



ART
YEAR 5
WEEK 2

WHO IS LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE?



Yvette Yiadom-Boakye
One by the Ounce 2014
Ben Chambers and Philippe Monrougié
Yvette Yiadom-Boakye

WHO IS SHE AND WHAT IS SHE KNOWN FOR?

LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE WAS BORN IN LONDON IN 1977. HER PARENTS MOVED TO BRITAIN FROM GHANA IN THE 1960S. THEY WERE BOTH NURSES. WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE, SHE LIKED TO DAYDREAM AND USE HER IMAGINATION. BEFORE SHE DECIDED TO BECOME AN ARTIST SHE WANTED TO BE AN OPTICIAN!

WHEN SHE GREW UP, SHE WENT TO ART SCHOOL. SHE TRIED SOME DIFFERENT TYPES OF ART BUT DECIDED SHE ENJOYED PAINTING THE MOST. SHE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LEARNING TO PAINT 'FROM LIFE' – WHICH MEANS SHE PAINTED WHAT SHE SAW IN FRONT OF HER. LATER ON, SHE CHANGED HER MIND. SHE REALISED SHE WAS LESS INTERESTED IN PAINTING PICTURES OF REAL PEOPLE AND MORE INTERESTED IN THE ACT OF PAINTING ITSELF.



PAINTINGS?

THE PEOPLE IN YIADOM-BOAKYE'S PAINTINGS ARE NOT REAL. IN FACT, THEY'RE ALL IMAGINARY! SHE INVENTS THEM. SHE USES A MIX OF IMAGES SHE FINDS IN MAGAZINES WHICH SHE CUTS OUT AND ADDS TO HER SCRAPBOOK, AS WELL AS MEMORIES AND SKETCHES SHE'S MADE. HER PAINTINGS DON'T TRY TO REVEAL ANYONE'S REAL CHARACTER AND SHE NEVER PAINTS FROM A MODEL. FOR THIS REASON, SHE DOESN'T EVEN CALL THEM PORTRAITS!

THE PEOPLE IN HER PAINTINGS ARE USUALLY RESTING, DANCING OR THINKING HARD ABOUT SOMETHING. SOMETIMES, THEY HAVE ANIMALS WITH THEM, LIKE OWLS, PARROTS OR CATS.

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye *In Lieu Of Keen Virtue* 2017
Courtesy the Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York
© Lynette Yiadom-Boakye



Adam-Boakye *Accompanied To The Kindness* 2012
The Artist, Corvi-Mora, London, and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York
Adam-Boakye

IN THIS PAINTING
CALLED *ACCOMPANIED TO THE
KINDNESS* THERE IS A PARROT
RESTING ON THE MAN'S HAND.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE BIRD IS
THE MAN'S MAGICAL FAMILIAR.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT THE PEOPLE BECAUSE
THEY SEEM REALLY INTERESTING.
BUT THE ARTIST DOESN'T GIVE US
ANY CLUES. WE DON'T KNOW WHO
THE PEOPLE ARE SO WE CAN
MAKE UP OUR OWN STORIES
ABOUT THEM AND THEIR ANIMALS!

DO YOU EVER DRAW PEOPLE
FROM YOUR IMAGINATION? HAVE
YOU EVER HAD AN IMAGINARY
PET?

MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN
THESE PAINTINGS ARE NOT
WEARING SHOES? LYNETTE
YIADOM-BOAKYE RECKONS
THAT SHOES TELL YOU TOO
MUCH ABOUT A SPECIFIC
PERIOD IN TIME. SHE
DOESN'T WANT THE PEOPLE
IN HER PAINTINGS TO BE
TIED TO ANY ONE TIME
PERIOD OR PLACE!
SOME PEOPLE THINK THE
PEOPLE IN HER PORTRAITS
LOOK LIKE THEY'RE
WEARING FANCY DRESS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT SHOES OR CLOTHES
WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO
WEAR IN A SELF-PORTRAIT?
WHAT WOULD THEY SAY
ABOUT YOU?



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye *No Need Of Speech* 2018
Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, USA)
© Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

LYNETTE YIADOM- BOAKYE PAINT?

SHE DOESN'T SPEND TOO LONG ON ANY OF HER CANVASES. IN FACT, SHE WORKS SO QUICKLY THAT SHE FINISHES SOME OF THEM IN A SINGLE DAY. HER FAVOURITE PAINT TO USE IS OIL PAINT. OIL PAINT IS A TRADITIONAL PAINT THAT TAKES A LONG TIME TO DRY. SHE SAYS: "IT'S JUST VERY DIRTY, IT'S VERY MESSY; IT DOESN'T ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO DO."



