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KWADWO AMFO-AKONNOR

Social commentary became the base of Amfo's work throughout the years ranging from societal beauty standards, identity politics, social inclusion and conformity — expanding to representations of misrepresentations, stereotypes and struggles of people in society.

Kwadwo Amfo (1990, Accra, Ghana) established an early interest in art making while growing up, which led him to enroll into the Visual Arts department in secondary school and did his elective courses in textiles, graphic design, general knowledge in art, and English literature. While in secondary school, Amfo developed his love for textile and graphic design while re-enforcing his interest in photography/filmmaking and realised that the two could go hand in hand as he pursued photography (Fiction) at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague Social commentary became the base of Amfo's work throughout the years, ranging from societal beauty standards, identity politics, social inclusion and conformity, and topics on the self and the other. Amfo has expanded this into works that speak representations of misrepresentations, stereotypes and struggles of people of colour. Amfo's decision to almost exclusively depict black characters, individuals of African heritage, reflects his desire, born of his own experiences, to bring to the fore the inadequate and troubling representations of black people in today's media, as well as throughout history. In this way, their blackness is both a reminder of his search for truth and a microcosm of how the societies in which we live construct the value systems that affect us all. ☒ Use of video media in virtual space and augmented reality is a new feature in Amfo's ever expanding creative process. Amfo has broadly exhibited his work at the Scotia Bank Contact Photo Festival, Toronto, in Netherlands and Ghana.

WEBSITES

My visual art website

studiokwadwoamfo.com

Project based gallery representative

ronmandos.nl/artist/kwadwo-amfo/

www.artsy.net/artist/kwadwo-amfo

Project based gallery member

www.deploegh.nl/project/kwadwo-amfo/

galleryviewer.com/nl/galerie/59/galerie-ron-mandos/kunstenaars/5148/kwadwo-amfo

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/studiokwadwoamfo/

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Galerie de Ploegh Amersfoort

EDUCATION

2020 - Eye on Art Royal Academy of Art, The

2021 - Hague + Eye Film Institute, Amsterdam

- 2018 - Photography Den Haag, Koninklijke
2022 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 2009 - Graphic Design, Web development
2009 OpenLabs Ghana diploma

EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 ART ROTTERDAM Van Nella Fabriek
Rotterdam, Netherlands
[www.artrotterdam.com/
Group](http://www.artrotterdam.com/Group)
- 2023 Bevroren Tijd Galerie de Ploegh
Amersfoort, Netherlands Fotografie is
het vastleggen en afbeelden van
onherhaalbare, bevroren momenten in
de tijd. In 'Bevroren Tijd' tonen elf
Ploegh fotografen een grote variëteit
aan onderwerpen zoals structuren in
muren, ramen en natuur;
familiegeschiedenis; de oceaan;
alleenheid en de vier elementen van de
natuur. De exposerende fotografen
maken gebruik van traditionele tot de
allernieuwste fotografische technieken
zoals fotogrammen in kallitypie,
analoge zwart/wit fotografie,
fotomontages, digitale beelden,
multimedia en door Kunstmatige
Intelligentie gegenereerde fotografie.
[www.deploegh.nl/bevroren-tijd/
Group](http://www.deploegh.nl/bevroren-tijd/Group)
- 2022 DIPO Galerie Ron Mandos Amsterdam,
Netherlands Dipo is a rite that
transitions a female from childhood into
womanhood. In both the Shai and
Krobo communities, going through the
Dipo rite is a prerequisite in becoming a
woman who is capable of fully
participating in the community, being a
wife, and having a family. In ancient
times, those who did not do it or got
pregnant before the Dipo rite was done
were considered outcasts—some
banished from the community. The
Dipo girls are dressed in beautiful
clothes from waist to knee level. The
upper part of the body is exposed and
decorated with markings and colourful
assortments of beads, which the Krobo
people are renowned for. During the
rituals, the Dipo girls appear bare

