THK

About Duncan Wylie

Duncan Wylie (b. 1975, Harare, Zimbabwe) is a visual artist living and working between London and Paris. He is internationally recognised for his layered expressionist paintings, in which his technical skill, gestural brushwork, and bold colour use stand out. His works unfold through complex narratives and dynamic compositions, constructed from successive transparent layers of oil paint. Evoking a sense of instability, urgency and resilience, Wylie's practice engages with themes of displacement, belonging and memory, where figuration and abstraction are held in productive tension.

Wylie has exhibited at major institutions including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the Palais de Tokyo, the Museum of Grenoble, Modern Gallery Saarbrücken, the Pinacothèque of Luxembourg, the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, and Zeitz MOCAA in Cape Town. His works are part of important public and private collections, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Le CNAP, FMAC, FNAC, MUDAM Luxembourg, the Museum of Grenoble, and the Pritzker, Guerlain, Colas, Perrier Jouët, and Claudine et Jean-Marc Salomon foundations.

Wylie began formal training in drawing and painting under artist Helen Lieros. In 1992, at the age of seventeen, he won the National Schools of Zimbabwe Prize. Inspired by painters like Manet, Cézanne, Van Gogh, and Picasso, he moved to France in 1994 to study at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts. He trained under Jean-Michel Alberola and Pierre Buraglio, graduating with distinction in 1999. Wylie became a French citizen in 2005.

Reflecting on his work, Zoé Isle de Beauchaine writes, *"In his works, Duncan Wylie plays with contrasts and oppositions, between construction and deconstruction, abstraction and figuration, order and chaos, revealing that behind one world, another awakens"* (The Art Newspaper, March 2023).

In 2025, Wylie marked twenty years as a painter with his first major monograph, *Multiple Realities*. In April 2026, Duncan Wylie presented at Art Cologne: Palma Mallorca. Additional exhibitions included La vie climatique. Histoires sensibles des collections privées – Triennale De leur temps #8 (4 April – 20 September 2026, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Marseille, Marseille, France, organised by ADIAF); AFRICA LEGACY (4 September – 1 November 2026, Espace Vanderborght, Brussels, Belgium); and Tell Me Where Home Is (19 September 2026 – 17 January 2027, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany. Looking ahead, he will be participating in a group exhibition titled 'LIGHT + SPACE III' at the THK Gallery in Cape Town, taking place from 10 December 2026 until 4 February 2027.





Duncan Wiley. The Source, 2024.

CV

Education

2000 - 2001
National Superior School of Fine-Arts, Paris, France

1994 - 1999
DNSAP with honours, Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Public Collections

CBK, Amsterdam, Netherlands
CNAP - Centre National d'Art Plastique, Paris, France
Colas Foundation, Boulogne, France
FMAC - Fond Municipal d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
FNAC - Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Puteaux, France
Gaz de France Foundation/Emmaüs, Paris, France
MUDAM, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Musée de Grenoble, France
Musée du Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Ville de Saint-Ouen, France
Ville de Saint-Grégoire, France

Foundation Collections

De Heus Zomer Collection, Netherlands
Franz Masereel Centrum, Netherlands
Guerlain Foundation, France
Pritzker Foundation, United States of America
Salomon Foundation, France
Perrier Jouët, France

Awards & Grants

2019 Luxembourg Art Prize Finalist
2012 Project grant, FNAGP (National Foundation for Graphic and Fine Arts), Paris.
2004 Charles Oulmont Foundation Painting Award, Paris.
2003 Eddy Rugale Michailov Painting Award, Taylor Foundation, Paris.
2001 Coprim Foundation for Contemporary Art (special jury prize), Paris.
1999 Saint-Grégoire Painting Prize (2nd), France
1993 1st prize, National Schools Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

Residencies

2013 Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 Bagfactory, Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 ACME Studios, London, United Kingdom
2007 Spinnerei Studios, Liepzig, Germany
1997 Frans Masereel Centrum, Anvers, Netherlands

Solo Exhibitions

2025
‘Water Diviner/Mhondoro Ye Mvura’ Backslash Gallery, Paris, France

2022
‘Game of Life’, Backslash Gallery, Paris, France

2018
‘Construct and (Various Disasters of Democracy)’, Dukan gallery, Leipzig, Germany

2015
‘Slashers’, Mitterrand gallery, Paris, France

2013
‘Take the Landscape with you’, Les Rencontres d’Art Contemporain, in conjunction with Institut Français, France-South Africa seasons, program 2012-2013, Grenier du Chapitre, Cahors, France

