



Band of Vices

presents

TANGLED EMBRACE

A Solo Exhibition of
RICHARD MENSAH

11 November - 23 December, 2023



5351 W Adams Blvd LA CA 90016

www.BandofVices.com



Band of Vices

INTRODUCES THE SOLO EXHIBITION OF **RICHARD MENSAH** IN LOS ANGELES, CA

Embracing the entanglement of emotions and artistry, Band of Vices proudly introduces ‘**TANGLED EMBRACE**,’ a showcase unveiling the latest paintings by the esteemed London-based artist, Richard Mensah. Delve into 7 intimately crafted pieces, each a testament to precision and vulnerability. This exhibition marks Mensah’s premiere solo display at the gallery, open for viewing from November 11th to December 23rd, 2023.

Originally from Ghana, Mensah weaves together a visual storybook of requited love and those yearning for intimacy. While the threats of the outside world distract these lovers of their full expression, they are threading their own journey to hold on as tightly as they can to one another.

Combining materials like oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold leaf and marble dust, Mensah provides the viewer a complex storytelling of tenderness, while cautious. For many of these subjects, their love is both a blessing and a curse.



“Richard Mensah’s masterful, technical acuity envelops the viewer, drawing us closer, to explore the various medium used in creating these works. Mixing unconventional materials with traditional ones, Mensah elaborates on his signature style, imposing a three-dimensional component to the works discovered in Tangled Embrace”.

— **Terrell Tilford,**
Creative Director



Photo Credit : Naomy Guerra





RICHARD MENSAH

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Richard Mensah (b. 1978, Ghana) is a London based artist who works with and paints in different media. He describes himself as a born artist as he has had no formal art/painting education or training. His love for drawing, sketching and painting was noticed at a very young age and in the very early years of his education in Ghana where he was born.

He moved to the United Kingdom in the early 2000s and after a break from art for more than 15 years, Richard started painting again circa 2016 and has since been involved in exhibitions and commissions.

His style is mainly intuitive - he conceives an idea to paint but often starts the painting project before the idea is fully formed. He relies on his intuitions to bring his ideas and concept into reality. This mainly means that he does very little preparation before commencing

any paintings and doesn't always know how the pieces of ideas come together to fully bring the concept into reality. His key guiding principle for every painting project is with patience every painting always ends well. He is driven by the need to tell the African and Black peoples story from their own perspective which is often missing in the art world. His paintings attempt to draw in audiences into the event or the story being told thereby bringing it to life for the audience.

His paintings also use a lot of different items as symbolism with often a lot of research behind them. These are often left for audiences to find and interpret and or use their visual imagination to fill missing gaps in the story. He takes inspiration from his African heritage, childhood memories and everyday happenings and is very passionate about social issues. He does not limit himself in his work; he paints and creates as inspired. His love of colours, nature and fascination about everyday life scenes show through his work.

He is deeply fascinated by shapes, movement and shades and light and tries to capture these in his paintings. His paintings and creations are vivid, bright bold colours, captures various emotions and combines abstract and realism.

Richard has exhibited in the UK and internationally and was selected in 2020 as one of 25 emerging artists in the UK to watch out for by a Mayfair gallery. He has also been shortlisted and longlisted for numerous awards including the 2021 Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, the Robert Walters Group UK New Artist of the Year Award and the Jacksons Painting Prize.