PROJECTS

- 2024 Spirit and Bone Den Haag, Netherlands on-
going project
- 2023 SUNSUM Accra, Ghana

breasted. This can be juxtaposed against the widely held views in contemporary Ghana that nudity is 'indecent' and 'improper'. DIPO by Kwadwo Amfo explores the tension between nudity, sexuality, and the Ghanaian sense of modesty.

ronmandos.nl/exhibition/kwadwo-amfo-dipo/
Solo

2022 SILHOUETTE Unseen Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands
[Group](#)

2022 SILHOUETTE Galerie Ron Mandos
Amsterdam
[Group](#)

COMMISSIONS

2023 DIPO ArtFix Den Haag, Netherlands

2023 Vogue talent VOGUE Amsterdam,
Netherlands

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2024 SUMSUM - Aunty Olivia Ministerie van
Buitenlandse Zaken Nederland

2022 SILHOUETTE - no.2 The Social Hub
Amsterdam, Nederland

2022 SILHOUETTE - no.2 Ministerie van
Buitenlandse Zaken Nederland

2022 SILHOUETTE - no.3 Ministerie van
Buitenlandse Zaken Nederland

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2022 Stitching tot Stuen Royal Academy of
Arts, The Hague Den Haag,
Netherlands

2022 Photo Talent Award YoungBlood
Award Amsterdam, Netherlands

2022 Nomination/Special mention Global
Design Graduate show London, United
Kingdom

2022 Nomination/Special mention
BLURRING THE LINES Paris, France

REPRESENTATION

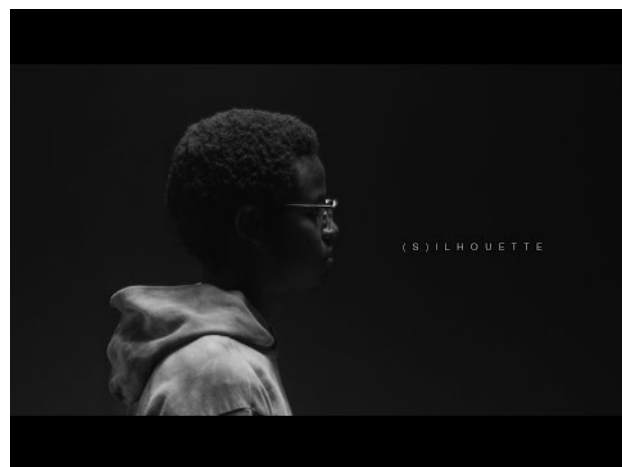
-- Galerie Ron Mandos Amsterdam,
Netherlands <https://ronmandos.nl/>



SUNSUM, 2023
Photography, 70 x 90 cm



SUNSUM, 2023
Photography, 70 x 90 cm

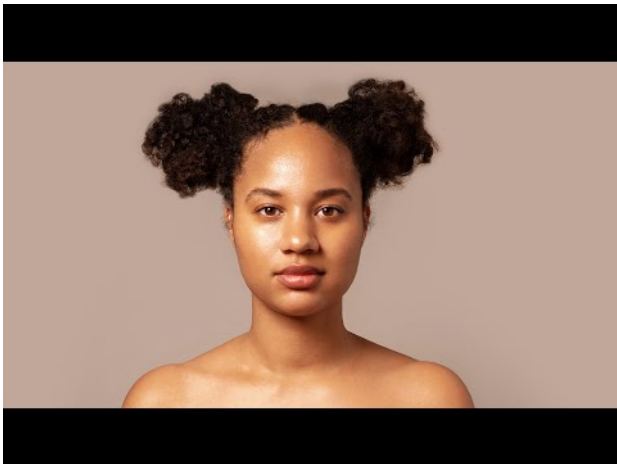


SILHOUETTE, 2022
5:11

SUNSUM, 2023
Photography, 70 x 90 cm



copy of copy of copy of happiness, 2021
7:07



Lissom, 2021
4:53



Lissom, 2021
6:01



I AM, 2020
1:19



SILHOUETTE
Photography, Augmented Reality, 100 x 125 cm / 60 x 75
cm



SILHOUETTE
Photography, Augmented Reality, 100 x 125 cm / 60 x 75
cm