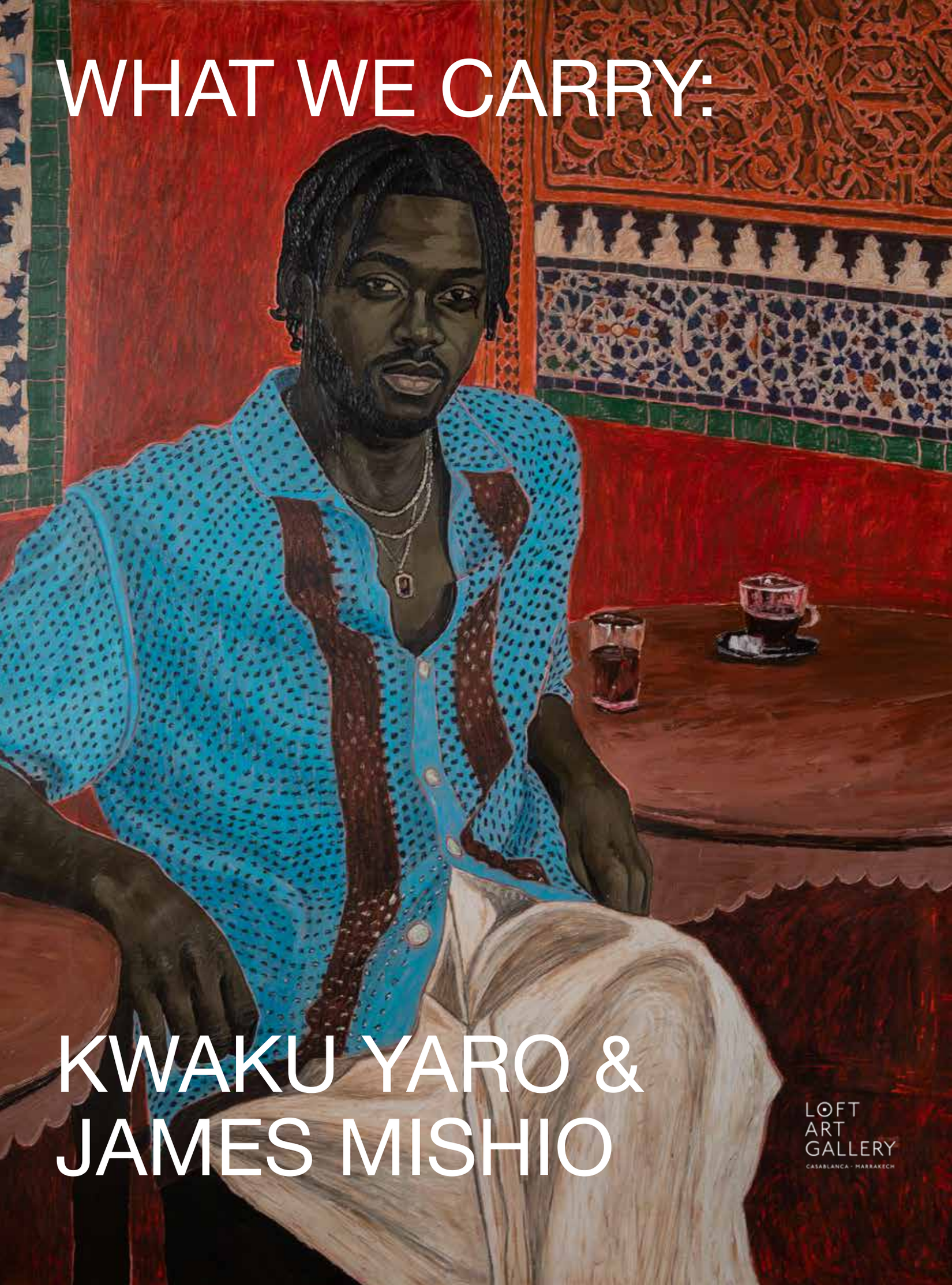
WHAT WE CARRY:



KWAKU YARO & JAMES MISHIO

LOFT
ART
GALLERY
CASABLANCA · MARRAKECH

WHAT WE CARRY: KWAKU YARO & JAMES MISHIO

28 october
— 18 december
2026

Loft Art Gallery
Marrakech

“Spaces to me, are muted voices which are trapped in architectural forms. They depend heavily on your interaction with them in order to get the stories they have to share.”

James Mishio

“Bringing materials from my childhood in Ghana into dialogue with those I encountered in Morocco allows me to explore the connections between people, cultures and communities beyond geography.”

Kwaku Yaro

What We Carry explores the stories embedded in everyday materials and the meanings they acquire as they move between people, communities and places. Bringing together Ghanaian artists Kwaku Yaro and James Mishio, the exhibition marks the culmination of their residency at Loft Art Gallery in Marrakech, a period of research, experimentation and artistic exchange between Morocco and Ghana.

Through distinct yet complementary practices, the two artists examine how materials retain traces of individual and collective experience. Second-hand garments, woven textiles and everyday objects become carriers of memory, identity and cultural histories, acquiring new meanings through movement, reuse and transformation.

For Kwaku Yaro, materials are inseparable from the memories and communities that shape them. Drawing on his upbringing in Accra, he reimagines familiar objects and overlooked materials, bringing them into dialogue with the traditional Moroccan rugs encountered during his residency. His practice explores the connections between people and cultures through the histories embedded in the objects they use.

For James Mishio, this exploration unfolds through painting and textiles. Incorporating fragments of second-hand clothing into his compositions, he challenges the boundaries between body, material and space. Connecting Accra's second-hand clothing trade with Morocco's textile markets, his work reflects on movement, perception and the possibilities of transformation.

Between Accra and Marrakech, ***What We Carry*** reveals how materials carry stories across geographies while acquiring new meanings through different encounters and experiences. Rather than remaining fixed in their original contexts, they become living expressions of memory, connection and reinvention.

Ultimately, the exhibition invites us to reconsider what we carry with us, what remains and what is transformed as materials, people and histories move between places.

“Residencies are an important part of our programme because they give artists the opportunity to spend time in Marrakech, to research, experiment and develop new work through their encounters with the city. This exchange between Morocco and artists from across the African continent is central to what we want to continue developing at Loft Art Gallery.”

Yasmine Berrada

Kwaku Yaro

Kwaku Yaro lives and works in Labadi, Accra, Ghana.

Born in 1995 in Ghana, Kwaku Yaro is a contemporary artist whose practice explores the relationships between memory, identity and community through the histories embedded in everyday materials. Deeply informed by his childhood in Accra, he has developed an artistic language rooted in personal experience and the connections between individuals and their social and cultural environments.

His relationship with materials is closely linked to his family history. His mother worked as a food trader and regularly visited local markets, environments where he first encountered many of the materials that would later become central to his practice. By repositioning familiar and often overlooked objects within his work, Yaro seeks to give them renewed identity and meaning, inviting viewers to reconsider how they are perceived and valued.

His research focuses particularly on the histories of the communities connected to these materials, especially the women from whom he sources them. Among the recurring elements in his practice is a woven mat, traditionally used for sleeping within his community and closely associated with his childhood memories. By incorporating such materials into his compositions, he gives them new significance while preserving traces of their original uses and histories.

During his artistic residency in Marrakech in 2026, Yaro extended this exploration through an investigation of traditional Moroccan rugs, their origins, uses and histories. Bringing materials associated with his upbringing in Ghana into dialogue with those encountered in Morocco, he examines the connections between people, cultures and communities beyond geographical boundaries.

