

Artist Resources – Wangari Mathenge (Kenyan, b. 1973)

[Mathenge Artist Website](#)

[Mathenge Instagram](#)

[Mathenge at Roberts Projects](#)

[Mathenge at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery](#)



Mathenge, 2019
Photograph: Maina Mucoki

Read a 2019 [interview](#) in Art of Choice by Maria Vogel, “Wangari Mathenge Analyzes the Shaping and Shifting of Identity,” published right before the artist left California to pursue her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mathenge had her first solo exhibition, [Wangari Mathenge: Aura of Quiet](#), at Roberts Projects in 2019. The exhibition was inspired by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s 2009 Ted Talk, “The Danger of a Single Story.” Read an interview in [Issue Magazine](#) about the body of work and a review in [Riot Material](#) by Eve Wood. Shortly after the exhibition concluded, Roberts Projects [announced](#) gallery representation for the emerging artist.

Read an article in [Creative Boom](#) by Katy Cowan, “Artist Wangari Mathenge’s latest oil paintings question the dehumanizing meaning behind the term ‘expats,’” published in 2020.

In 2021, Mathenge had her first solo exhibition in London, [Wangari Mathenge: You Are Here](#). The artist recreated a 1970s living room at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery to comment on the diasporic experience of home. Read a review in [Creative Boom](#).

[Wangari Mathenge: Perspectives](#) opened at Monica de Cardenas Gallery in 2022, the artist’s first solo exhibition in Italy. The exhibition’s title refers to two meanings of the word “perspective”: one’s social/emotional point of view and a physical vantage point from which to witness an event.

Roberts Projects launched Mathenge’s first major solo exhibition with the gallery in 2023 with [Wangari Mathenge: Tidal Wave of Colour](#). Read an article in [Cultured Magazine](#), “Wangari Mathenge was a Lawyer. Now, She’s Making her U.S. Solo Debut at Roberts Projects” and another in [Juxtapoz Magazine](#) by Jewels Dodson.

In 2023, [Wangari Mathenge: A Day of Rest](#) was on display at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, the artist’s second exhibition in London. The new series of work comments on labor and domestic workers in Kenya.



Mathenge, 2023
Photograph: Jan-Willem Dikkers

Wangari Mathenge (Kenyan, b. 1973)
The Three Graces (After Rubens), 2023
 Oil and oil stick on canvas

Collection of Lizzie and Steve Blatt; L2023:48.1

Born in Nairobi and based in Chicago, Wangari Mathenge began her professional life in finance and law before turning to painting. The artist completed her MFA in Painting and Drawing from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 2021, where she re-thought her preexisting assumptions about success and growth in a career. **The Three Graces (After Rubens)** is part of a series that pays homage to the artists who influenced Mathenge in her development as a painter. However, her interpretation inserts a critical and contemporary view on the complexities of race, class, and geography. The artist recently said: “I’ve heard comments about how empowering and inspiring it is for black people to see themselves reflected this way. However, for me, painting is merely an expression of myself, a form of catharsis.”

On view November 15, 2023 – February 18, 2024

