

[Watts at Cécile Fakhoury Gallery](#)

[Watts at KARMA Gallery](#)

The 2004 exhibition [Crossing Currents – the Synergy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts](#) was held at the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth University and explored the intellectual and aesthetic similarities between the two friends. Read an [article](#) in the Resource Library Magazine about the exhibition.

The esteemed international curator Okwui Enwezor curated the exhibition [Ouattara Watts: Opere Recenti](#) at Magazzino Arte Moderna in 2004.

Take a studio visit with the artist and [Cool Hunting](#) in anticipation of a small retrospective curated by Vladimir Restoin Roitfeld at 560 Washington Street in New York. Watch an interview with the artist and curator with [Zip Magazine](#).

[Whitewall](#) published an article about *Ouattara Watts: The Project Room*, on display at FIAF Gallery in 2013.

Read an [interview](#) with the artist about his second exhibition at [Boulakia Gallery](#) in 2015.

[Before Looking at This Work, Listen to It](#) was on display at Galerie Cécile Fakhoury in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 2018-2019.



Watts, 2022. Photograph: Robert Banat

Read a 2018 article by Hannah O’Leary for Sotheby’s: [“Ouattara Watts – from Côte d’Ivoire to Basquiat’s New York.”](#)

In 2019, Watts gave an [interview](#) for *Avril* 27. Read about his unique perspective and background: “My influences come from around the world. The very notion of African spirituality is what helped me. The artist is the guardian of the cosmos. This is what my great-uncle told me at the age of 10 and I avidly soaked up every word without really understanding. The idea became my guiding creative mantra.”

[“Maximum Impact: Kaelen Wilson-Goldie on the Art of Ouattara Watts”](#) was published in *Artforum* in 2021. According to Wilson-Goldie: “What the artist provides are tools. His maximalism is therefore the mark of his generosity. He gives you so much material, so many references, in order for you, as a viewer, to pick up on something that will help you find your way.”

[Ouattara Watts: Paintings](#) was on display at Karma Gallery in 2022. Read a [review](#) by Andrew Paul Woolbright in the *Brooklyn Rail*. An exhibition was also on display at [Almine Rech](#) for the 2022 edition of Art Basel Unlimited.



Watts in his New York studio, 2018
Photograph: Robert Lakow



Ouattara Watts (American, b. 1957)

Door of the Cosmos, 2021

Mixed media on canvas

Private Collection; L2022:25.1

Born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Ouattara Watts studied at L'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1988, Watts met Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988) at an exhibition opening and was convinced to move to New York, where he is still based today. Using found objects, fabric, collage, and painting techniques, Watts explores the spiritual ties that hold people together beyond nationality. **Door of the Cosmos** is a microcosm of the artist's influences, from African traditions to Hebrew gematria numbers. According to Watts: "My vision is not bound to a country or a continent; it extends beyond borders and all that can be found on a map. While I use identifiable pictorial elements to be better understood, this project is nevertheless about something much wider. I am painting the Cosmos."

On view August 10 – November 13, 2022