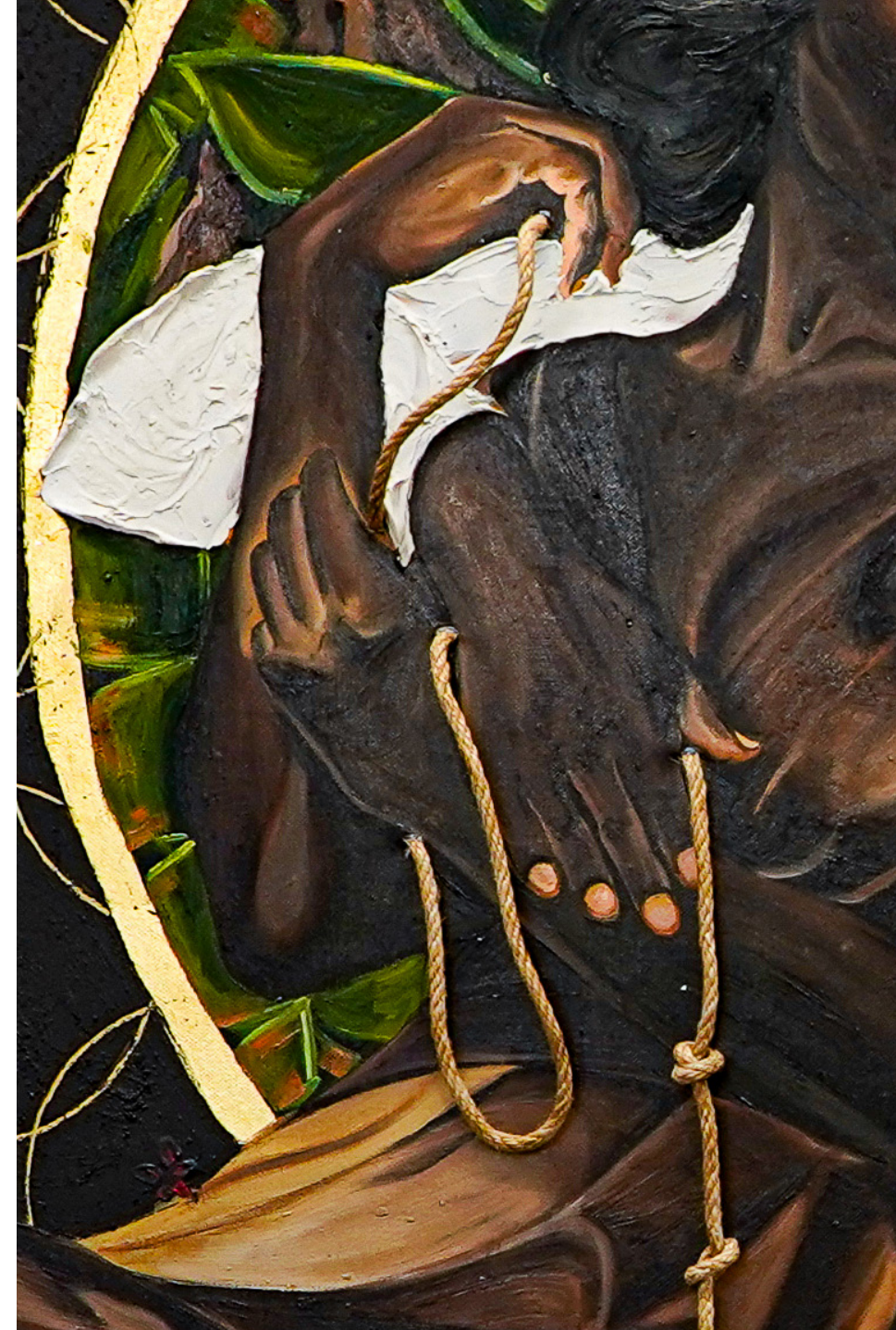
ARTIST STATEMENT

TANGLED EMBRACE is a series of multi-media paintings that explores the profound and complex connections shared between black couples across the global African diaspora.

By combining canvas, oil paint, leather, and a jute rope, the series aims to evoke the intertwining narratives, experiences, and emotions that bind these couples together. The use of canvas and oil paint forms the foundation of the pieces, symbolizing the traditional medium of artistic expression. It represents the strength and resilience of black love throughout history, as well as the timeless beauty found within these relationships. The vibrant colors and expressive brushstrokes communicate the vitality and passion that exist within the bonds of black couples.

Integrating leather into the pieces speaks to the idea of protection and strength. Leather, a durable and resilient material, represents the ability to weather challenges and adversity. It signifies the protective embrace that black couples provide for one another, as well as the ways in which they navigate societal pressures and systemic barriers together.

