

**Ato Ribeiro**

Nationality, b. 1989

*“Through the use of discarded materials, the query of my work is in part a look into torturous separation— of peoples, of fact from accounts—and rectification through remembrance”*

*-Ato Ribeiro*

**BIOGRAPHY**

Ato Ribeiro is a multidisciplinary artist working in a variety of media including sculptural instillation, drawing and printmaking. Ribeiro spent his childhood and adolescence in Accra, Ghana. Central to his art, his West African heritage and his African American identity, Ribeiro utilizes discarded materials-- in a way individuals of African heritage have been treated throughout history, constructing the precious scraps together into geometric patterns that are recognizable as a language and - even hint at narrative, but confound the viewer because their specific code and meanings are not necessarily decipherable. Ribeiro leaves the deciphering to the viewer, prodding them to look deeper- to find hidden details, or incite thought.

“The interests behind my creative practice stem from an urge to bridge my West African heritage with my African American identity. This research mines and honors a variety of shared and neglected histories in order to visually speak to a contemporary sense of cultural hybridity. By employing familiar practices— of collecting, joining and refining natural and repurposed materials— my wooden kente quilt works, mixed-media installations and prints provide educational opportunities to seek out new points of reference, while preserving layers of African cultural heritage and varying ethnic perspectives.

Through the use of discarded materials, the query of my work is in part a look into torturous separation— of peoples, of fact from accounts—and rectification through remembrance. What to some should be avoided or deemed ahistorical, for others presents the most befitting opportunity for healing, rebuilding and the fostering of optimistic growth. As articulated in Saidiya Hartman’s biography and autobiography, *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*, “Waste is the interface of Life and Death. It incarnates all that has been rendered invisible, peripheral, or expendable to history writ large, that is, history as the tale of great men, empire and nation. Waste is the remnant of all the lives that are outside of history and “dissolved in utter amnesia.”

My works are reflections of the people, the individual histories and the cultural fabrics that I have learned from and share in, while traveling across the United States. They are a collection of stories, fragmented and fused together with room for the addition of narratives to come. By rearranging this assemblage of histories, “Sisala The Micro and Macro” along with other works pay homage to interactions with griots from industrial workspaces around Detroit, to the Red Willow People of the Taos Pueblo and more. The works bear witness to numerous examples of gerrymandering and gentrification around communities ignored by wielders of disproportionate power. And though the materials that make up these works were (and still are) the structural foundation and infrastructure for these ‘United’ States, the forgotten hard and soft woods hidden behind white gallery walls, they remain optimistic for the

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future because they know from whence they came. They are the results of a process aiming to preserve invaluable communities and explore alternate methods of making home.”

Ribiero was born in Philadelphia, PA. and spent the formative years of his life in Accra, Ghana. He is currently serving as a 2022/2023 MOCA GA Fellow, was the 2017 Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Emerging Artist Award recipient, Artist in Resident at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Germany, and received Fellowships at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT and Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in Madison, ME. His work is in the permanent collections of the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, the Mercedes-Benz USA Headquarters, Detroit Institute of Art, Cranbrook Art Museum and some private collections. He earned his B.A. from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and his M.F.A. in Print Media from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

## EDUCATION

- 2018 Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Madison, ME.  
2017 MFA, Print Media, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.  
2012 B.A., Studio Art – Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Ato Ribeiro: Working Artist Project (WAP) Show (upcoming)  
The Alchemists- Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
MOCA GA, Atlanta, GA.  
Entwined: A Group Exhibition (upcoming) Marietta Cobb Museum of Art (MCMA),  
mundane x sacred x profane, (upcoming) Sakhile&Me, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2022 They know from whence they came: September Gray Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA.  
Congo Biennale 2022: The Breath Of The Ancestors, République du Congo.  
Of the Fantastic: Extraordinary ATL,  
A&E Atlanta & ADID, Atlanta, GA.  
Wear Your Love Like Heaven, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.  
Ato Ribeiro: In Due Time -MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA.  
Storyteller: Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA.
- 2021 PRIZM Art Fair 2021: Points of Contact, Art Basel Miami, Miami, FL.  
Little Things, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA.  
ENDLESS SÉANCE, Hi-Lo Press Exile 3, Atlanta, GA.  
CONRAD EGYIR & ATO RIBEIRO: Every Time I Try to Get a Peace of Mind,  
Anastasia Tinari Projects, Chicago, IL.  
EngageMINT, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA.  
With Eyes Opened:, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- 2020 PRIZM Art Fair 2020: Noir, Noir: Art Basel Miami, Miami, FL.  
Softhouse: Detroit Month of Design, Grand On River, Detroit, MI.  
Shapeshifters: Transformation in Contemporary Art, Cranbrook Museum of Art, MI  
Serenity Now: Meditations on Humanity, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.  
Once Upon a Story, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, GA.

