

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press release



The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents on March 31

LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE

NO TWILIGHT TOO MIGHTY

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye
No Twilight Too Mighty

- Dates: March 31 to September 10, 2023
 - Curator: Lekha Hileman Waitoller
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- Celebrated for her paintings of timeless subjects in everyday moments of happiness, comradery, and solitude, Yiadom-Boakye's lush oils portray fictitious characters rendered in loose brushwork set against dramatic backgrounds.
 - The artist's parallel practice of writing is visible in the poetic and thought-provoking titles that accompany the artworks acting as companions rather than explanations of the works.
 - Details including clothing or costumes, footwear or the lack thereof dislocate the figures from any particular time or place

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents *Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. No Twilight Too Mighty*, an exhibition that shows for the first time a selection of over 70 paintings and charcoal drawings created between 2020 and 2023 by artist and writer Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. The show thus provides a rich opportunity to observe the continuum in the artist's practice of creating evocative paintings that relate to the human experience. Yiadom-Boakye has recently returned to making charcoal drawings, which have a sense of immediacy given their intimate scale and air of improvisation. Seen in tandem with the paintings, the depth of the artist's skillful handling of different media is evident.

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (b. 1977, London) is celebrated for her paintings of timeless subjects in everyday moments of happiness, comradery, and solitude. Her lush oils on canvas or coarse linen portray fictitious characters rendered in loose brushwork set against dramatic backgrounds. The artist does not work from models, rather the figures are composites, drawn from different sources including scrapbooks and drawings, memories and observations of everyday life. Details including clothing or costumes, footwear or the lack thereof dislocate the figures from any particular time or place. Animals such as birds, foxes, owls and dogs that make regular appearances in Yiadom-Boakye's work, casually suggesting they are pets even if some are indeed wild animals, add to the sense of intrigue. The paintings invite the viewer to slow down and to carefully observe; to enter the imaginary visual tales the artist spins. The poetic and thought-provoking titles of the works reinforce that much is left to the imagination of the beholder.

Yiadom-Boakye's practice is based on a profound interest in what can be achieved in paint, its materiality, the potential of color and of composition. Her interest in the material aspects of painting led her from a meticulous approach of working with live models to making figures of her own creation, thus freeing her to paint more spontaneously with less concern for technical precision.

The artist's parallel practice of writing is visible in the imaginative titles that accompany the artworks acting as companions rather than explanations of the works. The artist has described her relationship to the two disciplines saying:

'I write about the things I can't paint and paint the things I can't write about.'

Literature, poetry and music are some of the creative forces that feed Yiadom-Boakye's practices as a painter and a writer. Authors such as James Baldwin, Okwui Enwezor, and Toni Morrison serve as ongoing sources of inspiration for the artist. A selection of such texts will be on display in a reading room adjacent to the exhibition. Likewise, a playlist compiled by the artist specifically for this exhibition will be available to visitors.

Biography

Yiadom-Boakye was born in 1977 to Ghanaian parents in London where she continues to live and work. She attended Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Falmouth College of Arts and the Royal Academy Schools. Yiadom-Boakye's work has been exhibited in monographic exhibitions at such prestigious institutions during the last decade including Serpentine Gallery, London (2015); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2015); Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (2016); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2017); Tate Britain, London (2020/2022); MUDAM, Luxembourg (2020); Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2021); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2021). Yiadom-Boakye was awarded the 2012 Future Generation Art Prize, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev and the 2018 Carnegie Prize, Carnegie International, 57th Edition, Pittsburgh.

Give my playlist a listen: Bilbao.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0B3GKAZ3qVKherEC2Ej6v0?si=qaTGk7MVTdSLmjSMpWC3Pg>

DIDAKTIKA

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye WRITER

The Didaktika Project that complements the exhibition is located in Gallery 201 with an approach that explores Lynette Yiadom-Boakye's figure as a writer, and presents a reading area with books by writers of her liking such as James Baldwin, Ted Hughes, Toni Morrison or Zora Neale Hurston among others; in addition there is the exhibition catalogue that includes a short story by the artist herself. A revealing quote of hers dresses the walls of the space.

Through the activities, other interests and influences on the artist will be reflected, such as independent cinema.

Activities

Opening talk with the artist (March 29)

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and Lekha Hileman Waitoller, curator of the exhibition, talk about the development of this project that originated before the pandemic, until now, that the exhibition is installed in some of the rooms of the second floor of the Museum.

Shared reflections

On these special tours, professionals of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao expound different points of view of the contents of the exhibition:

- Curatorial Vision (April 19): Lekha Hileman Waitoller Curator of the exhibition.
- Key Concepts (April 26): Luz Maguregui Urquiza. Coordinator of Education and Interpretation.

*Sponsored by Fundación Vizcaína Aguirre

Cinema evenings at the Museum (May 10, 11, 12)

Screening of a selection of films by directors of reference for Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: Pedro Almodovar, Charles Burnett, John Cassavetes, Claude Chabrol or Pier Paolo Pasolini.

Creative Session +18 *Short Stories* (June 1)

Related to the short fictions written by Yiadom-Boakye, a workshop for adults is offered with the journalist, writer and screenwriter Txani Rodríguez (Euskadi Prize for Literature in Spanish 2021), on the creative process in the narrative of a writer.

CATALOGUE

The exhibition catalogue includes a new text entitled *To Row South With Silver For Succour* by Yiadom-Boakye. Also included in the illustrated catalogue are texts by writer and filmmaker Kodwo Eshun, and curator Lekha Hileman Waitoller.

Cover image:

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Divine Repose, 2021

Oil on linen

90 x 85 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

© Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Bilbao 2023

For further information:

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Images for the use of the Press

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

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Guggenheim Bilbao Museoa

Online press image service

In the press section of the Museum's website (prensa.guggenheim-bilbao.eus), registered users can download high-resolution images and videos of both the exhibitions and the building. If you have not yet opened an account, you can register and download the required material.

If you are already a user, introduce your username and password and access the image downloading facility directly.

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For further information, the Press Department of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao can be contacted by phone (+34 944 359 008) or email (media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus).

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Goshawk, 2020

Oil on canvas

70 x 50 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Harbour The Anointed, 2020

Oil on canvas

100 x 75 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Aquatic Warbler, 2021

Oil on canvas

90 x 65 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Above The Heart And Below The Mind, 2021

Oil on canvas

60 x 50 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Maze, 2021

Oil on canvas

90 x 80 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Ecstatic Streams, 2021

Oil on linen

100 x 80 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

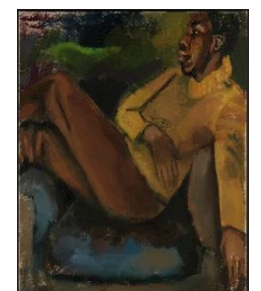
Divine Repose, 2021

Oil on linen

90 x 85 x 3.6 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Ambassadoria, 2022

Charcoal on paper

56 x 76 cm

Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

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