

Yonga ARTS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST

2024

ELECTRONIC
PRESS
KIT



SOCIAL MEDIA >>



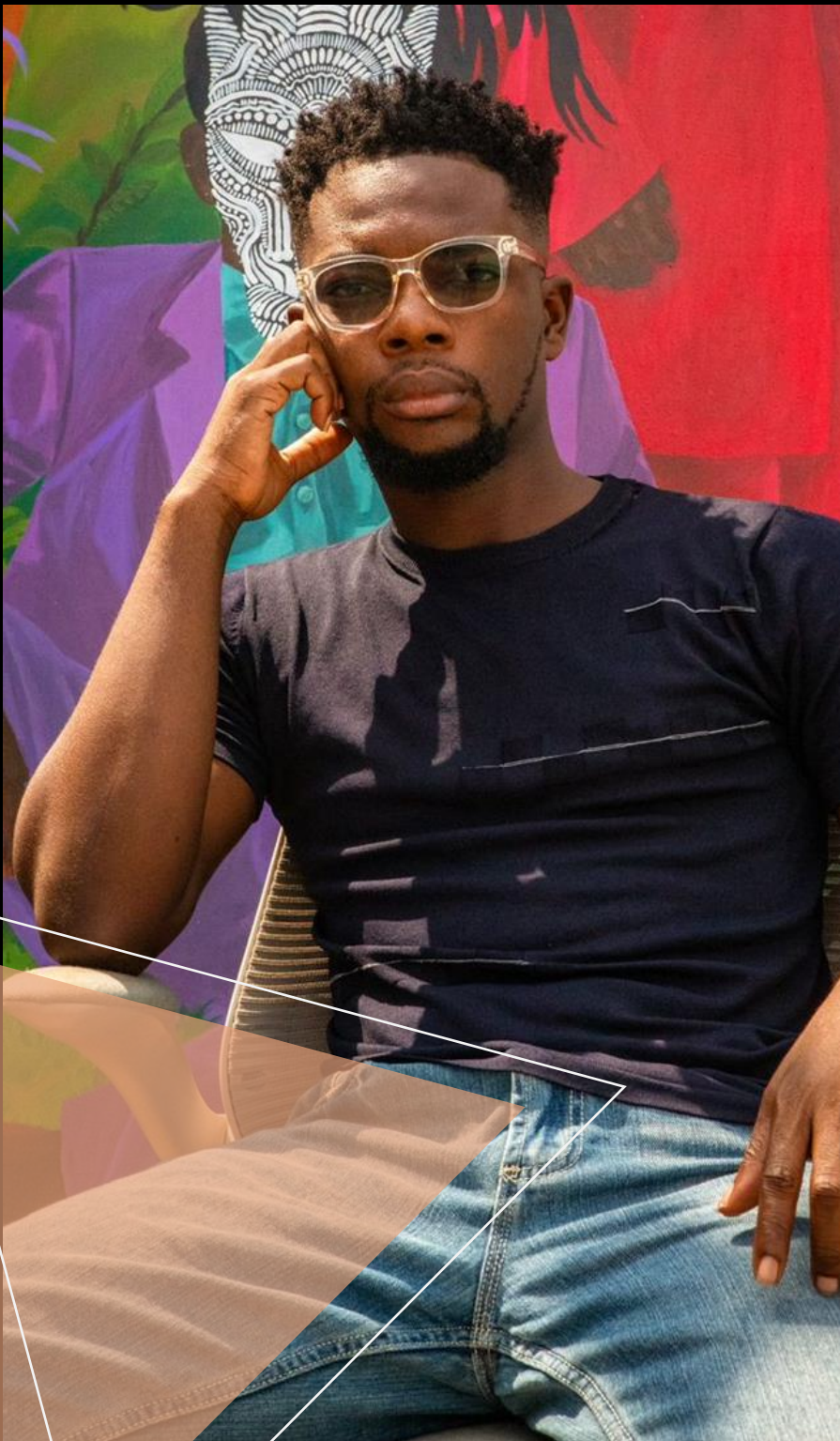
@yonga_arts



@oscar.awuku.7



@yonga_arts



BIOGRAPHY

Oscar Korbla Mawuli Awuku, known artistically as Yonga Arts, was born on May 18, 1999, in Accra, Ghana, to Maxwell Awuku and Bridgette Dzidzineyo. As the eldest of three brothers, he thrived in a nurturing environment rich in creativity, largely thanks to his mother's unwavering support. Awuku began his education at Senajoy Preparatory School and later pursued his passion for visual arts at Mawuli School in the Volta Region. He then advanced his studies, earning a Higher National Diploma in Commercial Art (Painting) and a Bachelor of Technology in Studio Practice Painting from Takoradi Technical University.