The inclusion of a jute rope introduces an element of interconnection and interdependence. The rope symbolizes the ties that bind black couples, representing their shared experiences, struggles, and triumphs that they navigate as a unit. It also highlights the importance of communication, trust, and mutual support in fostering healthy and thriving relationships. Tangled Embrace seeks to celebrate the beauty and complexity of black love, while acknowledging the unique dynamics and challenges faced by black couples. Through its multi-media composition, the artworks invites viewers to reflect on the interconnectedness of these relationships and to appreciate the strength and resilience embodied within them.





Band of Vices



Richard Mensah

TANGLED EMBRACE

11 NOVEMBER - 23 DECEMBER 2023



Richard Mensah,
Embrace, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
48 x 40 in
121.92 x 101.60 cm
Inventory #: 2024
\$10,000.00 **SOLD**

Richard Mensah,
On the Cusp, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
28 x 20 in
71.12 x 50.80 cm
Inventory #: 2027
\$6,200.00 **SOLD**



Richard Mensah,
Red Dress, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
24 x 20 in
60.96 x 50.80 cm
Inventory #: 2028
\$6,200.00 **SOLD**



Richard Mensah,
The Interrupt, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
48 x 40 in
121.92 x 101.60 cm
Inventory #: 2030
\$10,000.00



Richard Mensah,
Locked In, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
48 x 40 in
121.92 x 101.60 cm
Inventory #: 2025
\$10,000.00 **ON HOLD**

Richard Mensah,
Tangled Embrace, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
48 x 40 in
121.92 x 101.60 cm
Inventory #: 2029
\$10,000.00



Richard Mensah,
Young King II, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute rope, gold
leaf and marble dust
24 x 20 in
60.96 x 50.80 cm
Inventory #: 2031
\$6,200.00 **SOLD**



