



EVERYDAY PEOPLE

AN EXHIBITION OF PORTRAITS
BY WESLEY GEORGE

January 2023



Canopy by Hilton London City
11-15 Minories
London
EC3N 1AX

WESLEY GEORGE



Wesley George (b. 2000) is an artist of Vincentian and English heritage living and working in London. As a self-taught British artist, George first came to the attention of Jean-David Malat, Founder of JD Malat Gallery in 2020 during the post-lockdown open-call exhibition 'Isolation Mastered', where a public jury voted George as one of the top artists amongst thousands of applicants. In January 2021, he was featured in the TV series 'Next Big Thing'. George was a finalist for the Robert Walters UK New Artists of the Year prize in 2021 at Saatchi Gallery and has had work exhibited in multiple group exhibitions.

This exhibition has been made possible through a partnership between 4C Group, Canopy by Hilton London City, and UK New Artists, a registered charity that champions the next generation of creativity, supporting new artists that are in the first ten years of their practice to develop their skills and experience. As part of this, Wesley has been awarded a bursary to develop his artistic talent and a micro-residency in 'The Retreat' at Canopy by Hilton London City.

ARTWORKS



Zinzi

2023
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 80 cm
£6,500



Bongo Carl

2022
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 100 cm
£6,500



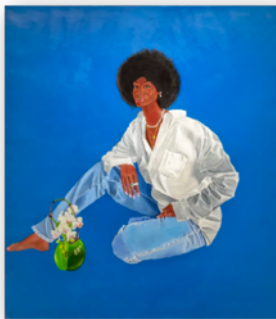
Sani

2022
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 100 cm
£6,500



Anthony

2022
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 100 cm
£6,500



Grace

2021
Acrylic on canvas
160 x 140 cm
£6,500



Untitled

2020
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 80 cm
NFS

All works are available for sale and UK New Artists accepts all major credit cards, cash and PayPal. To secure work please contact a member of UKNA staff who will be on site either pay in full or leave a 20% deposit. The balance must be paid within 14 working days of the initial purchase date. For any inquiries or questions relating to sales please email michelle@uknewartists.co.uk

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Everyday People is a solo exhibition of six painted portraits by London-based artist Wesley George. The portraits were made between 2020 and 2023 and are of friends and acquaintances. Through these portraits, George proposes to move away from negative media stereotypes of black people whilst emphasising the heterogeneous makeup of Black communities - dismantling racial narratives and focusing on the overlooked stories of black figures being the core focus. This emphasis on the importance of cultural heritage presents a case for the unification of society through the choice of the people he chooses to paint who are illustrated in various poses against boldly coloured backdrops. The paintings are all named after the people themselves. In turn, George's work prompts the viewer to reflect on the lives and stories of the people around them.

This exhibition also serves as a showcase of the evolution of George's painting style and research. He includes elements from urban culture, as depicted in the streetwear worn in 'Anthony' (2022) and 'Sani' (2022). There is symbolism through floral arrangements, challenging stereotypes of toxicity and aggressiveness, as presented in Untitled (2020) and Grace (2021). By including such elements with his subject, George creates a unique visual arrangement which presents complex narratives on an engaging and relatable level. His most recent works, 'Bongo Carl' (2022) and 'Zinzi' (2023), pinpoint a new direction in George's practice inspired by his Caribbean heritage and will see him further research and explore the impact of Caribbean culture and its historical embedment in British pop culture.