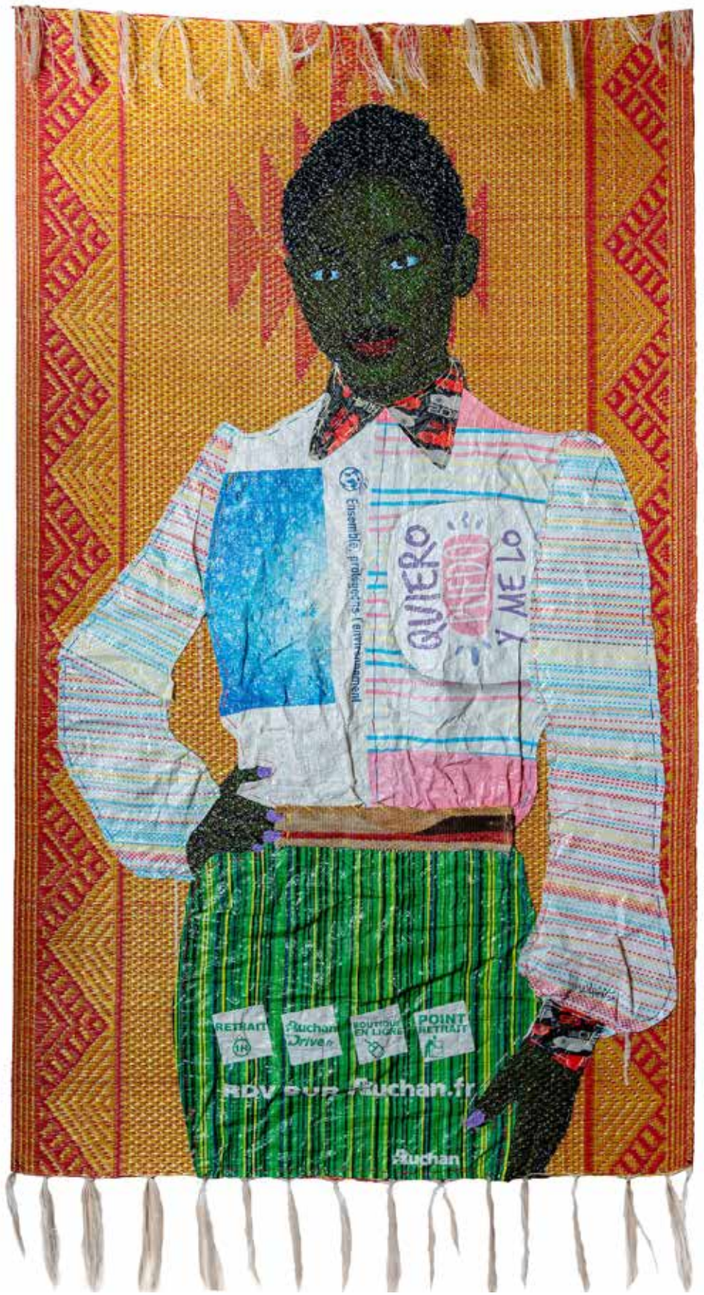
Yaro has exhibited in Ghana and internationally, including at Alliance Française in Accra, with Efie Gallery in Dubai and Phillips in London. He has also presented a solo exhibition at the African Regent Hotel in Accra and is a member of the Accra-based Artemartis collective.



Kwaku Yaro
Sarfowaa, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap on polymer
198 x 123 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Esi Jewelry, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
210 x 153 cm



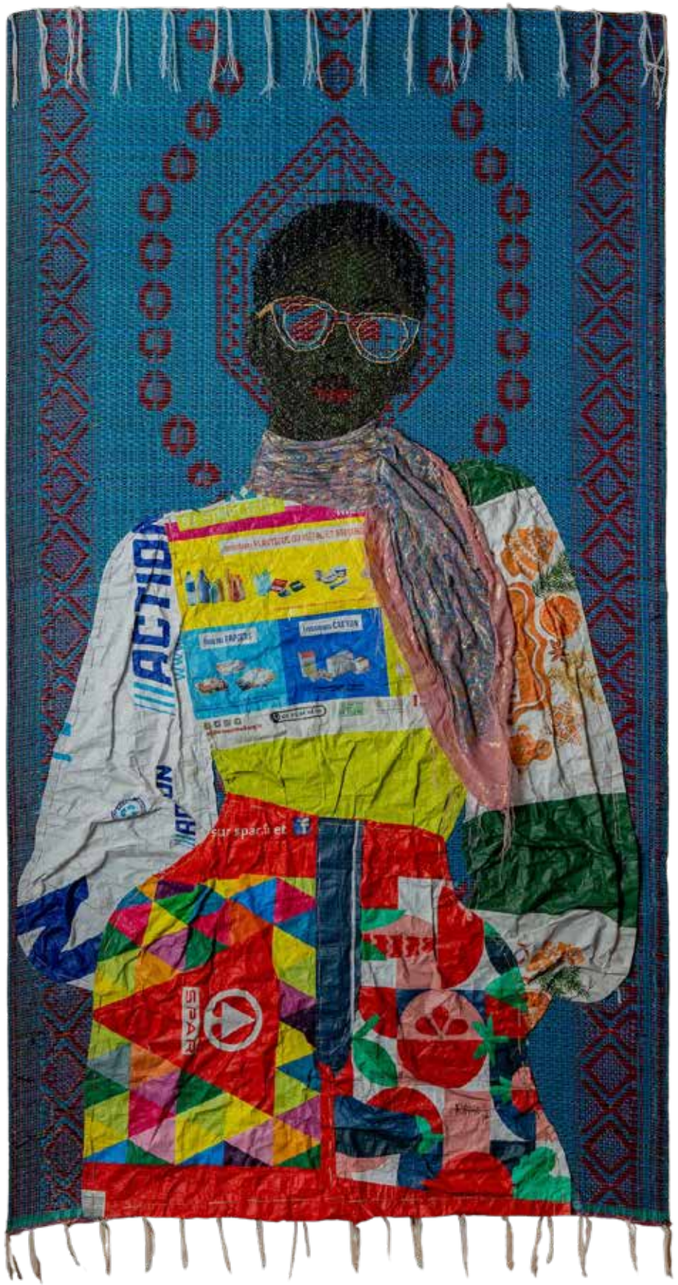
Kwaku Yaro
Mena Ama, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap on polymer
150 x 90 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Baby Naa, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
204 x 124 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Yaa Sweet, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
154 x 91 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Lami, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
167 x 91 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Kukua, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
153 x 90 cm



