

SAQA Exploring Contemporary Art Special Interest Group

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 1:00 pm ET

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84935542737>

Featured Artist: Aboudia

Aboudia (born Abdoulaye Diarrassouba in 1983) is a contemporary artist from Côte d'Ivoire known for his vibrant, layered paintings inspired by the streets of Abidjan. His expressive work combines graffiti-like marks, childlike figures, symbols, and text to explore themes of urban life, childhood, resilience, and social change.

Artist selection and resources compiled by SAQA member Christie Eckardt.

Please Review Before the Meeting

To support a rich and engaging discussion, spend some time exploring the resources below. It should take about an hour to review these links.

- **Christie's "It's Possible to Grow Up on the Streets and Become Someone" (2:41 plus article)**
<https://www.christies.com/en/stories/ivorian-artist-aboudia-512532850a564942861309f960e0c775>
Aboudia describes his inspiration, materials and process. Article covers his early success.
- **In Pictures: Painting the Battle for Abidjan:**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13215834>
Collection of images with captions describing Aboudia's paintings during the battle of Abidjan
- **Glimpse of Artist at Work, Walk Through Gallery (1:35)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aVdfZxNgXA>
Highlights from early in Aboudia's career
- **France 24: Giving Back to the Street Children**
<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250314-ivorian-painter-aboudia-takes-teen-rebellion-to-top-of-the-art-world>
Aboudia discusses the style and themes of his artwork
- **Artsy: What's Driving the Explosive Market Rise for Aboudia's Vibrant Works**
<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-driving-explosive-market-rise-aboudias-vibrant-works>
History and discussion of Aboudia's gallery shows and rise in sales
- **Hurtebize Galerie Cannes**
<https://galerie-hurtebize.com/aboudia-a-committed-artist-and-spokesperson-for-the-youth-of-abidjan/>
Article briefly reviewing Aboudia's development and career and the works that are part of this gallery's collection

Optional

- **High School Student Group Project about Aboudia (3:07 minutes)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXIhrx3C_iQ
- **The Guardian**
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/sep/24/aboudia-blindsides-market-experts-as-best-selling-artists-of-2022>
Article about Aboudia being the best selling artist of 2022
- **City of Abidjan**
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/y-RbIOoJWAA>
Short video about the rising popularity of street art in Abidjan