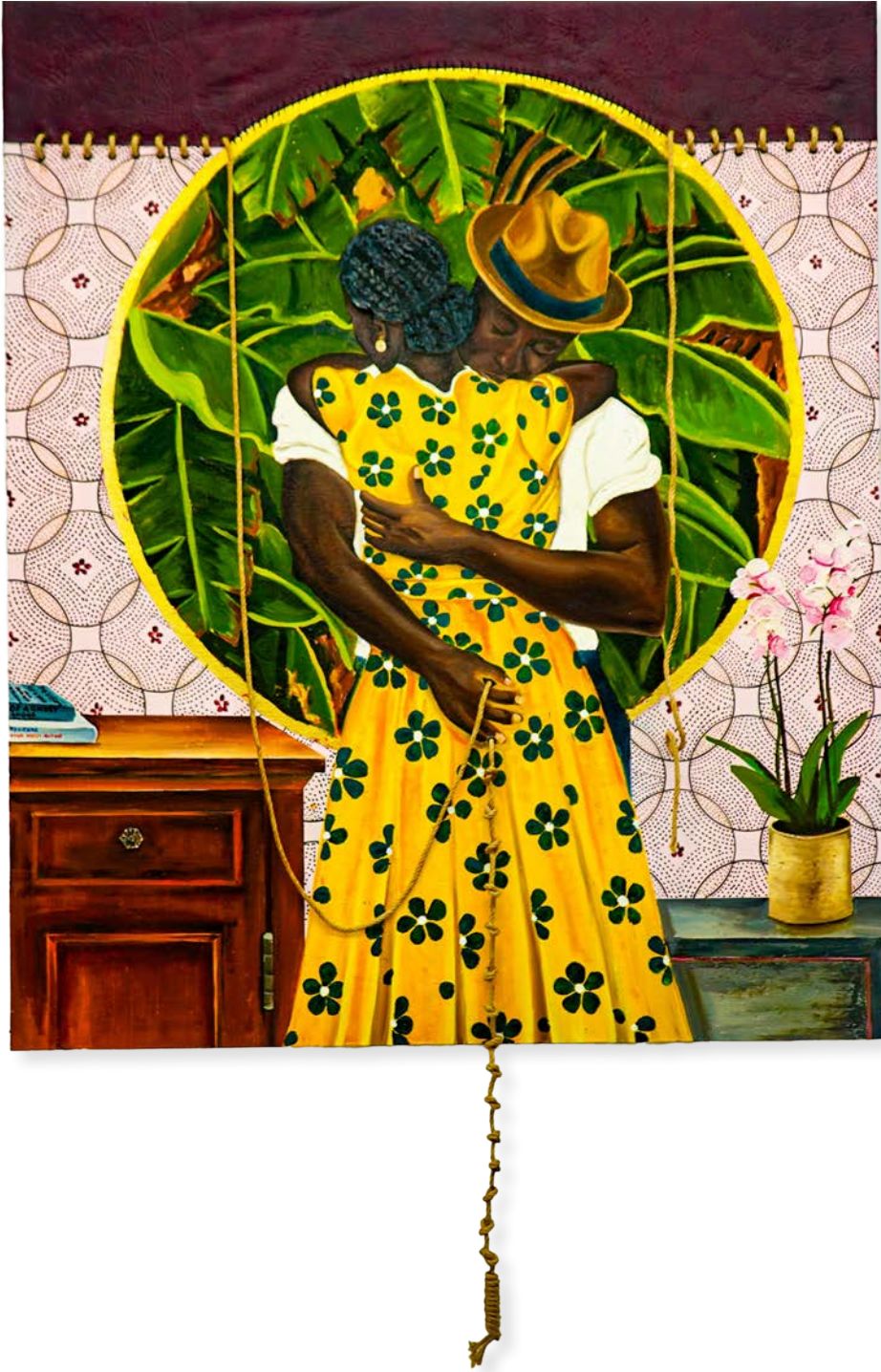


Richard Mensah

TANGLED EMBRACE

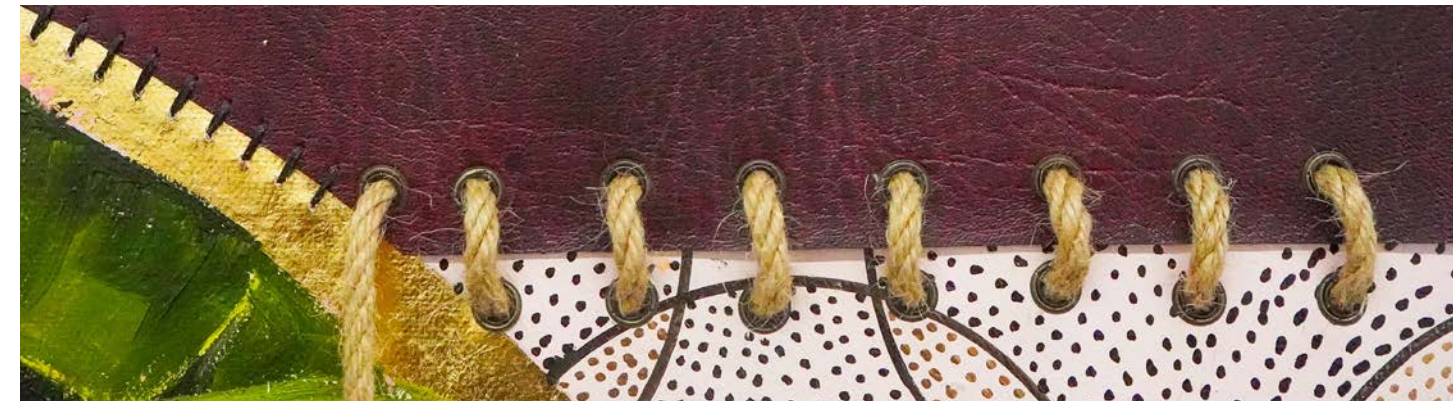