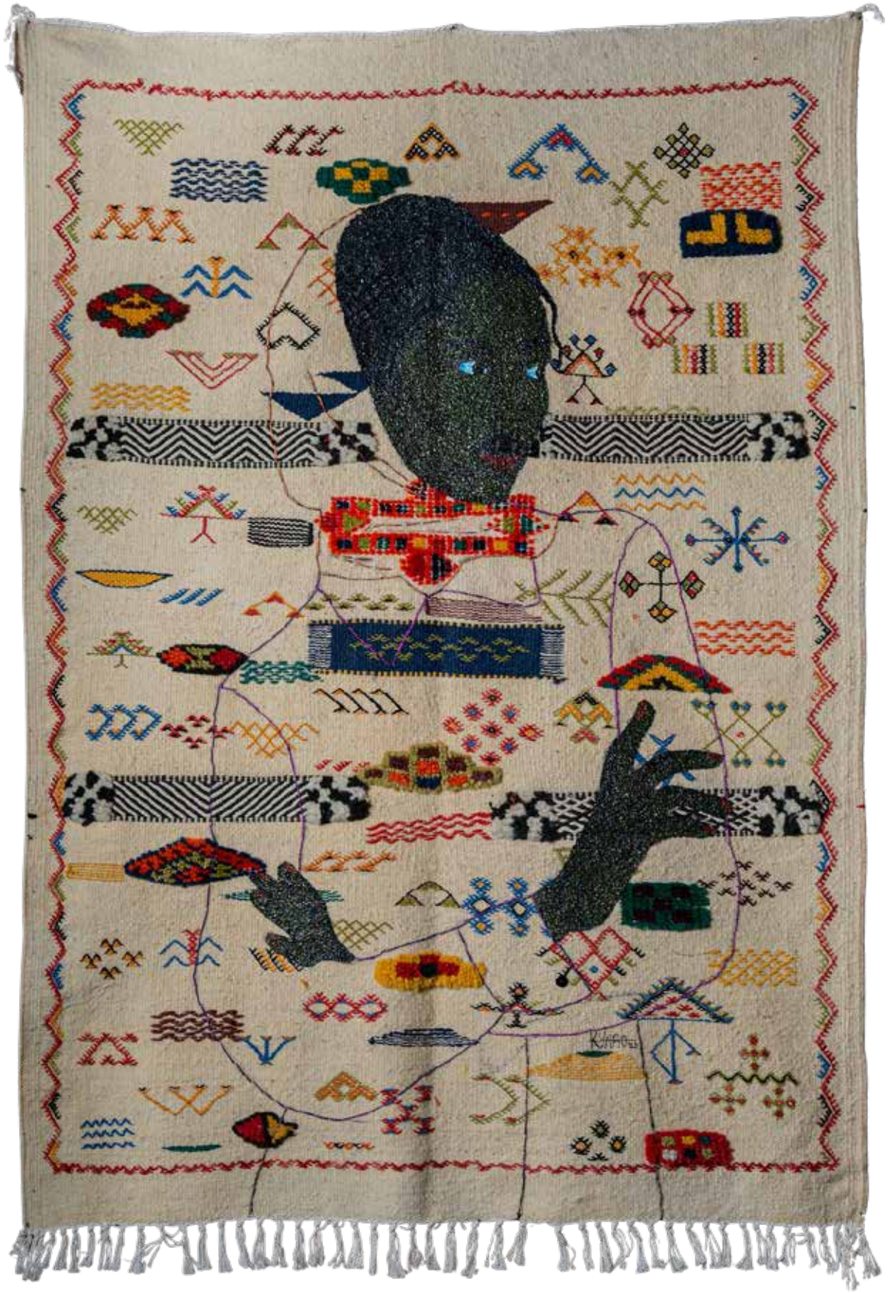
Kwaku Yaro
Orange dress, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on rug
140 x 125 cm



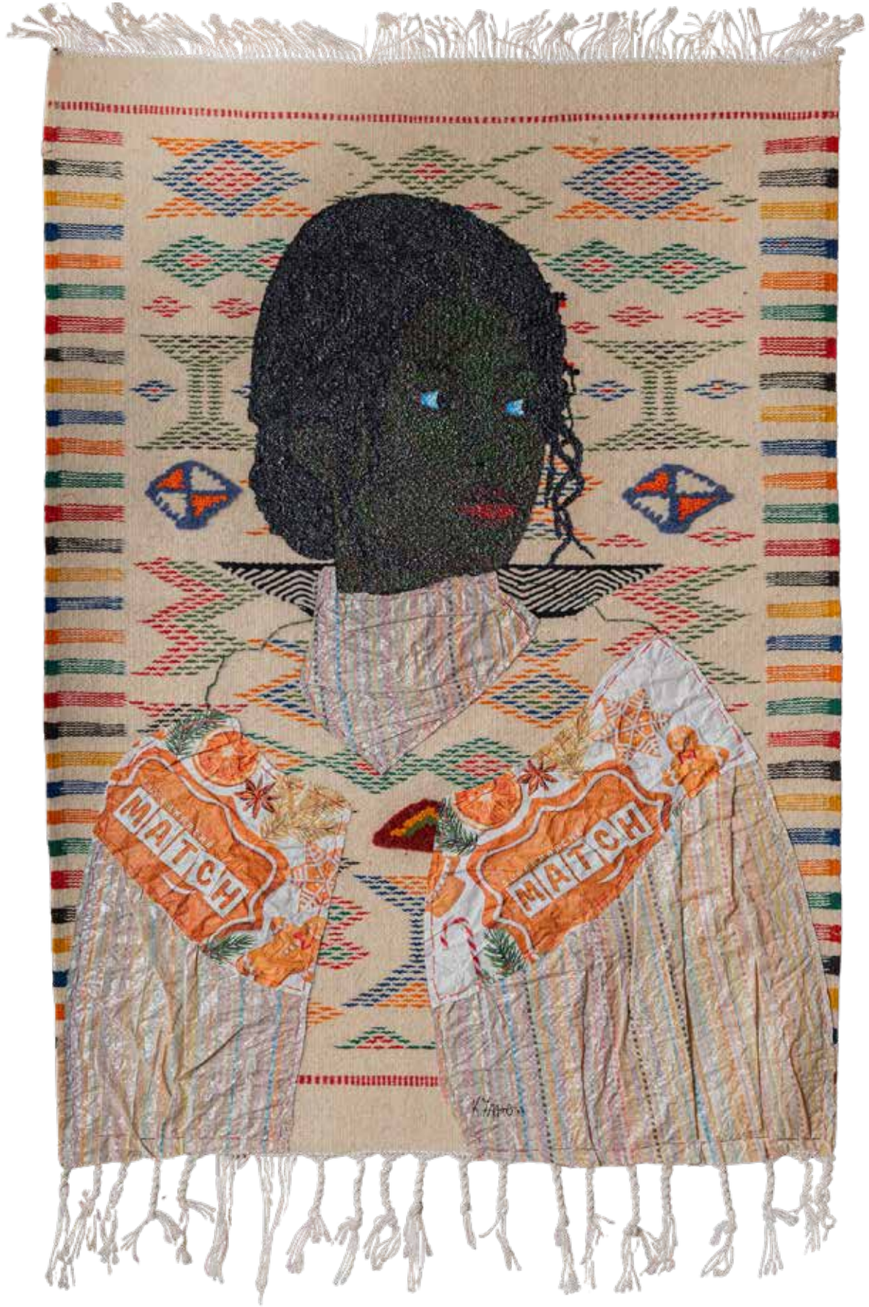
Kwaku Yaro
Miss Efya, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on rug
104 x 75 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Araba, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on rug
100 x 75 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Aisha, 2026
Acrylic and fabric on rug
150 x 106 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Pretty Queen, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap on rug
102 x 75 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Afreyea, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on rug
96 x 67 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Adofo, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on rug
100 x 65 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Siibi, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, jute sack on polymer
180 x 91 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Yawa, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
153 x 90 cm



Kwaku Yaro
Sister Akua, 2026
Acrylic, woven nylon and burlap, fabric on polymer
212 x 154 cm

James Mishio

James Mishio lives and works in Korle-Bu, Accra, Ghana.

