

CONVERSATION WITH JONATHAN TETTEH NARTEY



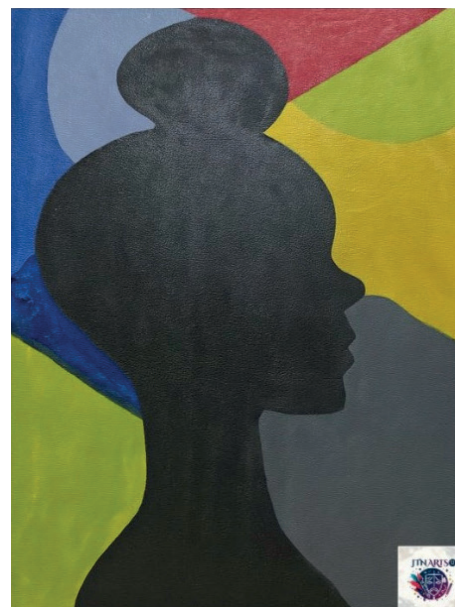
Jonathan Tetteh Nartey is a contemporary Ghanaian visual artist whose work fuses vibrant emotion with abstract narrative to explore identity, cultural memory, and the inner landscapes of the African experience. Using expressive color, symbolic forms, and richly layered textures, he creates compositions that honor duality—past and present, spirituality and reality, vulnerability and strength. Nartey's practice reflects a deep engagement with heritage and the enduring resilience of the modern African spirit, inviting viewers to connect with the emotional stories embedded within each piece.

On personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

My development has been informed by both structured training and self-directed study. Professional education provides technical grounding, conceptual frameworks, and exposure to historical and contemporary discourse. However, equally significant is independent research and studio experimentation. In many contexts, creative education remains under-resourced despite the cultural and economic contributions of the arts. Globally, there is increasing recognition of the creative industries as vital to innovation and identity formation, yet access to quality education and institutional support remains uneven. A comprehensive art education should integrate technical proficiency, critical theory, cultural history, and entrepreneurial skills to prepare artists for sustainable practice.

On their journey to arts

I am a contemporary visual artist whose practice emerged from an early engagement with visual language as a means of inquiry and expression. My journey into the arts was not a singular turning point but a gradual evolution shaped by observation, experimentation, and critical reflection. Over time, artistic practice became a structured and intentional discipline through which I investigate questions of identity, memory, social structures, and transformation. Art, for me, functions as both research and dialogue – a sustained engagement with personal and collective narratives.



Messaging with art

My work engages with themes of identity construction, resilience, transformation, and contemporary African experience. I am particularly interested in how individual subjectivity intersects with broader socio-political realities. Through layered compositions and symbolic visual language, I examine the tension between vulnerability and strength, tradition and modernity, visibility and erasure. Rather than prescribing a singular message, I aim to create space for contemplation. The work invites viewers to interrogate their own perceptions and to consider the complexities embedded within contemporary cultural narratives.



On Art as a representation of reality or escape from it

Art operates simultaneously within and beyond its temporal context. It inevitably reflects the social, political, and technological conditions of its time; however, its affective and philosophical dimensions often transcend immediate circumstances. While materials, aesthetics, and themes may shift across eras, fundamental human concerns persist. In this sense, art functions both as a document of its present moment and as a transhistorical dialogue that connects past, present, and future.

Online galleries and marketing artwork online

Digital platforms have significantly expanded access to global audiences and diversified modes of presentation. My engagement with online spaces includes exhibition visibility, audience development, and commercial exchange. However, digital representation requires careful mediation: documentation, narrative framing, and consistent communication are essential. To strengthen online ecosystems for artists, platforms should prioritize equitable commission structures, transparent operational policies, and educational resources that empower artists in branding, pricing, and digital literacy. Improved curatorial rigor and enhanced discoverability mechanisms would further elevate artistic visibility and sustainability.

