

# OLIVIA MAE PENDERGAST SOLO SHOW EMERGE



29 JANUARY - 20 MARCH 2022  
BARCELONA - SPAIN



**OLIVIA MAE PENDERGAST**

Born in 1970 in Florida, USA. Works and lives in Nairobi, Kenya

**EMERGE**

It is not often one comes across an artist whose work is undeniably contemporary, progressive and original, yet still firmly underpinned and informed by 20th century art movements of revolutionary old masters such as Picasso, Modigliani and Gauguin.

Olivia's paintings, and indeed the artist herself, are reminiscent of a golden age where artists were daring, bold and inventive, in search of new perspectives, greater freedom, and a simplicity that is the purity and essence of life.

Gauguin escaped the rigidity of life in France, rejecting its social conventions for the liberty, peace, and inspiration he hoped to find in Tahiti, where he created his greatest works. For both Picasso and more significantly Modigliani, freedom, beauty and purity was to be found in their encounter with abstract art, inspired by the elegant sculptures and masks of the Fang people of Central Africa.

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the clear parallels between Olivia's style of work and the old master, Modigliani, a fact she acknowledges, as she discovered and fell in love with the artist's work as a student years ago.

The iconic disproportion and elongated forms of her Kenyan muses, the vacancy of their expressionless eyes, and their easy, but stoic poses, pay homage to, and reference his masterpieces. However, what makes Olivia's portraits uniquely distinct and significant in style and in substance, is the subject of her muses and her balancing of the scale.

**GRACE WITH PINK CUP** | 2021

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





Where both Modigliani and Picasso clearly referred to African aesthetic, style and motifs, often without credit or acknowledgment, to further their artistic movements, and western art at large; Olivia avoids their faux pas by virtue of being candid about her inspirations being an American artist, working and living amongst Kenyans.

Furthermore, each muse she captures beautifully on canvas has given their prior consent to pose for her, which is easily detected in the tranquil and easy nature of the subject, suggesting a level of trust, comfort and respect between both the painter and the subject. *'Grace with Pink Cup'* and *'Girl Sitting in White'* are perfect examples of this soft dynamic and interplay, when one observes their open and free body language and actions, in addition to the honorific halo that the artist has bestowed on them, an ancient symbol of reverence.

***GIRL SITTING IN WHITE*** | 2021

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









Empathy and a quest to truly see and appreciate people as they are, is integral to Olivia's practice and motivations. Her loose, almost transparent brush strokes, and soft, muted colour palette, serves as an intentional visual device to see beyond, and through the obvious physical traits of her sitters in an attempt to capture their true essence and spirit, and connect on a deeper and more ethereal level. 'Young Girl in Pink' exemplifies this best, as the viewer is immediately drawn to the precocious and curious nature of a young girl teetering between the restraints of maturity and the exuberance of youth.

**YOUNG GIRL IN PINK** | 2021

91cm H x 61cm W | Oil on canvas - SOLD



*Olivia*





The question often asked, and hotly debated in art circles, is whether an artist not of African descent, can be considered a contemporary African artist. The jury is still out on this case, however, most would agree that contemporary African art is about centering African art at the heart of global art, and not on the periphery as has been the case historically. By this logic, any artist, African or otherwise, that centres African people, culture and narratives at the centre of their practice, with sincerity, appreciation, and empathy, should be welcomed and embraced as such. Oliva is such an artist.

