

# SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



## **Adjani Okpu-Egbe**

Born 1979 in Kumba, Southern Cameroon also known as Ambazonia  
Lives and works in London, United Kingdom

Using a crude expressive painterly language that incorporates autobiographical content, Adjani Okpu-Egbe unfolds a wide range of complex themes relating to Archaeology, Feminism, Patriarchy, African History, Pan Africanism, Afrocentricity, the African diaspora and political activism reflective of and transcending the Southern Cameroons Ambazonian movement to highlight specificities within the realm of the global social justice movement. These are sometimes spiced with direct and indirect sense of humour that gives away an interest as a keen observer of people and a social commentator.

The mathematical formulae that was recurrent in many of his earlier paintings are an automatic scribble that became his distinguishing mark. These math exercises he was forced to do as a child were a repetitive sign of his relationship with his father who wanted him to abandon his dream of pursuing a career in professional football to instead become an economist or a businessman and consequently with any imposing or repressive authority have suddenly disappeared following the “passing” of the former and Adjani’s impulse and or emotional intelligence in allowing his practice to evolve naturally. The symbols that represented science and logic and became a subconscious automatic scrawl, and - perhaps the worst affront in the context of West and non-West relationships - a decorative element, has now given way to an emphatic use of unique materials suggestive of an artistic philosophical manifesto, perhaps in the near future.

Often painting on found materials such as reclaimed doors and bubble wraps, Adjani's boundless imagination and experimental curiosity allow him to take these salvaged materials to heart and use them as convincing metaphors.

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The Loft, 51 Surrey Row  
Unit 2 La Gare  
London SE1 0BZ

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## Residencies

- 2020 International Studio & Curatorial Program, NY, USA  
2019 Stony Point Center, Stony Point, Rockland County, NY, USA

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Surpassing the Eternally Mysterious Afro-Surreal*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, UK  
*Community Man IV* (Benefit exhibition), Green & Stone of Chelsea, London, UK  
2016 *DNA*, The Fourth Wall Gallery, Oakland, California, USA  
2013 *Poppable*, Knight Webb Gallery, London, UK  
2012 *Letting Go*, Mok Space Gallery, Bloomsbury, UK

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *The Faculty of Sensing - Thinking With, Through, and By Anton Wilhelm Amo*, SAVVY, Berlin, Germany  
*Time for Outrage!* Kunstpalast Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany  
2020 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK  
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, NY, USA  
*The Faculty of Sensing - Thinking With, Through, and By Anton Wilhelm Amo*, Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany  
2019 *Ultrasanity on Madness, Sanitation, Antipsychiatry and Resistance*, SAVVY, Berlin, Germany  
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, NY, USA  
2018 *Untold African Impact in Southwark* (Tate Exchange Projects), Tate Modern, UK  
2017 *British Friends of Museums in Israel*, Phillips Auction House, London, UK  
2016 *Regarding Africa*, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel  
2015 *Drawings*, Knight Webb Gallery, London, UK  
London Art Fair, London, UK  
2014 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK  
*Urban Expression*, Knight Webb Gallery, London, UK  
2013 *Atlantic Road*, Knight Webb Gallery, London, UK  
*13<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Week celebration in Cameroon* (Honorary Guest Artist), British High Commission Yaoundé and Bamenda, Yaoundé, Cameroon  
*Open*, La Galleria Pall Mall, London, UK  
2012 *Artists in Action for Education*, Mok Space Gallery, Bloomsbury, UK  
London Design Festival (Part of African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora), London, UK  
*Layered Identities*, Los Angeles Convention Centre, Los Angeles, USA  
BBC Queens Diamond Jubilee (Commissioned Artist for River Boat Pageant), London, UK  
*Black Symbiosis*, Javits Convention Centre, New York, USA  
2011 *Choices* (Part of African & African-Caribbean Design Diaspora), London, UK

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## Select Reviews, Features and Articles

- 2021 Il Sole 24, [African Art: Young Talents At Sotheby's And Bonhams Exceed The Estimates](#)
- 2020 Der Tagesspiegel, [Der Afrodeutsche Anton Wilhelm Amo Die Ketten der Aufklärung](#)  
Financial Times, [Artworld Proceeds with Caution and a Few Sweeteners](#)  
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, [The Interview Series: Adjani Okpu-Egbe](#)  
Kunstforum International, [Gegenwart Befreiung Malerei by Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung & Larissa Kikol](#)  
Le Quotidien De L'art, [Adjani Okpu-Egbe Winner of the Ritzau Prize](#)  
Art Africa, [Adjani Okpu-Egbe](#)  
The Guardian, [Berlin To Rename 'Moor Street' After Black Philosopher Anton Wilhelm Amo](#)  
Süddeutsche Zeitung, [Anton Wilhelm Amo](#)  
Frieze, [Looking for Anton Wilhelm Amo, the African Father of German Enlightenment](#)
- 2019 Damn 77, [Ultrasanity at Savvy Contemporary](#)  
Berlin Art link, [Against the Wellness Binary: 'Ultrasanity' at Savvy Contemporary](#)
- 2016 Haaretz Israel, [Tel Aviv Museum of Art Strikes Colonial Tone With 'Regarding Africa'](#)
- 2014 Financial Times, [Sub-Saharan Artists Making Waves](#)  
CNN, [A Dream? Or A New Art Movement](#)  
Yahoo News Online, [African Artists Eye Global Reach With London Show](#)  
Artdaily, [Exhibition by Cameroon born artist Adjani Okpu-Egbe opens at Knight Webb Gallery](#)
- 2013 Whats On Africa, [Review: Poppable: New Paintings by Afro-Expressionist Adjani Okpu-Egbe](#)  
Brixton Blog, [Expressing Africa - Adjani Okpu-Egbe interview](#)  
London Loves Blog, [London Loves...Adjani](#)

## Videos

- 2020 Kunstverein Braunschweig, [Portrait Adjani Okpu-Egbe](#)  
Kunstverein Braunschweig, [The Faculty of Sensing - Curators' Interview](#)
- 2019 Sulger-Buel Gallery, [Surpassing the Eternally Mysterious Afro-Surreal](#)
- 2017 I24NEWS English, [Art Exhibition Offers New Perspective on Africa](#)
- 2013 Afrobuzz - [Popping with Adjani](#)

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