- 2019 The High Rise Show, Fulton County Arts & Culture, Giraffe, Atlanta, GA.  
Subversive White, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.  
Salon!, Rozsa Gallery, Houghton, MI.  
Front/Back, Accra, Ghana.
- 2018 The 4th Annual Creatives Art Exhibition, Ndoleb Event Center, Accra, Ghana.

## AWARDS

- 2022 Atlanta Artadia Award Awardee  
Artadia (The Fund for Art and Dialogue), New York, NY.
- 2022 Working Artist Project (WAP) Fellow, MOCA GA, Atlanta, GA.
- 2021 Atlanta Artadia Award Finalist Artadia (The Fund for Art and Dialogue), NY  
Hambidge Residency Program, Artist-in-Residence, Rabun Gap, GA.  
MASS MoCa Residency, Artist-in-Residence, North Adams, MA.
- 2021-22 MINT Gallery Leap Year Resident Awardee,
- 2019 Vermont Studio Center, Artist-in-Residence
- 2018 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Artist-in-Residence
- 2017 Equal Justice International Sponsored Residency, Artist-in-Residence,  
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Artist-in-Residence
- 2017 Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Emerging Artist Award, Cranbrook Art Museum  
Museum Purchase Award, Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- 2017 Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Emerging Artist Award Nominee  
Ox-Bow LeRoy Neiman Foundation Fellowship, Saugatuck, Mi.
- 2016 ACRE, Artist-in-Residence, Artists' Cooperative Residency and Exhibitions, Steuben, WI.  
Gerhardt Knodel Scholarship, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.  
The Robert C. Larson Art, Design, and Architecture Venture Award, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
- 2015 The Barclays L'Atelier Art Prize,  
Ghanaian Regional Finalists, Nubuke Foundation, Accra, Ghana.
- 2014 Second Place, Art Sandy Springs Chalk Walk, Sandy Springs, GA
- 2012 First Place, Spelman College: Juried Student Art Exhibition, Atlanta, GA.
- 2008 Morehouse College Logo Design, Morehouse College Atlanta, GA

**2006** Heritage Sandy Springs: Student Art Competition, Sandy Springs, GA.

PUBLICATIONS

**2022** Nickolaou, Alexandra. "Creating a Home Away from Home: Cross-Cultural Connections in the Work of Ato Ribeiro" Bulletin of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Volume 96, 2022, Detroit, MI.

Burnaway. Artadia Announces Atlanta Awardees, Burnaway, Atlanta, GA.

Lisa Sette Gallery. 2022/Volume 23, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.

**2021**TheVisualist.org. CONRAD EGYIR & ATO RIBEIRO: Every Time I Try to Get a Peace of Mind, Anastasia Tinari Projects, Chicago, IL.

**2021** The Editors, "Artists Máximo González and Ato Ribeiro Recreate the Art of Authentic Storytelling, January 8,". Highbrow Magazine, Phoenix, AZ.

**2020** Contemporary and (C&) WE ARE.

**2019** Lisa Sette Gallery. 2019-2020 Fall/Volume 22, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.

Lisa Sette Gallery. "Subversive White, February 22.", Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ.

**2018** Bueti, Federica. "Ato Ribeiro, August 1," Künstlerhaus Bethanien: BE#25, Berlin, Germany.

Abatemarco, Michael. "Two minutes (or so) of fame: SFAI140," The Santa Fe New Mexican, Santa Fe, NM.

Lisa Sette Gallery. "Exhibition - Maximo Gonzalez / Ato Ribeiro, March 9," Best Things Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.

Sakr, Omar J. "Seeing Black Panther with Ghanian-American woodworker Ato Ribeiro, March 3," The Saturday Paper, Melbourne, Australia.

**2017** Lisa Sette Gallery. 2017-2018 Fall/ Volume 20, Lisa Sette Gallery, Phoenix, AZ. (catalogue)  
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Exhibition, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Headquarters, Farmington Hills, MI. (catalogue)

Pocaro, Alan. "Automythography: Mequitta Ahuja, Kambui Olujimi, Kaveri Raina, Ato Ribeiro, Alex Yudzon, Aug 9," Delicious Line, Chicago, IL.

Szczesny, Joseph. "Cranbrook print media artist chosen for Mercedes-Benz award at Cranbrook, June 26" The Oakland Press, Detroit, MI.

Fracker, Julie. "Ato Ribeiro Receives the 2017 Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Emerging Artist Award, May 12," Cranbrook Art News, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Szczesny, Joseph. "Cranbrook grad art show opens Sunday, April 23," The Oakland Press, Detroit, MI.

**2016** Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Exhibition, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services

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Headquarters,

Farmington Hills, MI. (catalogue)

Rosen, Steven. "Remember this Artist's Name," (Cincinnati paper) Marketplace Takeover, BRICK

939 Walnut Hills Pop Up Market, Cincinnati, OH.

2012 The Anansi Series, Art by Ato Ribeiro, April 2012