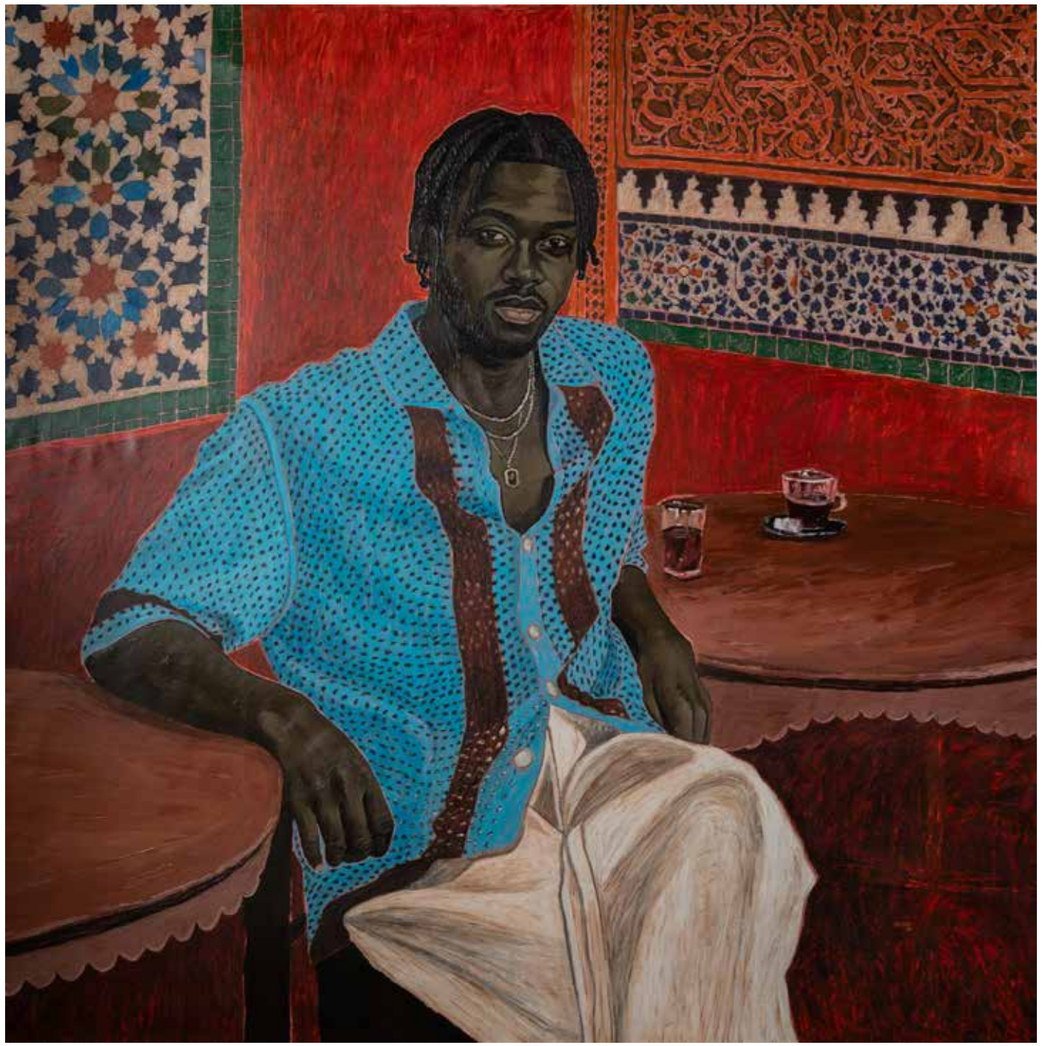
Born in 1997 in Ghana, James Mishio is a mixed-media artist whose figurative practice is characterised by a sensitive exploration of his subjects and an ongoing experimentation with materials. Working with oil, acrylic, pastel and fabric, he builds his compositions through layered textures and surfaces, including the use of impasto and palette knife. His treatment of skin through oil paint reflects an interest in the richness of the African individual and the histories carried by the body.

Communication and human connection are central to his practice. The eyes of his subjects often assume particular importance, inspired by his mother and her ability to communicate with her family through eye contact alone. Through portraiture, Mishio also examines social perceptions surrounding appearance, particularly those associated with men wearing long hair or dreadlocks.

His artistic residency in Marrakech in 2026 marks a new stage in his exploration of material, space and perception. Establishing a dialogue between Kantamanto, Accra's second-hand clothing market, and Morocco's souk textile economy, he incorporates fragments of discarded garments into his compositions. Extending beyond the contours of his figures, these materials occupy unexpected areas of the canvas, opening up new possibilities of representation.

This period of experimentation is also reflected in his increased use of oil pastel, a medium he associates with spontaneity and freedom of expression. Inspired by the colours, patterns and architecture of Marrakech, he explores new textures and distorted forms that reflect the internal transformations brought about by encounters with unfamiliar environments.

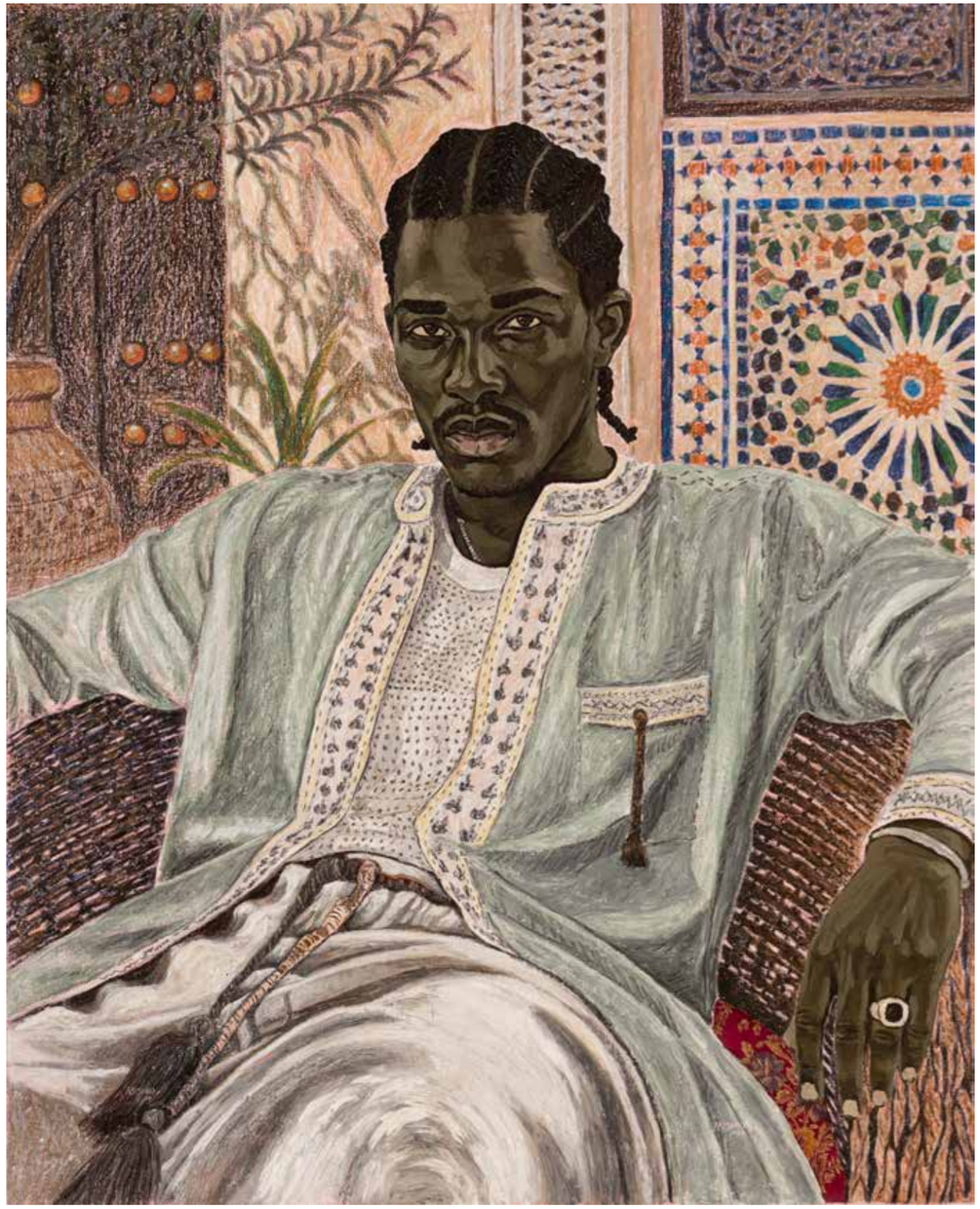
Mishio's work has been presented internationally, including in Birds of a Feather, an exhibition by Phillips and Artemartis, and at the Coningsby Gallery in London. His works are also held in private collections.



