

ONLINE EXHIBITION

VICTORIA ADOE

July, 2024

On Display at the Berj Art Gallery, Accra

Serwaa Akoto: A Series by Vicki

What comes to mind when you think of an ideal woman? Is there such a thing? There once was a song that played on radios in Ghana when we were growing up. It was titled "Serwaa Akoto," by the musician, Yamoah. Those of my generation and older will remember it.

The paintings that make up this exhibition are inspired by that song. Who and what is Serwaa Akoto? If you know the lyrics, she is many things. But above all she is not just beautiful, but also graceful, a woman of wisdom, a woman who knows when and how to speak.

Literally, the song begins: If all women were like Serwaa Akoto, we would have no difficulties. This is a loose translation.

She is full of self-respect, great dignity. Her beauty, captivating without ostentation.

Her poise, unmistakable. Her speech, seasoned, soothing. Her elegance, understated. Her feet in a pair of raised shoes, well, that is beyond description.

But in addition to that, the series which makes up this exhibition is also inspired by women who in a way have exemplified certain aspects of what the song talks about. The way they carry themselves: their dignity, their wisdom, their grace, their poise, their goodness, their loveliness, and yes, their beauty.

It is not so much an ideal as a representation of a good woman: A woman who inspires. A woman who encourages. A woman who builds. And a woman who shines.

So, this is the series, Serwaa Akoto. Each of the paintings tries to capture some of the characteristics mentioned in the song and exemplified in the women I have in mind. Some of the titles of the paintings wish to evoke these characteristics.



Serwaa Akoto, 2019

Acrylic on Canvas

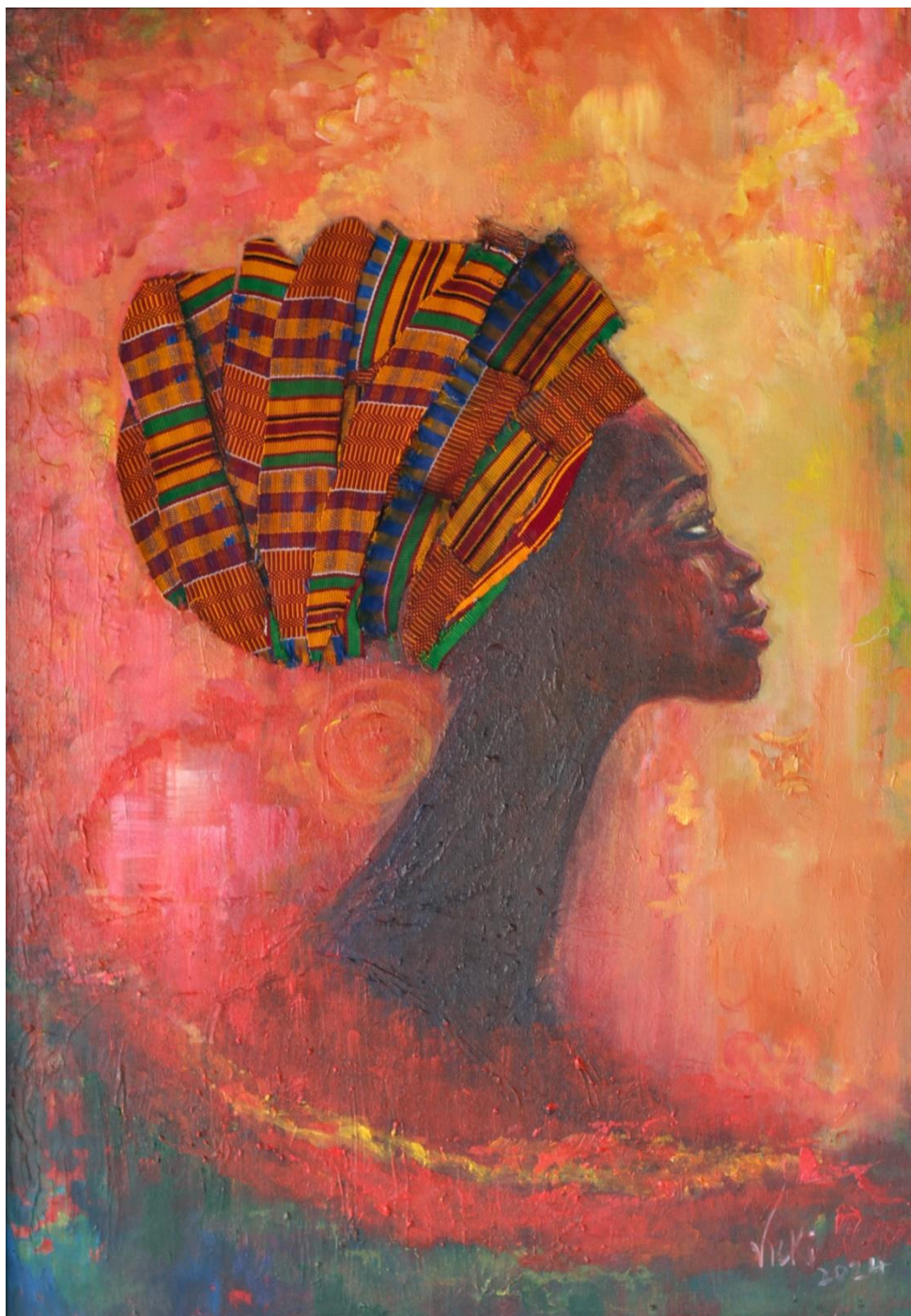
24x34 Inches



Aho)fe (Beauty), 2024

Acrylic on Canvas

30x30 Inches



Ewuraba, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24x34 Inches



Noble, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

25x45 Inches



Natural Woman, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

36x40 Inches



Soul, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

30x30 Inches



Nsuonyunu (Calm), 2024

Acrylic on Canvas

30x30 Inches



Aho)fe Dua (Beauty Stick), 2024

Acrylic on Canvas

28x34 Inches



My Sunshine My Meridian, 2021

Acrylic on Canvas

30x34 Inches



African Queen, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

25x36 Inches



Emancipation, 2021

Acrylic on Canvas

40x40 Inches



Emancipation, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

36x40 Inches



Ideal Woman, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas
30x35 Inches



Mother, 2020
Acrylic on Canvas
28x34 Inches