### **Raphael Dapaah**

Art writer, Consultant, Contributor

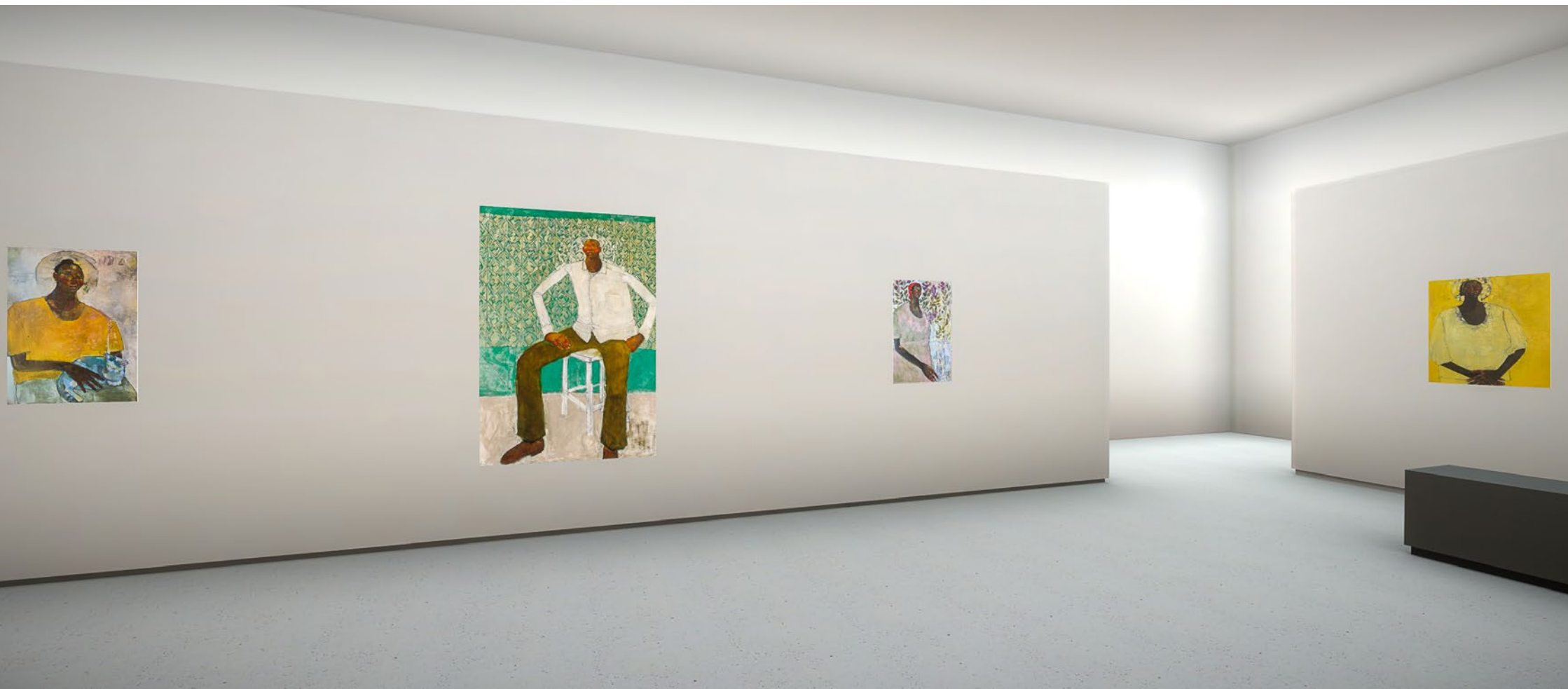
Dapaah Gallery | Polo Lifestyles Magazine | Art Plugged

**MARY WITH SKATEBOARD IN ORANGE** | 2021

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







## OLIVIA MAE PENDERGAST

### EMERGE – ARTIST' STATEMENT

*“Waves emerge from the sea, riding on the surface of the collective waters, each believing it is separate from surrounding waves, each with its own shape and form and its own particular perspective in which it is orientated to the world. Eventually it tires and returns back to the Truth of the sameness that it never wasn't.*

*We, too, emerge into life and seeing the difference of form of the "other", assume we are separate. The ego's job, to define the edge of self, of Me, to keep the individual safe and fed, devours any and all information about our separateness, our specialness. We rise out of the crowd, out of the background or the field of colour, an individual, believing in the story of Self.*

**MAN SITTING WITH AURA** | 2019

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





*I am unique.*

*Nairobi, a massive city, a storm surge of humanity, constant and unrelenting and yet... each person, so beautiful, with a meaningful life. If the time is taken, the moment is held, there is this beautiful opportunity, when oriented from Love, to see each person as holy, their journey sacred, their life rising out of the common-ness. Each life, a sweet story of relating, of falling lost, of coming home. A worthy epic of a hero's tale, but lost in the roaring of the sea.*

