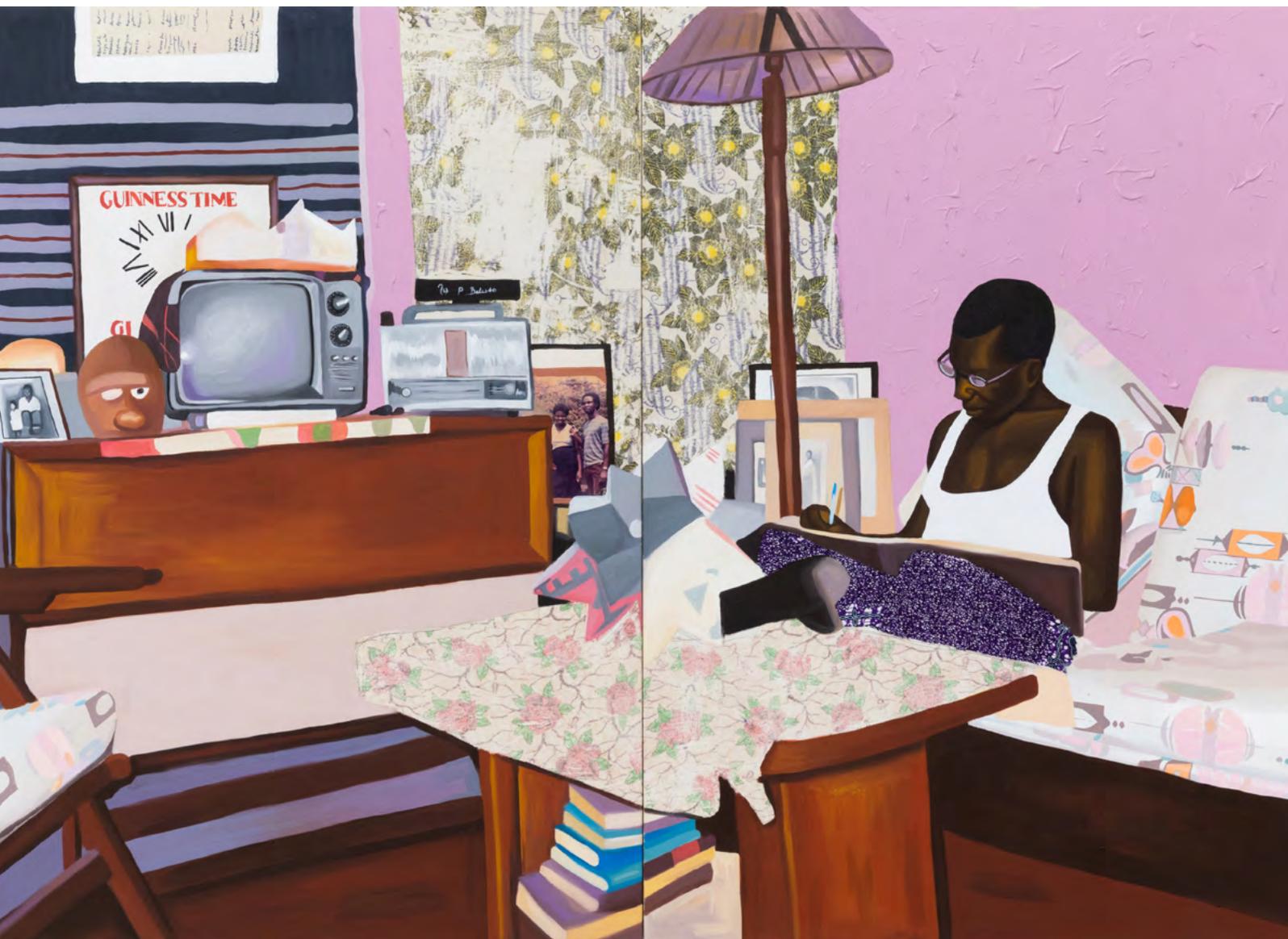


CORNELIUS ANNOR

MEMORIES WE SHARE



APRIL 2 - MAY 4, 2022
KUSTLAAN 90
8300 KNOCKE

MARUANI MERCIER

**"HUMANS, NOT PLACES, MAKE MEMORIES."
— AMA ATA AIDOO**

Strictly speaking, memory involves individual consciousness. Many sociologists, however, insist that it is a social experience. In her essay *The Site of Memory*, African-American writer Toni Morrison defines memory as the recollection of an image and the feelings that accompany it, necessary to recreate the world in which her ancestors lived. This reconstruction is based on collective memory, an approach contemplated in the work of Ghanaian artist Cornelius Annor.





In his debut exhibition with **MARUANI MERCIER** entitled *Memories We Share*, Annor reflects on life's most memorable moments as well as its ordinary ones. Weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, and family gatherings take centre stage: viewing Annor's body of work is like turning the leaves of a family album.