2012
‘From Chaos’, Paris, Mitterrand gallery, France
‘Shake Break Bounce’, Julio Gonzales gallery (in partnership with Marin), Arcueil, France

2011
‘Blood from a Stone’, Virgil de Voldère Gallery, New York, USA

2009
Open House, Museum of Grenoble, Grenoble, France. Curator: Guy Tossato

2008
Châteaux de Cartes, Dukan&Hourdequin Gallery, Marseille, France

2007
‘Zimbabwe Today’, Virgil de Voldère Gallery, New York, USA

2005
‘Duncan Wylie’, André Malraux Arts and Culture Centre, Créteil, France

2004
‘Love me, love me not’, French-Made Gallery, Munich, Germany

2003
‘Recent Paintings’, Yvonamor Palix Gallery, Paris, France

2000
‘Recent Paintings’, St Grégoire, France
‘Rupture’, Harare, Zimbabwe, Delta gallery

Group Exhibitions

2026
‘LIGHT + SPACE III’, THK Gallery, Cape Town South Africa
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK (Upcoming)
‘La vie climatique. Histoires sensibles des collections privées’ – Triennale De leur temps #8, 4 April – 20 September 2026, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Marseille, Marseille, France (organised by ADIAF)
‘AFRICA LEGACY’, 4 September – 1 November 2026, Espace Vanderborght, Brussels, Belgium
‘Tell Me Where Home Is’, 19 September 2026 – 17 January 2027, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany

2025
Solstice I + II, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Painting a movement like no other. Fondation Blachère, France
1-54 Contemporary Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2024
‘Chimera/Kupinda nemenje mudziva’ -The School of Harare - Zimbabwe contemporary
La Seine, Musée Carnavalet, Paris, France
‘SEROTONIN’, backslash, rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, Paris, France
‘DOPAMINE’, backslash, rue de Montmorency, Paris, France
‘Zimbabwe Today’ - Galerie Art-Z, Paris, France
Art Paris Art Fair, backslash, Grand Palais Ephémère, France

2023
‘Playing Players’, Gregory Forstner / Duncan Wylie, Espace Vallès, St Martin D’hyères, Grenoble, France
‘Le rêve a ses raisons’, 15th Issy Biennial, curated by Sophie Deschamps Causse & Anne Malherbe, Issy-les-Mou- lineaux
‘De leur temps (7)’, un regard sur les collections privées, in collaboration with l’ADIAF, Frac Grand-Large, Dunkerque, France
‘Face à Face’, Mudam Luxembourg / Moderne Galerie – Two Collections in Dialogue, Moderne Galerie, Sarrebruck, Germany
Annual Open Exhibition 2023, Southwark Park Galleries, London
AKAA Art Fair, Carreau du Temple, Paris
Art Paris Art Fair, with backslash, Grand Palais Ephémère

2022
‘FAMILY & FRIENDS 2 \ Ten Years After’, backslash, Paris
‘...And It Feels Good’, the House of Arts, Red Bull Hangar-7, Salzburg
Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais Ephémère, Paris

2021
‘HISTOIRE’, histoires en peintures, Château du Val Fleury, Gif-sur-Yvette, France
La Petite Collection, Bertrand Grimont Gallery, Paris, France
‘L’Enfer’, Galerie Sabine Bayasll, Paris, France

2020
‘Over the Rainbow’, House of Arts, Salzburg, Austria

2019
‘Duncan Wylie - Karine Rougier’, Entre Fiction et Realité, Chapelle de la visitation, Espace d'art contemporain, Thonon-les-bains, France
Luxembourg Art Prize, Pinacotècque, Luxembourg
‘We go out with a bang!’ CBK Collection, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018
‘Five Bhobh’, painting at the end of an era, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
‘Collection David H. Brolliet Genève’, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis, France
‘Barthelemy Toguo + Duncan Wylie’, Hangar Art Centre, Brussels, Belgium
‘Choice’, Dukan Gallery, Leipzig, Germany

2017
Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE, A global stage, contemporary permanent collection
‘Friends and Family’, Eva Hober gallery, Paris, France
‘Another Antipodes’, PS Art Space, Freemantle, Perth, Australia

2016
‘Ski, Surf and Fun’, Fondation Salomon, l’espace d’art contemporain l’Abbaye, Annecy-le-Vieux, France
‘Art for Autism’, exhibition/auction, Artcurial, Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, France