James Mishio
Shrouded in red, 2026
Acrylic, oil, pastel on canvas
180 x 180 cm



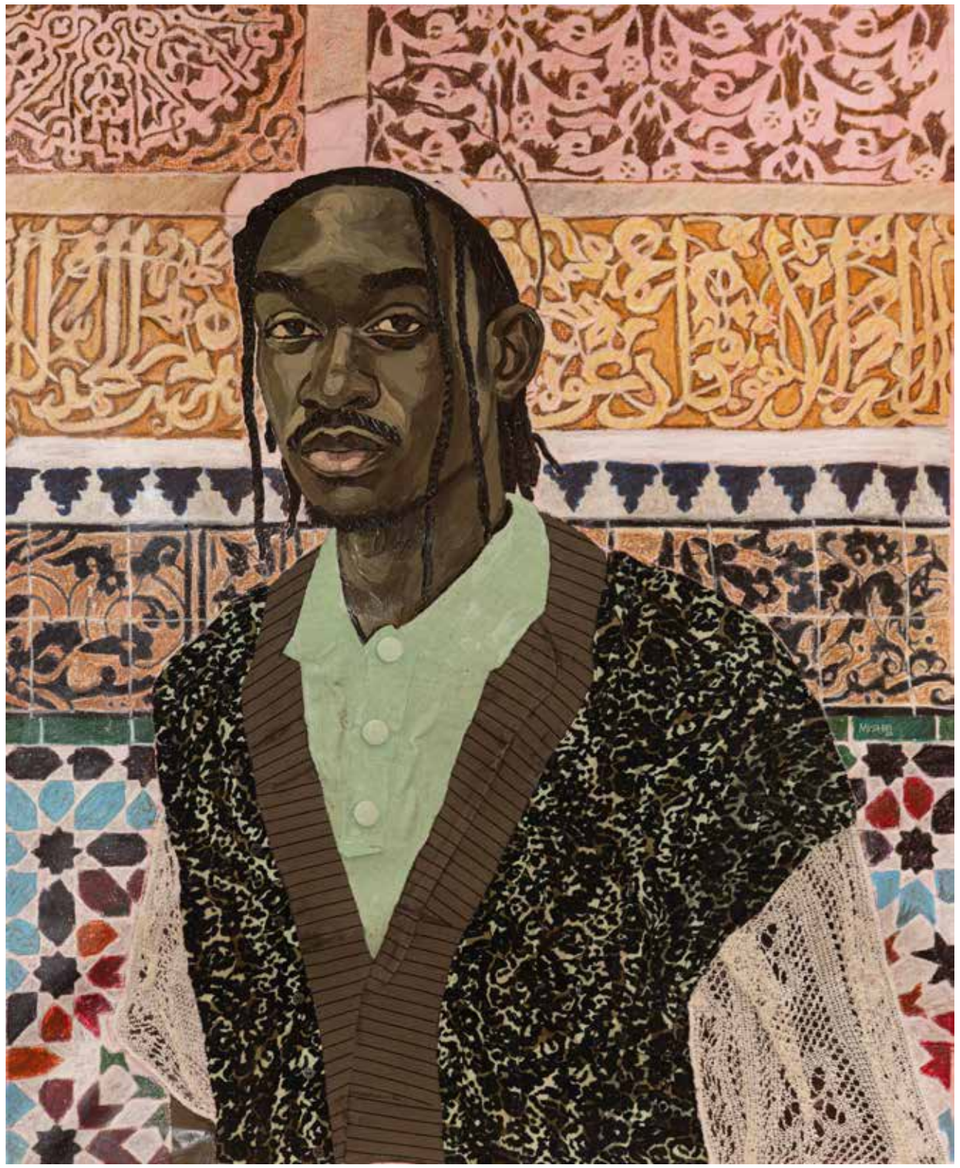
James Mishio
A moment we shared, 2026
Acrylic, oil, fabric, pastel on canvas
160 x 160cm



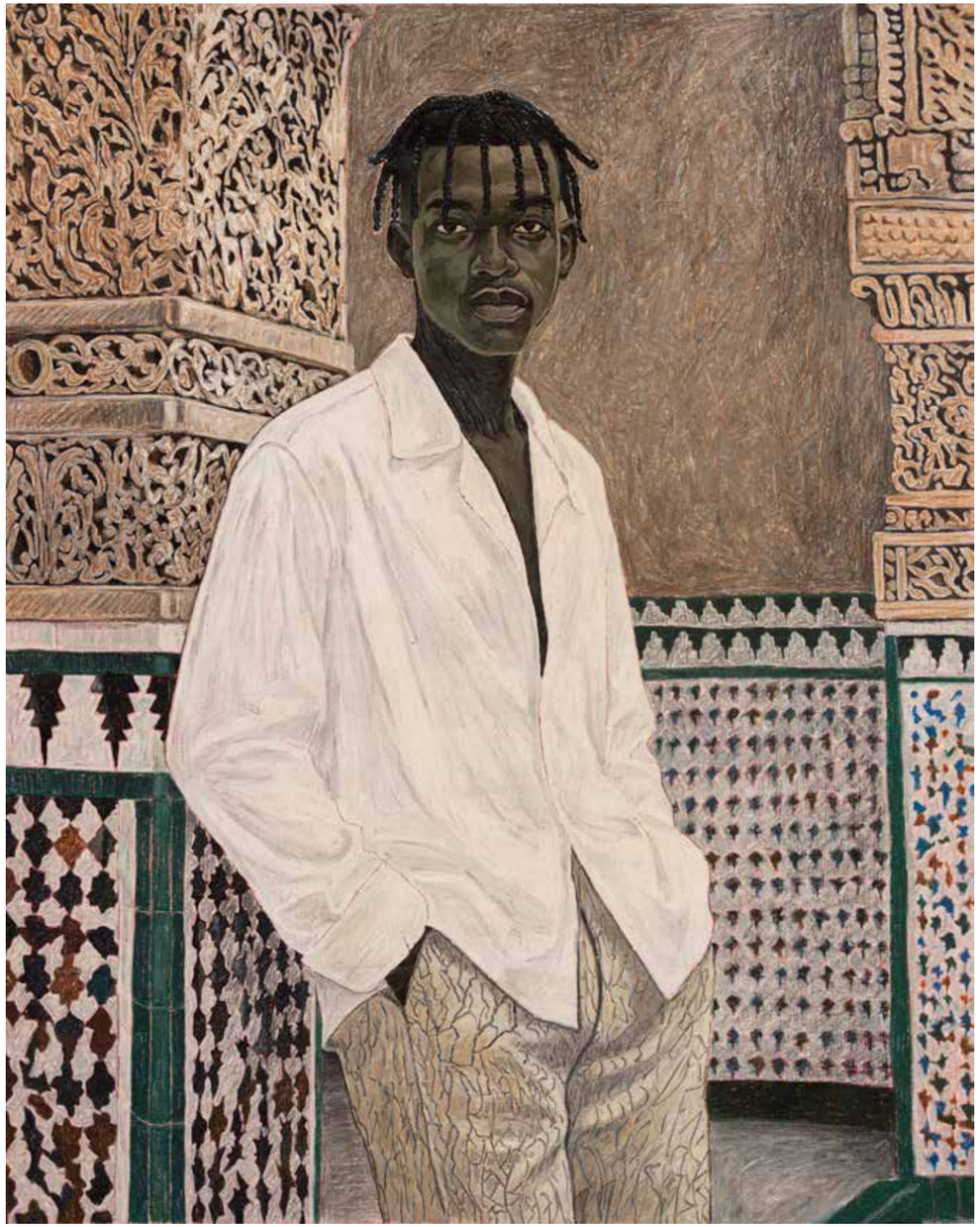
James Mishio
Present in a moment I, 2026
Acrylic, pastel, oil on canvas
130 x 104 cm