The artist plays with history and temporality in his compositions, merging elements from both his family and friends' photographs, from the past and present. Some source photos were taken at family events, while others in a typical West-African style portrait studio reminiscent of works by Nigerian photographer Samuel Fosso and the Malian photographer Malick Sidibé. Though there are noticeable aesthetic similarities, Annor adds a touch of his personal universe, including hi-fi equipment, miscellaneous home objects, elaborate wallpapers, vintage furniture, and clothing from different eras throughout his vibrantly coloured tableaux.

Inspired by the British/Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare's practice utilising traditional wax fabrics, the textiles and their motifs found in Annor's paintings refer both to his West African heritage and personal collection, adding a more intimate overtone. His unique fabric transfer method—in which it is placed on the canvas for several hours—leaves a faded remnant of the fabric's pattern, visually metaphorizing the absence of context from the photographs he uses.



A Bold Gaze, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
182 x 121 cm / 71 5/8 x 47 5/8 in

Another striking, stylistic element unique to Annor's work is the disruption of depth and perspective. This is achieved both through his signature fabric transfer method and the application of collage techniques which distort reality in order to tell his story. These collage-based references call to mind Derek Fordjour's colourful, texture-heavy creations.





Card players, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
212 x 151 cm / 83 1/2 x 59 1/2 in



Adjoa Adobea, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
212 x 151 cm / 83 1/2 x 59 1/2 in



Aketesia, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
121 x 91 cm / 47 5/8 x 35 7/8 in



Daytime Smile, 2022

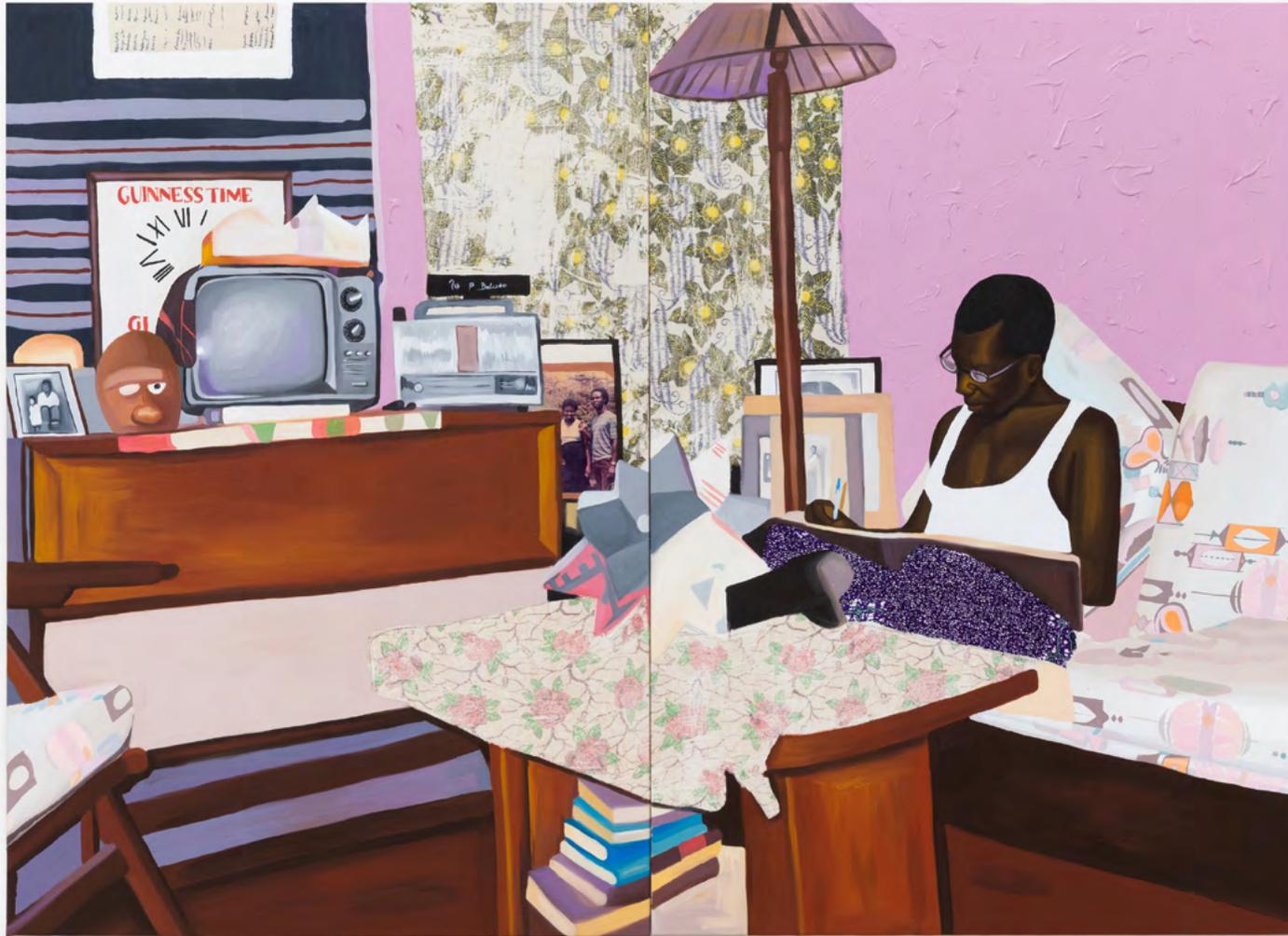
acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
211 x 151 cm / 83 1/8 x 59 1/2 in