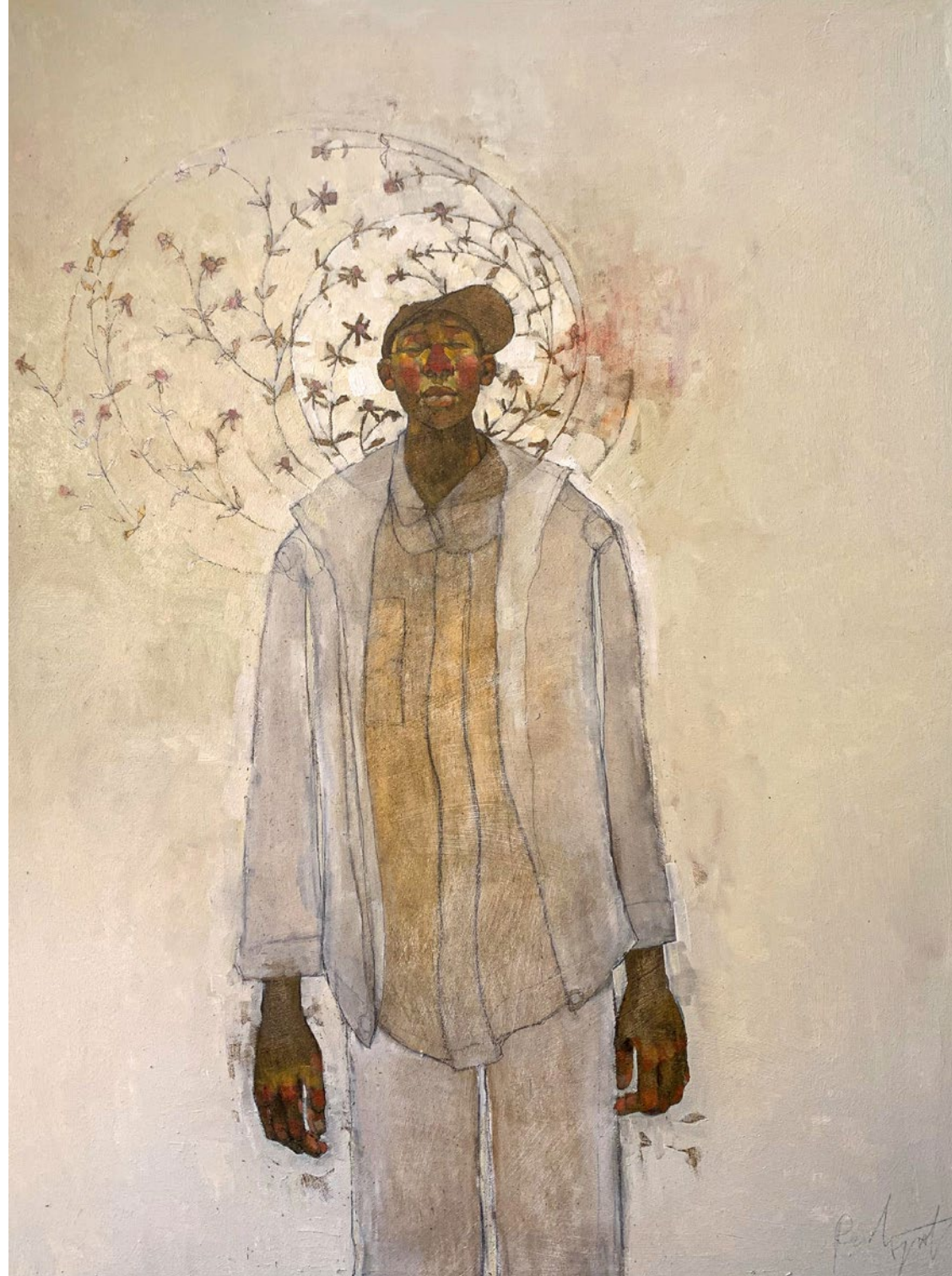
*Each person, both unique and completely the same.”*

**Olivia Mae Pendergast**

Artist, Nairobi, Kenya

**BOY WITH RED CLOVER** | 2021

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











## LIST OF SHOWS

**2022** | OOA Gallery “Emerge” – Solo Show – Barcelona, Spain

**2021** | OOA Gallery “3 female artists addicted to Africa” – Artsy Online Show Only

J-Go Gallery "From Africa" – Solo Show – Utah, USA

One Off Contemporary Art Gallery – "Group Show – Small works" – Nairobi, Kenya

Vashon Center for the Arts – "Olivia Pendergast – Solo Show" – Washington, USA

**2020** | OOA Gallery “Lost in the Crowd” – Duo show – Barcelona, Spain

OOA Gallery “Humanism” – Duo show – Barcelona, Spain

One Off Contemporary Art Gallery "Facing Change" – Solo Show – Nairobi, Kenya

**2019** | One Off Fine Art Gallery "Aura" – Solo Show – Nairobi, Kenya

*GIRL WITH CHARLIE* | 2018

122cm H x 92cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)









- 2018** | Tralevolte Gallery "Gentle" – Solo Show – Rome, Italy  
Showcase Gallery – Group Show – Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2017** | One Off Contemporary Art Gallery "Nudes" – Group Show – Nairobi, Kenya  
One Off Contemporary Art Gallery – "Nudes II" – Group Show – Nairobi, Kenya  
One Off Contemporary Art Gallery "Kenyan Atmosphere" – Solo Show – Nairobi, Kenya
- 2016** | Hardware Gallery – "Home" – Vashon, Washington, USA
- 2015** | Showcase Gallery – Solo Show – "Portraits of the Middle Way" – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

***LUCY IN LARGE CHAIR*** | 2021

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







# SOLO SHOW *EMERGE*

OLIVIA MAE PENDERGAST

OOA Gallery 29/1 - 20/3/2022

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**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