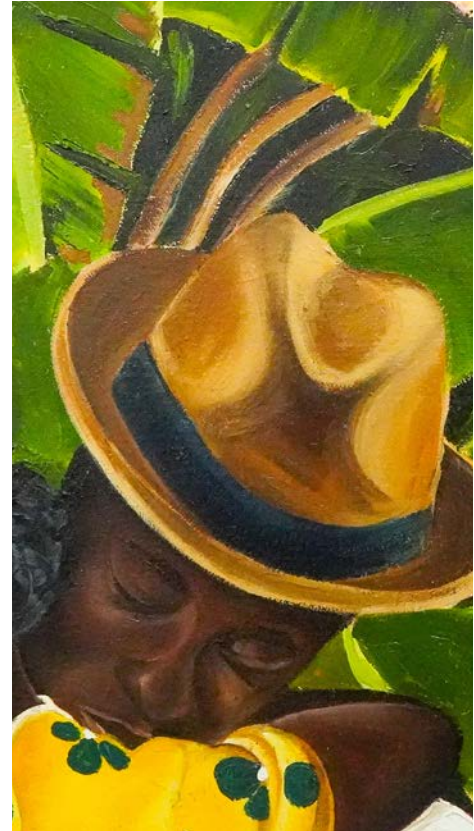
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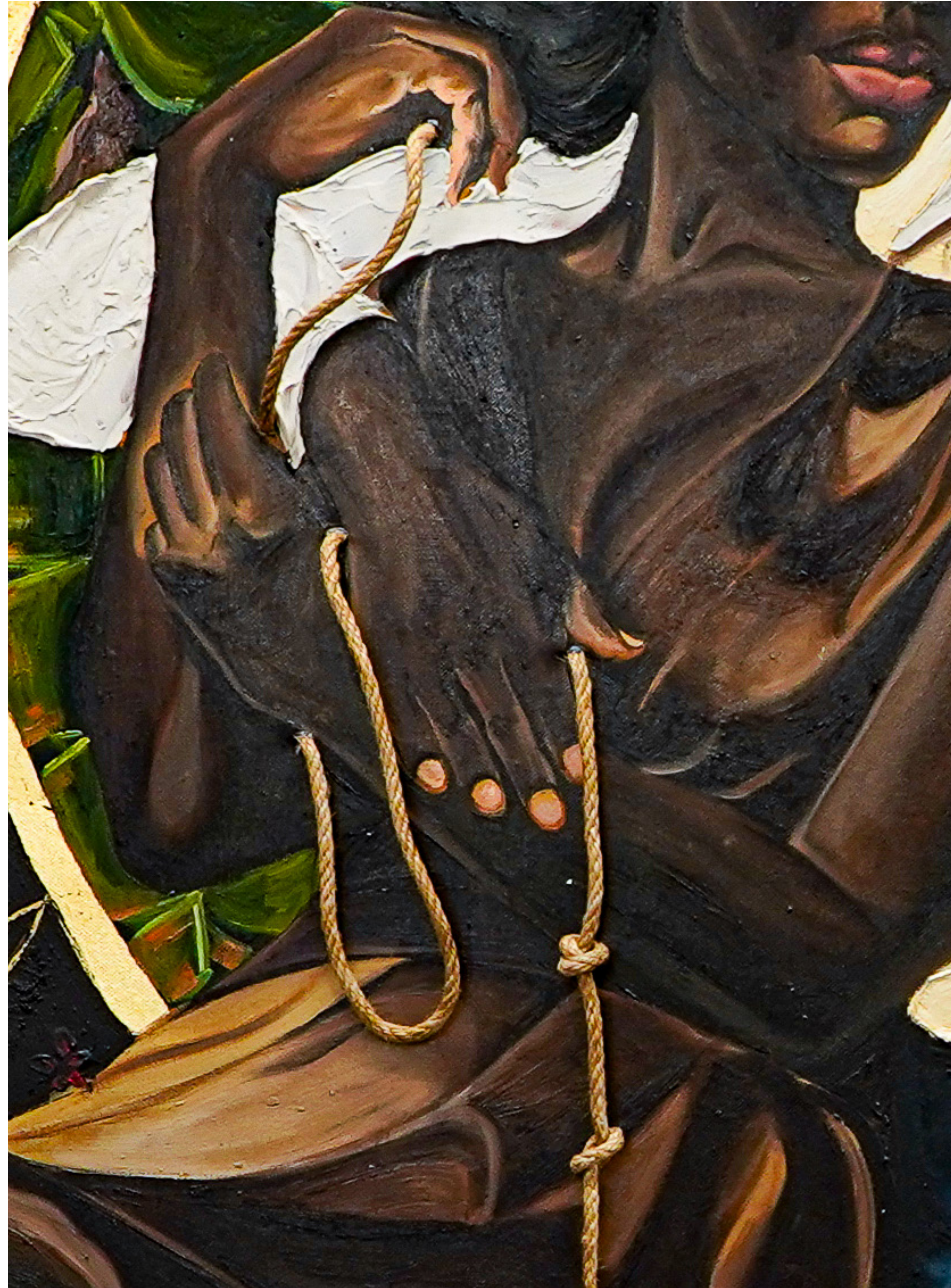




