

GOODMAN GALLERY

Goodman Gallery announces representation of the Atta Kwami estate



The gallery will present a solo exhibition by Atta Kwami in its Cork Street space in London this May

Goodman Gallery is pleased to announce the representation of the Atta Kwami estate in partnership with Beardsmore Gallery. The distinguished artist, art historian and curator (1956 - 2021) lived and worked between the UK and his home country, Ghana. He was awarded the prestigious Maria Lassnig prize in 2021, the year that he passed away.

On 16 May, Kwami's first solo exhibition with Goodman Gallery in the UK will open at the Cork Street space in London, showcasing paintings spanning twenty years, from 1999-2019, alongside a Kiosk structure - the architectural scale works that make reference to the improvised vernacular of Ghanaian street painting.

The exhibition will expound the range of influences on Kwami's practice, from Ewe and Asante Kente cloth to the tradition of mural painting and the design of street kiosks in Ghana and inspired by his extensive travel across the African continent.

Kwami has exhibited widely, notably creating large-scale public art commissions such as at the Folkestone Triennial in 2021 for which the artist made short-term alien interventions in the landscape. Solo exhibitions include: National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC (1994-1995), SOAS, University College of London (1996), Geometric Organic, National Museum Accra (1998-1999) and Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2001).

His work is included in major collections around the world, including the National Museums of Ghana and Kenya; the V&A Museum, London; the National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York.

Kwami received a PhD in art history at the Open University for his work for contemporary Ghanaian artists, now published as *Kumasi Realism, 1951-2007: An African Modernism*. (Hurst & Company, 2013).

About Goodman Gallery

For 57 years, Goodman Gallery has championed a leading community of artists who inspire social change and provides a platform for dialogue and healing. In 1966, during South Africa's apartheid years, the gallery opened its doors to artists of all races, refusing to discriminate against artists of colour and becoming one of the first spaces in the world to exhibit artists who are beginning to gain global recognition as pioneers of 20th Century African Art.

Since 2008, under the leadership of owner director Liza Essers, the gallery has expanded from the preeminent South African gallery to a pioneering global gallery with a robust international programme. This is characterised by ongoing curatorial initiatives, two of which return to our programme in 2024: *South South* brings together influential artists from across the global South and *Working Title* identifies the next generation of talent from the African continent and diaspora.

In 2012, Goodman Gallery famously resisted political pressures in South Africa to censor its programme, standing up for freedom of expression above all. Today, the gallery represents artists hailing from around the world – South Africa, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, France, Canada, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Chile, Angola, the US, China, the UK, Portugal, Columbia, Botswana and Cuba – allowing the gallery to continue to exist as an energising platform for diverse perspectives.

Goodman Gallery holds long-term relationships with major contemporary South African artists and estates, representing Sam Nhlengethwa, William Kentridge, Sue Williamson, Lisa Brice as well as the estates of David Koloane and David Goldblatt. The gallery's roster has expanded to include the next generation of artists from around the world as well as vital voices with roots on the African continent. This includes: Kudzanai Chiurai, Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum, Ravelle Pillay, Gabrielle Goliath, Nolan Oswald Dennis, Misheck Masamvu, Kapwani Kiwanga, Grada Kilomba, Kiluanji Kia Henda and Chemu Ng'ok alongside established names such as, Ghada Amer, El Anatsui, Yinka Shonibare CBE RA and Candice Breitz.

Goodman Gallery has a long history of supporting social responsibility projects in South Africa that make an immediate and widely felt difference to people's health and living conditions. Over the decades, the gallery and its artists have supported NGOs such as the Red Cross, Orange Babies Foundation and Witkoppen Clinic, with a focus on providing essential medical care to women and children. This year sees the launch of several new pillars around social responsibility focused on communities, conservation and social impact.

Today, Goodman Gallery maintains two footholds in South Africa - opening in Johannesburg in 1966, followed by Cape Town in 2007 and London's Mayfair in 2019, and opening a viewing room in New York's Upper East Side in 2023.

Press inquiries

Jessie Cohen
Director, Head of Communications
jessie@goodman-galleryuk.com

Christa Dee
Communications & Press Officer
christa@goodman-gallery.com

Follow Goodman Gallery on Instagram:
[@goodman_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/goodman_gallery)

JOHANNESBURG

163 Jan Smuts Ave,
Parkwood, Johannesburg

+27 11 788 1113
jhb@goodmangallery.com

CAPE TOWN

37A Somerset Road
De Waterkant, Cape Town

+27 21 462 7573
cpt@goodmangallery.com

LONDON

26 Cork Street,
London W1S 3ND

+44 2081 254065
ldn@goodmangallery.com

NEW YORK

23 East 67th Street, Second
Floor, New York, NY 10065

+1 (646) 684-3022
nyc@goodmangallery.com