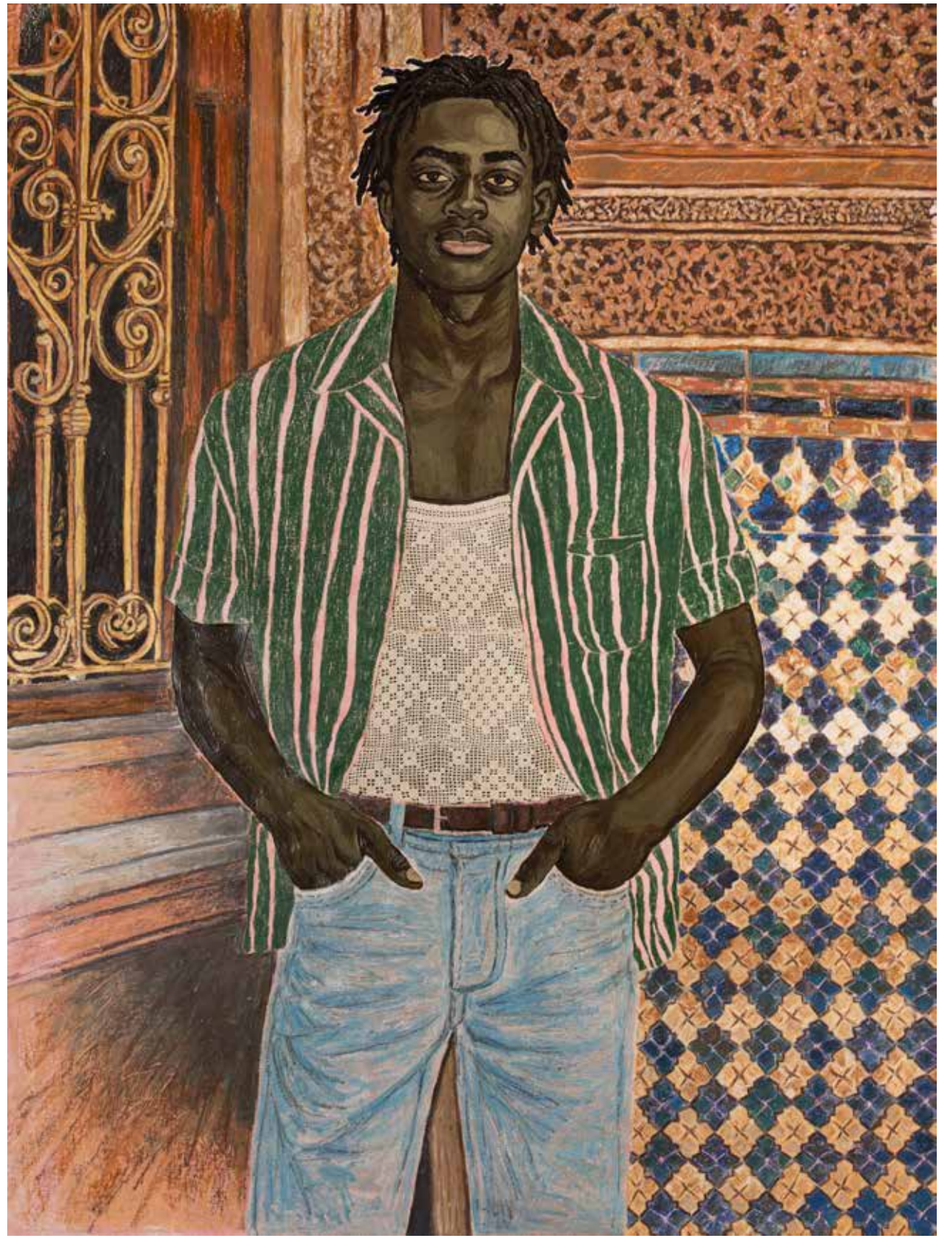
James Mishio
Present in a moment II, 2026
Acrylic, pastel, oil on canvas
130 x 104 cm



James Mishio
I was here some II, 2026
Acrylic, fabric, pastel, oil on canvas
100 x 80 cm