Awuku's artistic journey is a vibrant exploration of identity, empowerment, and cultural heritage. In a 2020 interview with GhanaWeb, he articulated his desire to celebrate the strength and nurturing spirit of women through his work. This vision inspired his distinctive style, "Anansinism," drawn from the mythical spider Kweku Anansi of Akan folklore. His art intricately weaves historical Ghanaian Adinkra symbols, engaging with themes of pre-colonial culture and contemporary decolonization. Utilizing body art as a medium, he transforms the human form into a canvas adorned with elaborate designs reminiscent of Ashanti and Ewe kente cloth.

In 2020, Awuku garnered recognition with a nomination for the Ghana Arts and Culture Awards, highlighting his impact on the Ghanaian art landscape. His creativity transcends traditional boundaries; he integrates performance art, videography, music, photography, and poetry into his practice, creating a multidisciplinary experience that captivates audiences. One of his standout projects, the short film "Supremacy," announced in November 2020, showcases his artistic vision and the rich themes he explores. Awuku's philosophy emphasizes the reclamation and celebration of African identity. Through the use of ritual masks, he connects with ancestral spirits and embodies the cultural narratives they represent. By merging traditional and contemporary practices, he revitalizes the collective wisdom of his forebears, bringing it to the forefront of modern discourse. Yonga Arts challenges societal norms and advocates for marginalized voices, particularly women, crafting a powerful narrative that bridges the past and present. His work encourages a profound understanding of cultural heritage, making Oscar Korbla Mawuli Awuku a visionary artist whose contributions continue to inspire dialogue on identity, empowerment, and the enduring legacy of ancestral wisdom in contemporary Ghanaian art.

BROADCAST

+ DIGITAL REEL





PAST COLLABORATIONS

2023

Art partnership with Samsung for their Frame TV.

2021

- Collaborated with Lorraine Lion Heart on a song titled Coochoo.
- Collaborated with R2Bees featuring Sarkodie on a song titled Yawa.
- Collaborated with Darko Vibes featuring Davido on a song titled Je Mappelle.
- Directed a short film featuring Moesha Buduong titled Kplorla for my YouTube channel.

2020

Worked on an advertisement campaign for First National Bank.

2019

Worked with Club Ghana for their bottle launch.

2018

Worked with Becca featuring Sarkodie on a song titled Nana.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- 2024 Shortlisted For Global Peace Images Award - Single Images
- 2024 Shortlisted For Milim Community Bursary, Millennium Images
- 2022 Second Place, Photo Of The Year, Agora
- 2020 Nominated, Ghana Arts And Culture Awards

EXIBITIONS

2024

- 30 Years of Wishful Thinking Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg
- The Agitation of Africa Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg
- Converging Timelines, La Foundation For The Arts Ghana

2023

- Heritages Group Show, Villa Karo - Finish West African Cultural Centre Benin
- Beautiful Nonsense Group Show, Science And Technology Museum Ghana
- MoMo SA Group Exhibition of Pan African Contemporary Art in collaboration with MTN, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg
- Summer Group Exhibition, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg
- Autumn Group Exhibition, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg

2022

- Group Show, Melrose Gallery Johannesburg





WELCOME TO ENZI: EMPOWERING BLACK ARTISTS THROUGH DEDICATED REPRESENTATION

In a world where creativity knows no bounds, the narratives of Black artists often remain untold, their talents overshadowed by systemic challenges and barriers. At Enzi, we recognize the extraordinary potential within each artist, and we are committed to amplifying their voices, celebrating their stories, and fostering their growth.

Imagine a young painter whose vibrant canvases reflect the struggles and triumphs of their community, but who lacks the platform to share their vision. Picture a musician whose melodies resonate with the heartbeat of a generation, yet who finds it difficult to navigate the complexities of the industry. This is where an art talent manager plays a pivotal role. We serve as advocates, strategists, and allies, guiding artists through the intricate landscape of the art world. Our mission is to ensure that their brilliance is not only recognized but also celebrated, providing them with the resources and opportunities necessary for their artistic journey.

As dedicated representatives of Black artists, we leverage our extensive networks, industry knowledge, and passion for art to create pathways for success. From negotiating contracts to curating exhibitions, we are here to illuminate the rich tapestry of Black artistry, paving the way for future generations of creators.

Defining Enzi: A Word of Strength and Empowerment

The word "Enzi" is derived from the Swahili language, meaning "power" or "strength." It embodies our vision of empowering artists to harness their innate talents, overcome adversity, and rise to prominence in their fields. At Enzi, we believe that every artist possesses a unique strength that deserves recognition and support. Our commitment to fostering this strength drives us to create an inclusive environment where creativity flourishes, and where Black artists can thrive without limitations.

Join us on this transformative journey as we redefine the art landscape, celebrating the power of Black artistry with passion, purpose, and pride. Together, we can create a legacy that honors the past while inspiring future generations. Welcome to Enzi, where art meets empowerment.



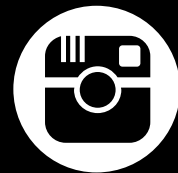


CONTACT INFO

Oscarqorbla@gmail.com

yongaarts.com

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