Richard Mensah,
Embrace, 2023

oil, acrylic, faux leather, jute
rope, gold leaf and marble
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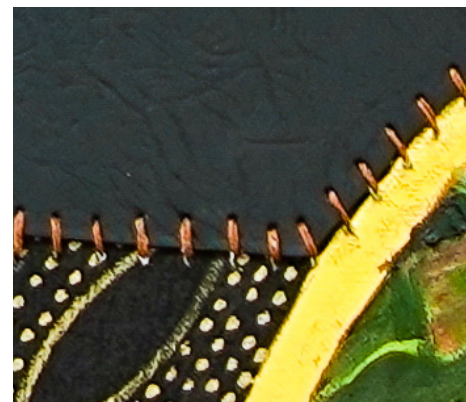
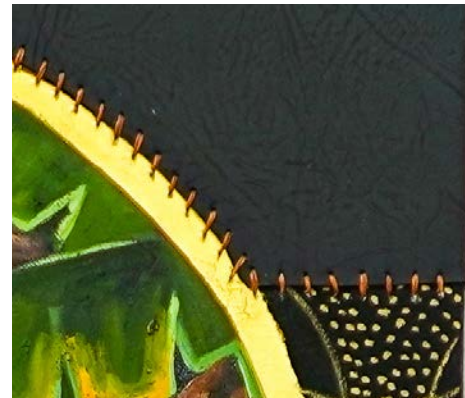
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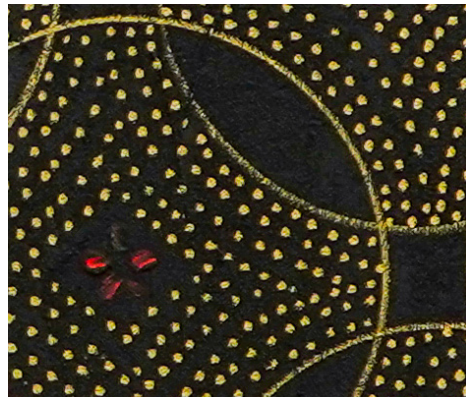