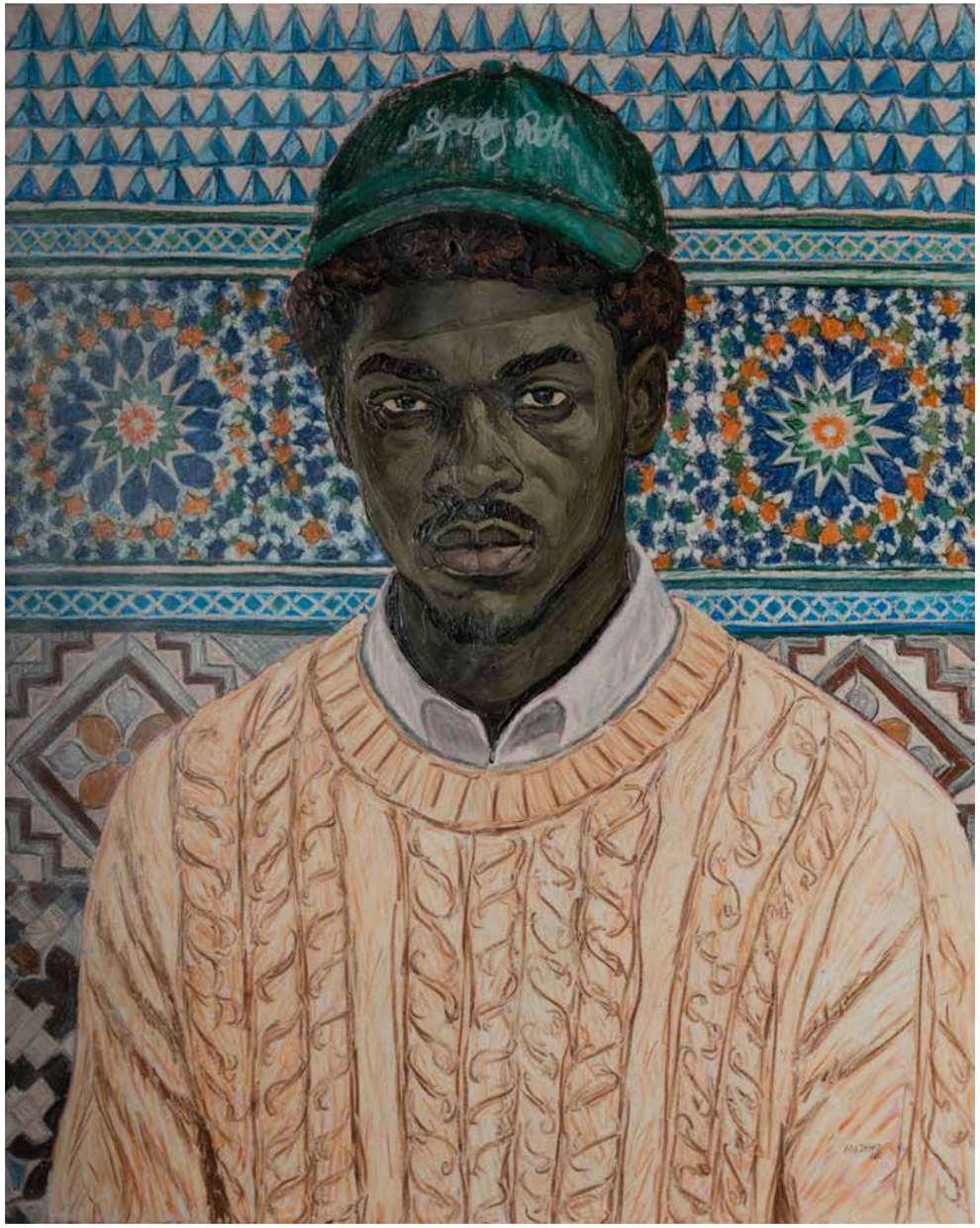
James Mishio
On the pillar side, 2026
Oil, pastel on canvas
150 x 120 cm



James Mishio
I was here some I, 2026
Acrylic, oil, pastel on canvas
160 x 120 cm



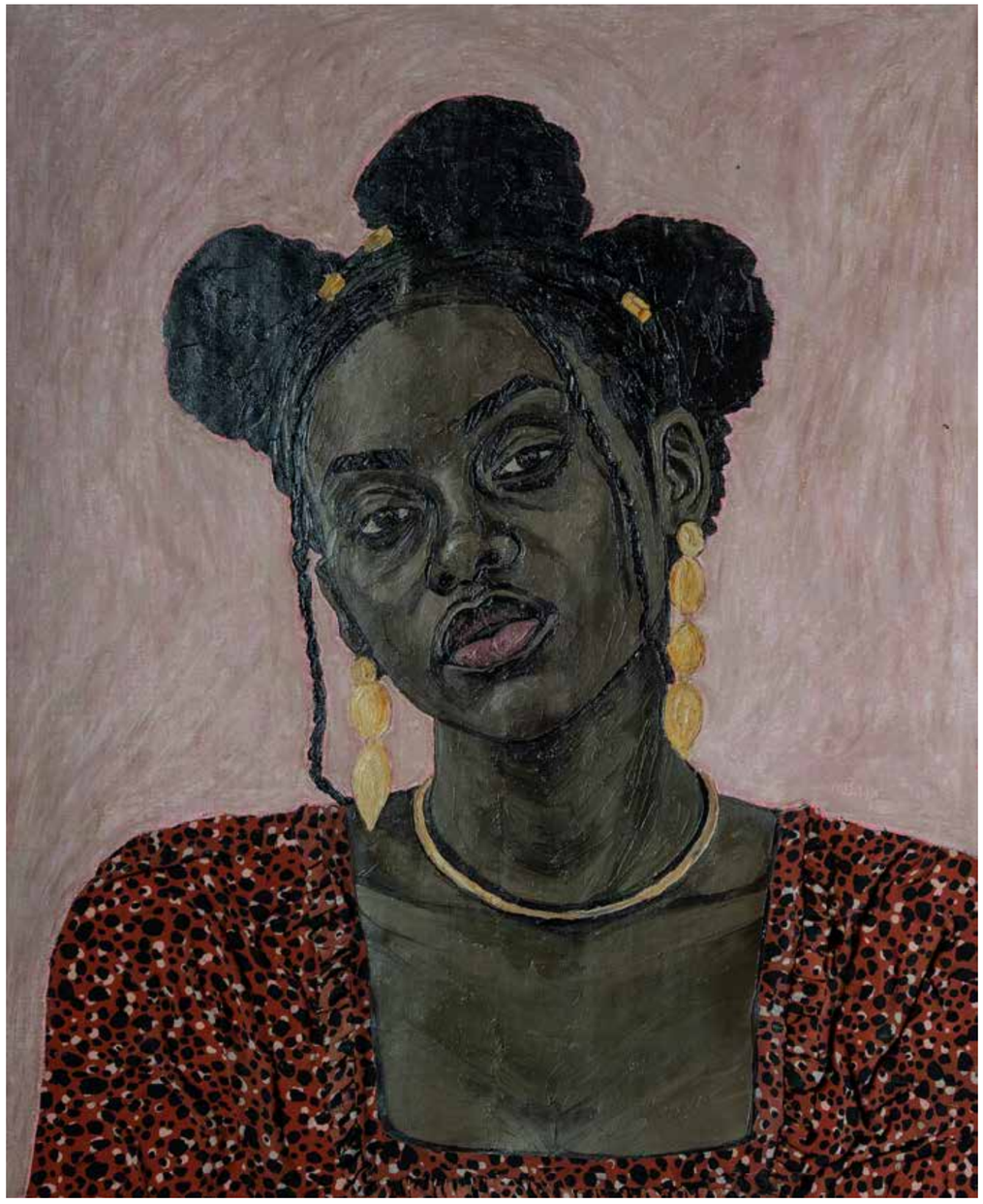
James Mishio
Morning Coffee, 2026
Acrylic, oil, pastel on canvas
180 x 150 cm



