

Crystal Yayra Anthony: A Glimpse of Us

A solo exhibition delving into intimacy and nostalgia through dream-like portraits

May 14–September 27, 2024

Opening Reception:
May 14, 2024
6–8pm

Gallery Hours:
Monday–Friday
10:30am–5:30pm

The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) presents *A Glimpse of Us*, the first solo exhibition in the United States of the work of Crystal Yayra Anthony. This presentation debuts a new group of paintings made by the artist during her recent residency at ISCP.

In these vibrant, expressive portraits, Anthony captures unguarded moments from everyday life. While initially known for rendering her subjects in the nude, in her latest works she explores another form of intimacy—deeply felt connections between her and her friends in her hometown of Accra, Ghana. When creating these paintings in New York, far from family and friends, Anthony was overcome by profound feelings of nostalgia. Drawing upon memories and a personal archive of cell phone video footage, she depicts tender and lighthearted scenes of her closely-knit community.



Crystal Yayra Anthony, *Game Nights Charades II*, 2024, acrylic, oil stick, oil, and pastel on canvas, 72 x 72 in. (182.9 x 182.9 cm).
Courtesy of the artist

Anthony's figures inhabit real-life settings infused with enigmatic elements—a dreamy purple interior unites three of the paintings, and in one large-scale work, the artist appears against a lush landscape with a candy-hued sunset. Brushy passages of sensuous color are combined with lyrical finger painting, a technique Anthony began exploring when looking at African rock art. Guided in part by the mentorship of Ghanaian painter Amoako Bofo, she has developed her own stylized mark-making to add depth to her figures and celebrate Black identity. For Anthony, her candid portraits convey private instances in which the artist and her peers are freed from the societal pressures and expectations frequently placed upon them in Ghana.

Press inquiries:
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Crystal Yayra Anthony is a self-taught artist based in Accra, Ghana. She was a resident at ISCP from December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024. Her work has been exhibited at museums and galleries around the world including Kunsthalle Krems, Austria; PM/AM Gallery, London; Dot Ateliers, Accra, Ghana; Gallery OCA, London; and Mitochondria Gallery, Houston, Texas.

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This exhibition is curated by Melinda Lang, ISCP's Director of Programs and Exhibitions.

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About ISCP:

Founded in 1994, ISCP is the fourth-largest visual arts residency program in the world and a global leader in the field of visual arts residency programs. ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences. Over 2,000 artists and curators from more than 100 countries, including the United States have undertaken residencies at ISCP.

ISCP does not discriminate on the basis of disability in terms of admission, access, or employment. ISCP programs and activities are accessible to visitors with disabilities. Accommodations are made to the best of the institution's ability, depending on individual visitors' needs. To request accommodations, please contact info@iscp-nyc.org or call 718-387-2900.



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