

THE OAKLAND PRESS

Conrad Egyir: “West African artist opens his Cranbrook studio for virtual tour”

By Joseph Szczesny

April 5, 2021



Painting “Reunion,” by Conrad Egyir, who is offering a studio tour at Cranbrook Institute of Art. Photo courtesy conradegyir.com

Conrad Egyir, an up-and-coming visual artist with roots in Michigan and West Africa, will offer a virtual tour of his Cranbrook studio on April 7.

Egyir, a native of Ghana, is a 2018 graduate of Cranbrook Academy of Art’s Painting Department. Based in Detroit, he recently presented a solo exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and Library Street Collective in Detroit.

Egyir’s work is on display at Cranbrook Art Museum exhibition [“Shapeshifters: Transformation in Contemporary Art.”](#) He also has a virtual exhibition, [“Class of 2020: At such a time as this,”](#) which will take place as a physical exhibition in 2021 at UTA Artist Space in Beverly Hills, Calif.

**JESSICA
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508



A sculpture series by Conrad Egyir features a comb theme. Image courtesy conradegyir.com

His work also has been displayed in galleries in San Francisco, New York, and Miami, and now in the collections of Cranbrook Art Museum, Perez Art Museum, and the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection. It also was featured in Beyoncé's 2020 album "Black Is King."

In 2019, Egyir was a resident in the International Studio & Curatorial Program in Brooklyn, N.Y. — supported by the Kettering Family Foundation to help the creative development of artists and curators — which noted, "Egyir's work borrows from Afrocentric folklore that is rooted in political and religious erudition."

"He creates narrative paintings that focus on subjects from the Afro-diaspora who interact with identical versions of themselves," the ISCP said in a statement about Egyir's work. "Concurrently they take on multiple staged roles as both an antagonist and a protagonist, a friend and foe, or a noble and a commoner as a tool that behooves the viewer to step into the multiple incarnations of each subject, in reverence of a collective human spirit."

Egyir works in sculpture and multimedia in addition to drawing and painting. His materials include oil, acrylic, glitter, plexiglass, wood and fabric.

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A review of Egyir's work posted on artandculture.com notes, "His works are deeply art historical, often making explicit reference to specific works by Kerry James Marshall, Jacob Lawrence, Charles White and Kara Walker. They are also in dialogue with diverse forms of popular culture, whether they are religious, musical or animated."



Conrad Egyir offers a tour of his Cranbrook studio April 7. Image courtesy cranbrookartmuseum.org

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