



Artist Adjaratou Ouedraogo was born in 1981 in Lomé, Togo, and currently lives and works in Burkina Faso. Her artistic career reveals a difficult childhood as well as a precocious fascination for the visual arts. At the age of 8, in the wake of a traumatic life event, Adjaratou turned to solitude, finding refuge in her drawing tools and paintbrushes. It was during this period, so crucial to her development, that she established the foundation of her future artistic career.

Adjaratou Ouedraogo has always preserved her solitude as a space in which to explore materials and colours, cultivating her imagination and creativity.

Beginning in 2000, Adjaratou developed her talent through a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, and sculpture. Her works are remarkable for their vibrancy and chromatic richness, referencing the coloured patterns of African textiles, notably wax cloth.

Adjaratou Ouedraogo's creative process is unique. She begins with abstraction, exploring colours, shapes, and space. She draws from childhood memory, as figures gradually emerge, as she seeks to express and heal past wounds. She explores the limits of abstraction and figuration, creating her own living, poetic artistic language, and thus contributing to the act of redefining contemporary African art.

"My paintings are like a diary."

ADJARATOU OUÉDRAOGO

Her many collaborations with the Paris-based gallery Anne de Villepoix have earned her a growing public interest for her work. In parallel to her artistic practice, Adjaratou Ouedraogo also experiments with the world of animation films, creating short films such as "Le Crayon" (The Pencil), selected for international festivals and winner of an African Movie Academy Award in 2016.

Over the years, Adjaratou Ouedraogo has participated in prestigious exhibition spaces around the world, including La Maison Rouge in Cotonou, Benin, Galerie Passage in Sète, France, and the Institut Culturel Français, for a 2021 solo exhibition entitled "Resilience".

Her works have also been shown in the context of international art fairs such as AKAA in Paris, Morocco's Biennale de Rabat, and 1-54 in Paris, and have integrated collections in several countries (including France, Italy, and the US), demonstrating her increasing recognition on the global art scene.

Adjaratou Ouedraogo is a member of the small circle of women painters based in Burkina Faso, bringing her own singular contribution to the evolution of contemporary African art. Through her work, she explores her own personal history and the deep trauma of her early years as well as themes common to her continent's populations. The artist creates a colourful world inhabited by naive characters, questioning the concepts of identity and collective memory. Her art is filtered through freedom and poetry, inviting viewers on an introspective journey in which colour counteracts sadness, and where creativity becomes an instrument of resilience and healing.

Collections

- Fondation Blachère, France
- Collection Leridon, France
- Fondation Gandur, Suisse

- Collection George Arthur Forrest
- Collection Jeans-Louis Benifla
- Schulting Art Collection