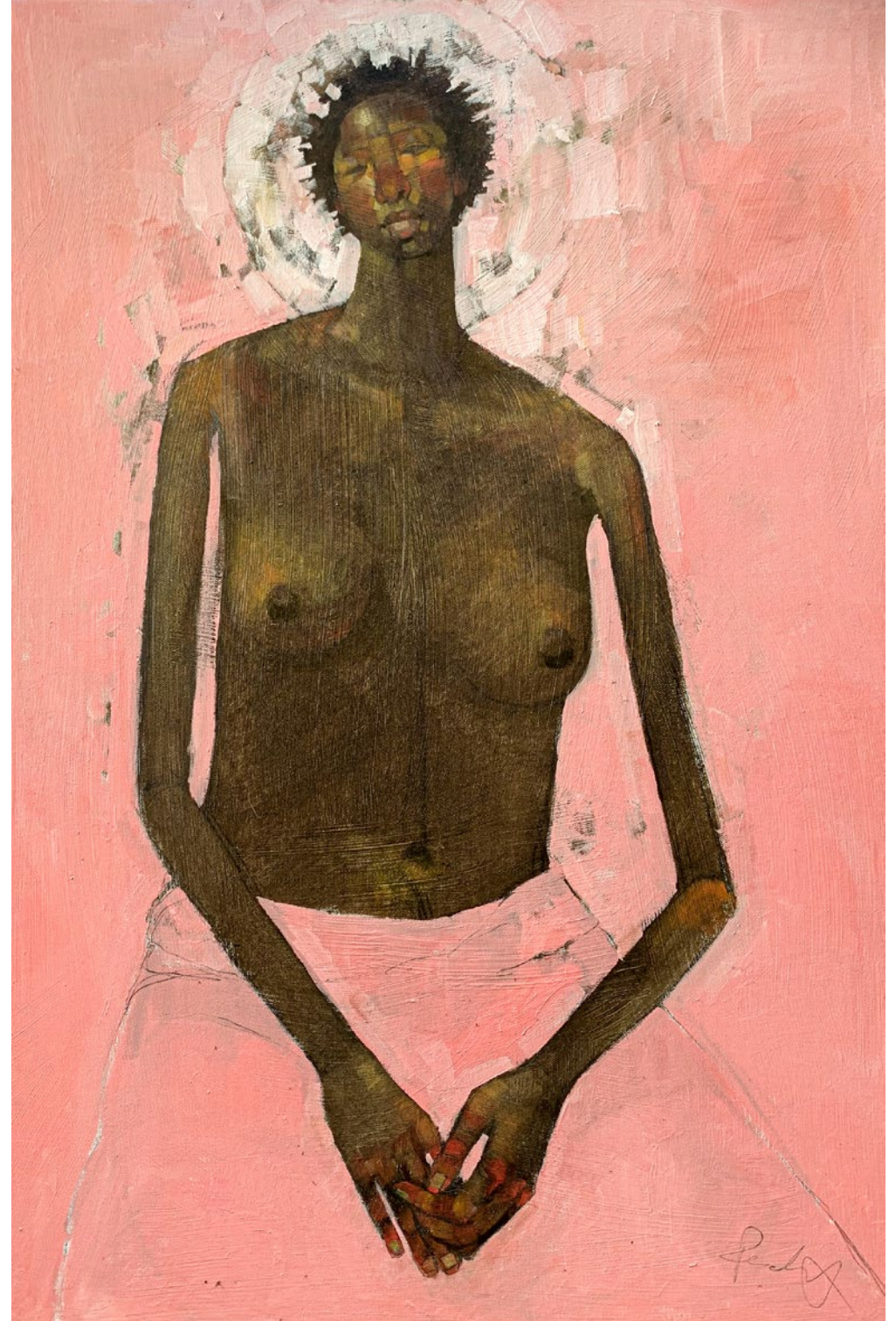
Children of OFK – Serenade Gallery – Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

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

Blue Heron Gallery – Group Show – Washington, USA

**MERCY WITH HALO** | 2021

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





**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

**MAN IN WILD ROSE** | 2021

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

***GIRL WITH AURA IN YELLOW*** | 2021

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





**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

***WAITING IN BOUGANVILLIA*** | 2020

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





**2005** | Juried Solo 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

**JOHN TAXI DRIVER ON PINK** | 2018

122cm H x 92cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)







Pentyl



- 2003** | Maryland Federation of Art Circle Gallery – Group Show – Annapolis, Maryland, USA  
35x35 Art Space Forum – Group Show – Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- 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
- 2000** | "Colors of Sainte Terre" Show – Park City, Utah, USA
- 1999** | Kimball Art Center Group Show – Park City, Utah, USA

**YOUNG MAASAI HERDER** | 2019  
122cm H x 91cm W | Oil on canvas - [ENQUIRE](#)





## 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  
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 IN GACHIE** | 2018

61cm H x 46cm 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

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





# OOA | OUT OF AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART BARCELONA • LONDON

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