2015
‘La Forza delle Rovine’, Museo Nazionale di Palazzo Altemps, Rome Italy, curators Marcello Barbanera and Alessandra Capodiferro
‘From Picasso to Warhol’, a decade of acquisitions, curator Guy Tossato, Museum of Grenoble, Grenoble, France
‘Collection Philippe Piguet’, ‘Une passion pour l’art’, l’Abbaye Espace d’Art Contemporain, Annecy-Le-Vieux, France
‘Who’s Afraid of Picture’s 2', À Cent metres du Centre du Monde Art Centre, Perpignan, France
‘Who’s Afraid of Picture’s’, l’ESAD, School of Art and Design, Grenoble, France

2014
‘Terrains Vagues’, l’ESAD, School of Art and Design, Grenoble, France
‘Nouvelles Narratives’,Fernelment Contemporary Art festival, Chateau de Fernelment, Belgium
‘Facing nature’, a selection from ‘De Heus Zomer Collection’, Belvedere Museum, Heerenveen, Netherlands
‘La belle peinture 2’, Phoenix des Halles, Port St Louis, Mauritius, curators Eva Hober and Colette Pougnat, in conjunction with the FRAC Réunion

2013
‘Vues’, Domaine de Chamarande (FR), curator Lauranne Germond/COAL
‘La Belle Peinture 2', Pisztory palace, Bratislava, Slovakia, curators Eva Hober and Ivan Jançar
‘De Leur Temps 4’, Le hangar à Bananes Art Centre, Nantes, France The ADIAF Acquisitions
‘Days in Paris – Friends and Family’, Eva Hober Gallery, Paris, France
‘Art is Hope’, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, curator Rene-Julien Praz

2012
‘Africa/Africa’, Contemporary Art Centre, Saint André Abbey, Meymac, France
‘Go Tell Fire’, Dukan Hourdequin Gallery, Paris, France

2011

‘Beyond the Crisis’, 6th Curitiba Biennal, Curitiba, Brazil curator Alfons Hug
Canson drawing prize, Hôtel de Sauroy, Paris, France president Gérard Garouste
‘Our house in the middle of our street’, Maison des Arts de Malakoff, Malakoff, France, curator Jeanne Susplugas
‘Tragique du Paysage’, Eric Mircher Gallery, Paris, France
‘D’après la ruine’, Academy of Fine-Arts, Titanic Rooms, Vilnius, Lithuania, curator Serraz
‘Des paysages’, des figures, Sain-Ouen castle, Saint-Ouen, France, curator Olivier Masmonteil

2010

‘Dynasty’, Palais de Tokyo and Museum of Modern Art City of Paris, Paris, France
‘Collections 3’, Salomon Foundation, Alex, France, curator Anne Malherbe

2009

‘Poétique du Chantier’, Museum of Annecy, Annecy, France, curators Jean-Max Colard and Juliette Singer
‘Artists for Life’, Espace la Vallée, UNESCO and Association Dessine l'Espoir, Serris, France

2008

‘B3’, Paris, Doors Studio, curators Hélène Leray and Vincenza Mirisola
‘Sur les pavés... 68/2008’, La Courneuve (93), Fête de l’Humanité

2007

‘Génération 70’, Salomon Foundation, Alex, France curator Philippe Piguet
‘Of their Time 2: contemporary art and private collections in France’, Museum of Grenoble, ADIAF (Association for the International Diffusion of French Art), Grenoble, France
‘Black Paris,’ Kleines Plakat Museum Bayreuth; Frankfurt, Germany, Museum der Weltkulturen; Paris, France, Musée des Arts Derniers
‘Appropriate Appropriations’, Museum of Arts and Sciences, McAllen, Texas, United States of America, curator Yvonamor Palix

2006

‘Summer Love’, Contemporary Art Centre, Carros, France
‘Opening Move’, Dukan Hourdequin Gallery, Marseille, France
‘African Expressions’, Les Vitrines du Printemps Hausmann, Musée des Arts Gallery, Paris, France
‘Artists4Life’, Hotel Rothschild, Association Dessine l'Espoir, Paris, France
Antoine Marin Painting Prize, Galerie Julio Gonzales, Arcueil, France
‘Broken Memory – Des hommes sans histoire?’, Musée des Arts Derniers, Paris, France, curator Olivier Sultan

2005

‘States of Painting’, Maison des Arts de Malakoff, Malakoff, France, curator Philippe Piguet
‘Art and the City’, Orangerie du Sénat, Paris, France, curator Jean-Luc Chalumeau
Contemporary Art Salon, Montrouge, France, curator Alain Lamaignère
Group show, Gallery French-Made, Munich, Germany
Raphaël Renaud/Duncan Wylie, Espace 1789, Saint-Ouen, France