

Abi Salami, Bio

Abi Salami is a self-taught artist who creates large-scale surrealist works that explore her experiences as a Nigerian immigrant and Black woman in the United States. Through the use of a personal visual lexicon made up of symbols, she explores topics such as memory, mental health and race.

Based in Dallas, Texas, she earned a Masters in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin and worked in Corporate America for almost a decade before committing to painting full-time.

Since then, she has gone on to exhibiting in Dallas and across the United States including at The Women's Museum, the African American Museum of Art in Dallas, Band of Vices Gallery in Los Angeles and Field Projects in New York City.

She was the winner of the 2021 Hopper Prize. She was selected as a candidate of the Saatchi Art 2020 Rising Stars under 35 Class and a 2021 New Voices Top 100 Artists. She and her work have been featured on the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Artland*, *Artsy*, *D Magazine*, *Glasstire* and *Patron Magazine*.

Abi Salami, Artist Statement

My work is an exploration of my experiences as a Nigerian immigrant and a Black woman in the United States. My large-scale works are based in surrealist dreamscapes of my own creation, in which the fearless celebration of black femininity is fervently revered. As maker and gatekeeper of this fictional space, most of my works are intimately autobiographical in nature. Therefore, some of my works are proud and triumphant, others are cheeky and humorous, while the rest deal with heavier, darker topics. In a world in which stories about black women have rarely ever been told by black women, I like to believe that I am using my work to curate an experience that allows viewers to respectfully gaze on the black female form in her honest state, free from European standards of beauty and the violent oppression of men. I wish to show that there is great and untapped depth in the black female experience, while celebrating our humanity.

ABI SALAMI

Born 1986 in Lagos, Nigeria
Lives and works in New York City

EDUCATION

- 2009 University of Texas at Austin (Masters in Professional Accounting)
- 2008 University of Texas at Austin (Bachelor of Business Administration)

SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Impossible Things: Works by Abi Salami and Micha Serra*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY
The Miseducation of Boys and Girls, Cris Worley Fine Arts, Dallas, TX
- 2022 *Indeterminate Space of the Imaginary*, Band of Vices, Los Angeles, CA
Je Ne Regrette Rien/I Regret Nothing, Art Centre of Plano, Plano, TX
- 2019 *My Africa*, Curated by Garbo Hearne, Hearne Fine Art, Little Rock, AR
- 2018 *From the Whimsical Mind*, Curated by Jeffrey Richardson, Kanju Interiors, Dallas, TX

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *In-Discipline: BLACKNESS*, Curated by Dr. Fahamu Pecou, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Marrakesh, Morocco
For All (Man)kind, IV Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 *Seattle Art Fair* with ZINC Contemporary, Seattle, WA
Chronicles 5, Galerie Droste, Berlin, Germany
1:54 Art Fair, Montresso Art Foundation, New York, NY
The LIITA Effect, Curated by Daniel Sierra Dominguez and Bailey Souaid, West Hollywood, CA
Dallas Art Fair with Cris Worley Gallery, Dallas, TX
Black is Black: Invitational, Curated by John Spriggins, Tarrant County College, Arlington, TX
Hold Fast to Dreams, Curated by John Paul Hossley, Neighborhood Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2021 *C11H17NO3*, curated by Terrell Tilford, Band of Vices, Los Angeles, CA
The First Last Chance, curated by Jacob Rhodes, Dog Park, Brooklyn, NY
Affordable Art Fair, Gallery 1202, New York, NY
Girls Are Gods Too, Online Group Exhibition, Curated by Jaelynn Wall, TheCurators
Tellin' Our Own Story, Six-Woman Exhibition, Curated by John Paul Hossley, Dallas, TX
Moments Like This, Curated by Jessica Bingham, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
2021 Juried Exhibition, Curated by Janice Bond Deputy Director of Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX
When Words Fail, Curated by Grace Lang, Visionary Art Collective, Online Exhibition
Who's Going to Stop Me, Roxbury Arts Group, Roxbury, NY
Show# 115, Online Group Exhibition, Curated by Kyle Hittmeier and Amanda Nedham, Field Projects, New York, New York
American Experience, O'Hanlon Art Center, Curated by Lauren Palmor, Assistant Curator at Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Online Exhibition

- 2020 *Women (Un)Silenced*, Group Exhibition, Curated by Emily McEwan-Upright, Gallery 1202, Gilroy, CA
Our Faces Our Voices, Group Exhibition, Curated by Shauna Benoit, Fort Worth, TX
How Did We Get Here, Two-person exhibition, Keep Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM
Conversing Layers, Three-person exhibition, Capital One Bank, Dallas, TX
- 2019 *#Us Too - Phenomenal Women*, Curated by Jennifer Cowley, African American Museum, Dallas, TX
30th International Juried Exhibition, Part 2, Curated by Vernita Nemec, Viridian Artists Inc., New York, New York
New Texas Talent XXVI, Curated by Caleb Bell, Craighead Green, Dallas, Texas
Texas Vignette Art Fair, Curated by Leslie Moody Castro, The Women's Museum, Dallas, Texas
- 2018 *Art at the Atrium*, George A. Purefoy Municipal Center, Frisco, Texas
Art on the Veranda, Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2017 *Judge Amber Given-Davis Art Exhibition*, Dallas, Texas

RESIDENCIES

- 2021 Field Projects, Chelsea New York, NY
 Jardin Rouge, Montresso Foundation, Marrakech, Morocco

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Black Foundry Award
 Aux Creative Fund
 Hopper Prize Winner
 New Voices Top 100 Artists Saatchi
- 2020 Saatchi Art 2020 Rising Stars under 35 Class

COLLECTIONS

The 5M Collection, Wichita, KS
 Norbert Simmons Foundation, Miami, FL
 African American Museum, Dallas, TX
 Dallas Art Therapy, Dallas, TX

PUBLIC ART

- 2021 29 Pieces Mural Installation, Guzick Elementary, Dallas, TX
 2020 Charon's Token, Joule Hotel, Dallas, TX