James Mishio
Silent stare III, 2026
Oil, pastel on canvas
100 x 80 cm



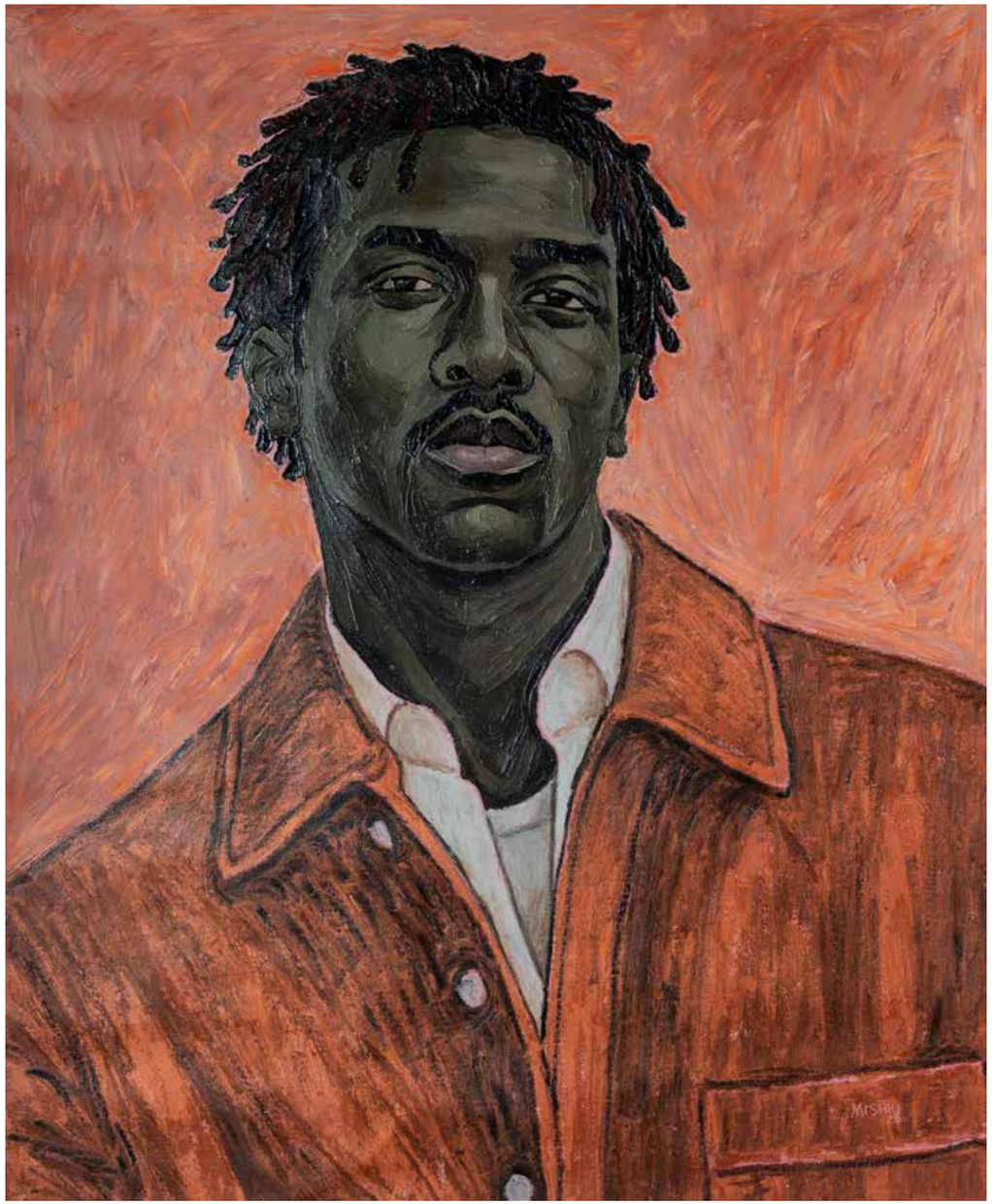
James Mishio
Silent stare IV, 2026
Oil, fabric, pastel on canvas
100 x 80 cm



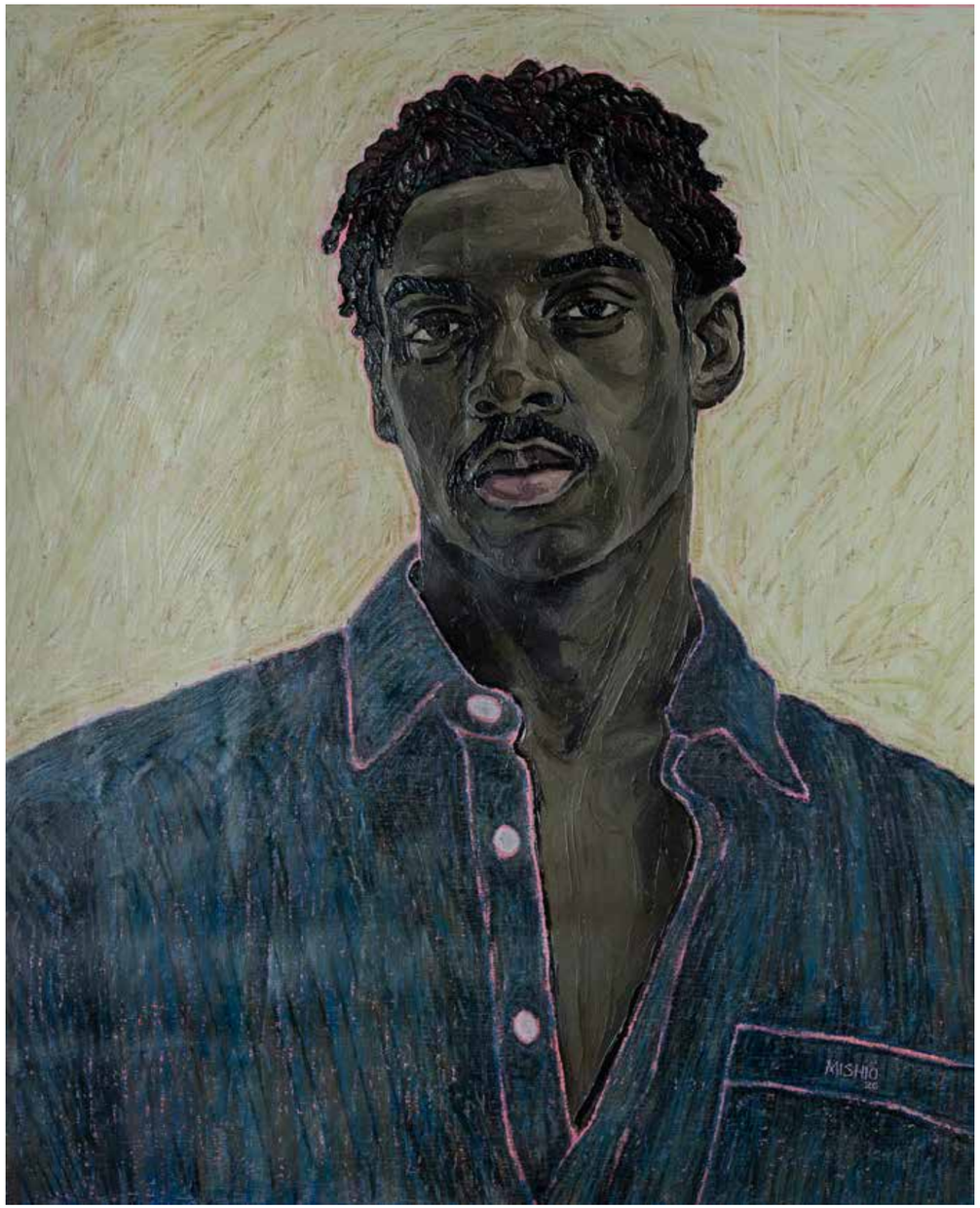
James Mishio
Kekeli, 2026
Oil, fabric, pastel on canvas
80 x 65 cm



James Mishio
Delali, 2026
Oil, fabric, pastel on canvas
80 x 65 cm



James Mishio
Selasie, 2026
Oil, pastel on canvas
80 x 65 cm



James Mishio
Esinam, 2026
Oil, pastel on canvas
80 x 65 cm

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