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye *Condor And The Mole*, 2011

Arts Council Collection (London, UK)

© Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

“OVER TIME I REALISED
I NEEDED TO THINK
LESS ABOUT THE
SUBJECT AND MORE
ABOUT THE PAINTING.
SO I BEGAN TO THINK
VERY SERIOUSLY ABOUT
COLOUR, LIGHT AND
COMPOSITION. THE
MORE I WORKED, THE
MORE I CAME TO
REALISE THAT THE
POWER WAS IN THE
PAINTING ITSELF”

LYNETTE YIADOM-
BOAKYE



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Razorbill

2020

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE TITLES OF THE PAINTINGS ARE ALL QUITE POETIC? WELL, LYNETTE YIADOM-BOAKYE IS A WRITER TOO. SHE WRITES POEMS AND STORIES. SHE SAYS SHE WRITES ABOUT THE THINGS SHE CAN'T PAINT AND PAINTS THE THINGS SHE CAN'T WRITE ABOUT.

IF YOU LIKE DOING CREATIVE THINGS YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIMIT YOURSELF TO ONE TYPE OF ART. YOU CAN EXPRESS YOURSELF IN WHICHEVER WAY FEELS RIGHT. DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE POEMS OR STORIES AS WELL AS MAKE ART?



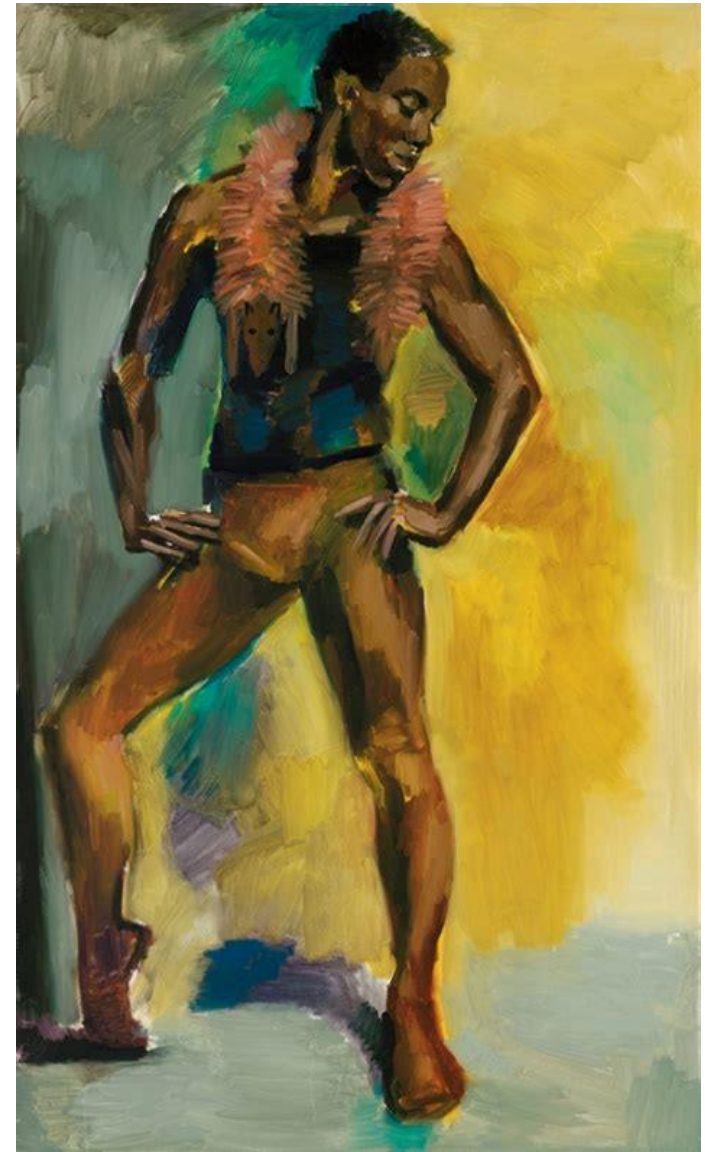
Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

The Ventricular 2018

Oil paint on linen

© Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, courtesy the artist, Corvi-Mora, London and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTU
BE.COM/WATCH?V=L
GNYMLU85OS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGNYMLU85OS)



TODAYS TASK:

WE ARE GOING TO CREATE
SKETCHES OF CLASSMATES
IN OUR SKETCHBOOKS
TODAY.

BUT THEY CANNOT BE
DIRECT PORTRAITS, THEY
MUST BE A MIX OF
DIFFERENT PEOPLE'S
FEATURES TO CREATE AN
IMAGINARY SUBJECT IN AN
IMAGINARY POSE.