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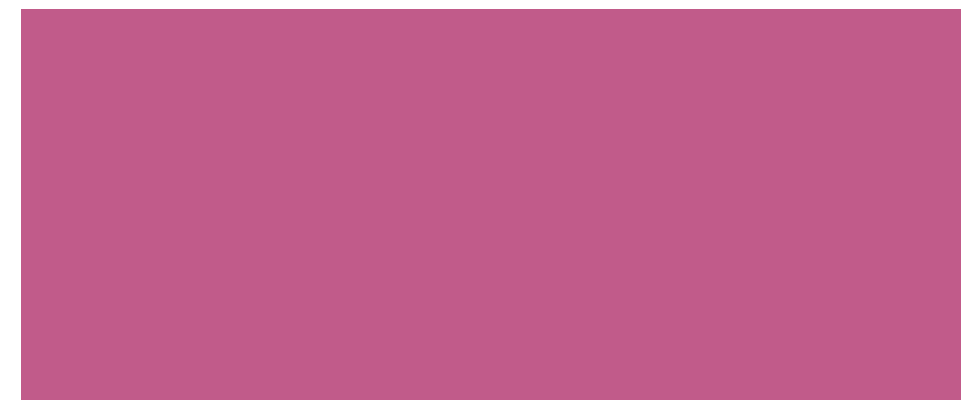
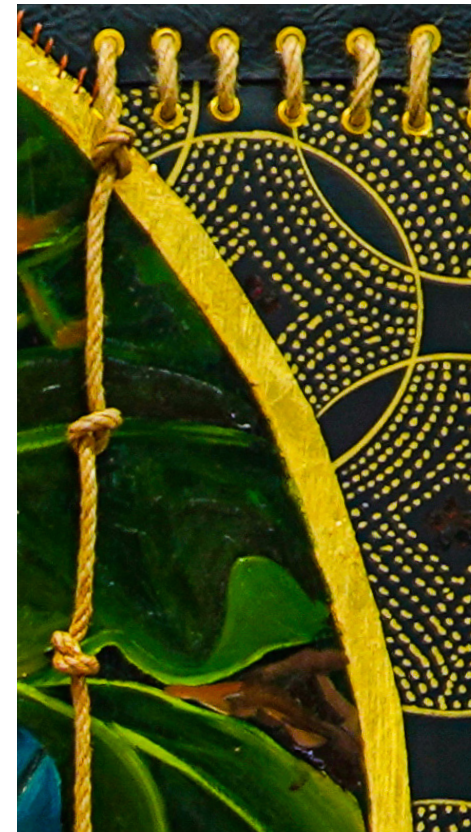
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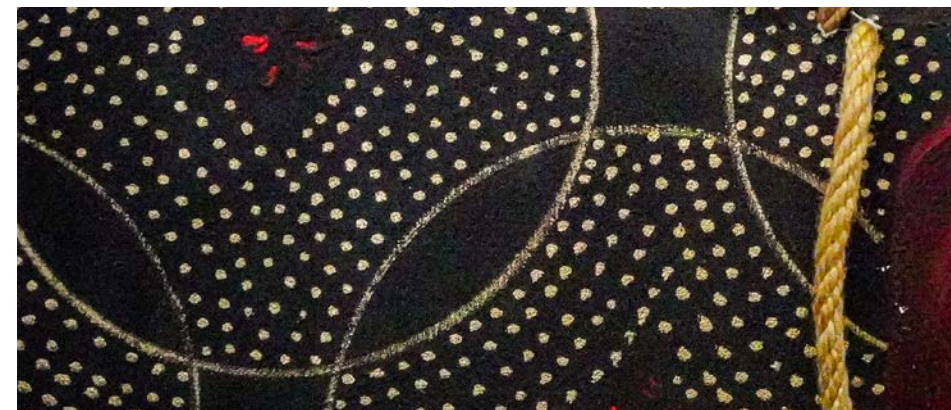
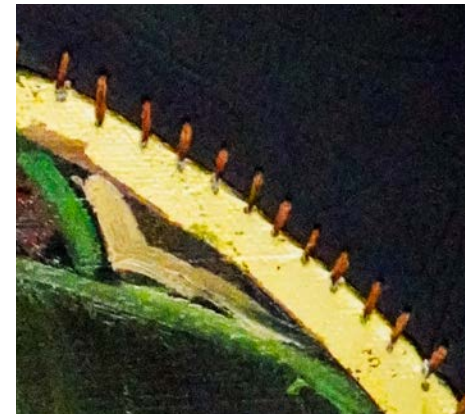






Photo Credit : Terrell Tilford



Photo Credit : Terrell Tilford



RICHARD MENSAH

CURRICULUM VITAE

Solo Exhibitions/Fairs

- 2023 – **Tangled Embrace, Band of Vices, Los Angeles (currently)**
- 2023 – The Softer Side of Us, Afikaris, Paris France
- 2022 – Stepping Back To Move Forward, Chilliart Project, Cheshire
- 2022 – AKA Fair, Paris
- 2022 – Fluid Movement, Solo Show, Chilliart Projects, London
- 2021 – Manchester Art Fair, Zari Gallery
- 2018 – Solo Exhibition Black History Month ‘Our History’, Financial Ombudsman Black History Month Art exhibition, London UK