GUINNESS TIME

P. Balisto

GI



Guinness Time Writing Time, 2022 acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas diptych - overall : 152 x 210 cm / 59 7/8 x 82 5/8 in



Kofi Wayo, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
65 x 60 cm / 25 5/8 x 23 5/8 in



CANCOR
1999



Kwakyee Ade3, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
65 x 60 cm / 25 5/8 x 23 5/8 in







Kwame photooo, 2022 acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas 151 x 212 cm / 59 1/2 x 83 1/2 in



Mi d)fu pa, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
211 x 151 cm / 83 1/8 x 59 1/2 in



Mr. Joachim, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
211 x 151 cm / 83 1/8 x 59 1/2 in



It was the death of Annor's sculptor father that sparked his personal desire to reconnect with family members on that side. During the preparation of his own wedding, he realised the importance of his family's archives which now provide an abundance of material for his paintings. Though viewers are unfamiliar with Annor's subjects, they are engaged in retrieving their own family histories and memories.





Sika k)k) baa - the Golden Lady, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
182 x 121 cm / 71 5/8 x 47 5/8 in



Tena ase dwen - sit and think, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
211 x 151 cm / 83 1/8 x 59 1/2 in



The younger generation Or Akyiremama, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
151 x 121 cm / 59 1/2 x 47 5/8 in



Women Affairs, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
152 x 121 cm / 59 7/8 x 47 5/8 in



Two Black Maidens, 2022

acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas
152 x 125.5 cm / 59 7/8 x 49 3/8 in

Annor says about his practice: "For me archiving as an art form has the potential to open up discussions on lost and forgotten histories and its politics. I intend to bring into existence these past histories through my works as a way of creating a room of memory which can migrate my audience to a particular moment in time and reflect on themselves."

Born and based in Accra, Ghana to a family of artists, Cornelius Annor started painting at a very young age, largely influenced by his father. He completed his studies in fine art at the Ghanatta Art and Design Institute, along with fellow alumni Amoako Boafo, Otis Quiacoe, and Kwesi Botchway, who collectively represent a vanguard of West African artists. Annor established 'C.Annor studio' in his hometown, a space dedicated to encouraging and supporting young talents and emerging artists. His work has been extensively exhibited throughout West Africa and in the United States, and recently was acquired by the Norton Museum of Art in Florida.

Memories We Share is devoted to memory, whether it is the artist's own or shared amongst family members, friends, or viewers.





W) ta shi - we have taken our sit, 2022 acrylic, fabric and fabric transfer on canvas diptych - overall : 182 x 240 cm 71 5/8 x 94 1/2 in

CORNELIUS ANNOR

Born in Accra, Ghana, 1990

Lives and works in Accra, Ghana and Brussels, Belgium

EDUCATION

Ghanatta College of Art and Design, Fine Arts Studies

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

Memories We Share, Maruani Mercier Gallery, Knokke, Belgium

2021

Cornelius Annor: Lost But Found, Venus Over Manhattan, New York A Family Affair, Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

Contemporary African Portraiture, curated by Florian Steininger, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, Austria

2021

The Interior, Venus Over Manhattan, New York, NY, USA

2019

SANKOFA, Gallery 2622, Wauwatosa, WI, USA

Current Exhibition, Hos Oona, Vejle, Denmark

2017

Atelier 2017, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2021

News, *Cornelius ANNOR: A Family Affair*, Omenka Online, 8 Feb 2021

Staff Writer, Gallery 1957 to showcase works of Ghanaian painter Cornelius Annor, Africa Feeds, 19 Jan 2021

Ghana Web, Ghanaian Artist Cornelius Annor to Exhibit at Gallery 1957 from 26 Jan 2021

Ghana Web, 20 Jan 2021

COLLECTIONS

Cuperior Collection

The Bunker Artdpace, West Palm Beach, USA

Espacio Tacuari, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Norton Museum of Art, Florida, USA

Buxton Contemporary, Australia



MARUANI MERCIER