewall, "[DAK'ART, Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Opens](#)"
- June 17, Art News, "[Meet The Ghanaian-American Artist Helping Ghana Reclaim Its Royal History](#)"
- May 21, E-Flux, "[Rita Mawuena Benissan, Kwasi Darko and Kuukua Eshun: Nkabom—The Museum as Community](#)"
- 2021 Dec 15, The Art Newspaper, "[From artist residency to fully-fledged museum: Ghana's new space for contemporary African art prepares to open in March](#)"
- June 13, The Capital Times, "[Q&A: Artist Rita Mawuena Benissan captures her Ghanaian heritage under one big umbrella](#)"

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Gallery

May 21, E-Flux, "[Rita Mawuena Benissan, Kwasi Darko and Kuukua Eshun: Nkabom—The Museum as Community](#)"

Video

2022

Mar 7, Blend, "[Young Black Contemporary Artist: Rtia Mawuena Benissan, The Umbrella Re-Imagined](#)"

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