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 – Reflections, Chilliart Projects, London
- 2023 – Surface 1, Chilliart Projects, London
- 2022 – Classique, Afikaris, Paris
- 2022– **Masterpieces 3, Band of Vices, Los Angeles**
- 2022 – The Stories We Tell, Chilliart Projects, London
- 2021 – Group Exhibition, Ascension, Zari Gallery, London
- 2021 – Group Exhibition, Honour Remember Inspire, Zari Gallery, London
- 2021 – Group Exhibition, Black in Full Colour, The Collective Makers, London
- 2021– Group Exhibition, Awakening, Chilliart Projects, London
- 2021 - Create Magazine Springing forward exhibition Curated By Gita Joshi
- 2020 – Virtual Group Exhibition. Change. Norman Rea Gallery, United Kingdom
- 2020 – Group Exhibition Isolation Mastered, JD Malat Gallery, London.
- 2018 – Group Exhibition Figuratively Speaking, Elizabeth James Gallery, London

Selected Publications

- 2022 – Create Magazine Issue 32, September 2022
- 2022 - Art Seen Magazine, Issue 4
- 2022 – Chicago News Gallery News, Spring/Summer 2022
- 2021 – The Hut Magazine, Issue 3.
- 2021 – Perazim Magazine, Top25 Creatives Edition, Edition 17
- 2021 – ArtPlugged, Raphael Dapaah in Conversation with Richard Mensah
- 2021 - Art Seen Magazine, Issue 1
- 2021 – Artisttalk Magazine (www.artisttalkmagazine.com). Issue 15
- 2020 - Surj Magazine, Issue 1

Installations and Commissions

- 2022 – The World Re-Imagined Globe, Step Up, Speak Up. A community globe installation for Lambeth Borough
- 2020 - The Anchor Charity
- 2020 Figurative - Boys Don’t Cry Album Cover Image – Young Careless
- 2020 Figurative ‘- Sore (Arise) Single Cover Image – Yaw Tog
- Talks and Presentations
- 2022 – Our Connections with Water, Greenwich Maritime Museum and The Collective Makers
- 2023 – Group Public Art Presentation, W1 Curates, London
- 2022 – Johnson Matthey Plc, Royston Black History Month Art Presentation
- 2022 – A Solo Public Art Presentation, W1 Curates, London
- 2021 – Financial Ombudsman, Black History Month Art Presentation
- Awards/Competitions
- 2021 – Robert Walters Group UK New Artist of the Year Award longlisted
- 2021 – Shortlisted Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition 2021
- 2021 Longlisted on Jackson’s Painting Prize 2021 – Among 400 artworks selected from 8674 entries
- 2020 Selected Among 25 Artist UK wide to Exhibit at JD Malat Gallery
- 2019 Longlisted Jackson’s Painting Prize 2020





There was a time when it was bad to be black; a time when brown was illegal; a time when being gay or queer was immoral; a time when those less abled were abominable. There were times when being different was a vice. We reject those labels. For those historically undervalued, overlooked or cast aside we say now is your time, now is our time. We are creating a Band of Vices. We reject colonialism, we reject tribalism, we reject exclusivity, we embrace uniqueness, diversity, and inclusion. We embrace love.

We are a Band of Vices...

Our mission is to harness the power of all our differences to create a greater whole.

We support strong voices and community.

Founded in 2015, Band of Vices is an art and culture company committed to providing a platform to often overlooked creative communities and a narrative through ever-evolving initiatives, including a highly curated exhibition program, culturally relevant strategic partnerships, mission-driven community programming, and more.

Headquartered in the burgeoning West Adams Arts District of Los Angeles, Band of Vices believes in disrupting the limited business model for artists and creatives.

With our new flagship location, BoV is further expanding its commitment to provide a platform for those historically undervalued, overlooked or cast aside. Band of Vices embraces uniqueness, diversity, and inclusion.





In addition to its contemporary art base, Band of Vices also offers rare works by Modern American Masters and has participated in auctions with SWANN Auction Galleries. The gallery has had the distinct pleasure of collaborating on various initiatives from brands as varied as Geffen Playhouse, The Getty Museum and most recently with the Los Angeles Lakers and their [IN THE PAINT](#) initiative. They have also been included in the source guide from HBO's [Black Art: In the Absence of Light](#). The digital publications of the gallery will soon be found in the archives of New York's The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Member of the newly-formed Gallery Association Los Angeles ([GALA](#)).



For press inquiries, future mailings or digital catalog inquiries, contact us at HELLO@BandofVices.com.

