

**Augustine Kofie**

b. November, 1973 in Los Angeles, California USA.

Primarily self taught. Lives and works in Los Angeles.

Inspired by the basic building blocks of the geometric world, Augustine Kofie has formed a retro-futuristic aesthetic which transplants these shapes and angles into a soulful, organic, yet highly mathematical form of abstraction. Merging his traditional graffiti education, his inclination toward "certain colour forms and certain application techniques", with his deep love of illustration and preliminary design, his fondness for "drafts, architectural renderings and pre-production concepts", Kofie plays with form and line, with balance and depth, twisting and manipulating his murals, his illustrations, his compositions, into ever new and dramatic arrangements.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Kofie's instinct to draw was cultivated through the creativity of his mother. Whilst she was studying fine arts at UCLA, Kofie was using the supplies that lay around his house to start experimenting on his own, he starting to excel in drawing by the time he had reached middle school. Whilst his art education never went further than high school, Kofie's real training was garnered through his time spent painting graffiti, he coming to prominence in the Los Angeles graffiti scene by the mid 1990s. Giving him an extensive understanding of both "colour and layering, points of perspective and arrangement", graffiti not only gave Kofie his technical foundation however, it also provided the underpinning for his love of construction and form: Through drafting and sketching wildstyle pieces, "stretching the letters out and rebuilding them, giving them varied points of perspective and basically building shapes out", Kofie began to understand the architectural basis of writing, an understanding pushing him to focus on the linear rather than alphabetic aspects of his work. Having also felt that he had made an honest contribution to the LA graffiti scene, Kofie's evolutionary drive meant he soon began to "distort and manipulate" his work, attempting to "re-contribute and redistribute something new".

Developing his aesthetic into an almost pure abstraction then, dominated by the simple squares, triangles and circles that make up our structural universe, Kofie's relentless desire to experiment and explore his visual surroundings meant he was forced to engage in a constant test of his own mindset and preconceived ideas, each work an attempt to find a geometrical solution to a graphical problem. Putting his entire soul into his work, into his craft, Kofie has thus formed an intensely layered, earthy, dynamic style of contemporary muralism, an illustrative practice which digs deep and looks forward, a practice, like the Roman God Janus, which surveys the future and the past at very the same time.

-Rafael Schacter , honorary research fellow at the  
Department of Anthropology at University College, London, 2013.

Solo exhibitions

2015: INVENTORY - Jonathan LeVine Gallery - New York  
2015: OFF/GRID - David Bloche Gallery - Marrakech  
2014: TAKING SHAPE - Openspace - Paris, France  
2014: Yesterdays Advance - Celaya Brothers Gallery - Mexico D.F.  
2013: Structurally Sound - White Walls Gallery - San Francisco  
2013: California Soul - Galleri Open Space - Paris, France  
2012: Working An Angle - Known Gallery - Los Angeles  
2011: Circulatory System - White Walls Gallery - San Francisco  
2010: RETROFITTED - White Walls Gallery - San Francisco  
2009: Vintage Futurism - Zerol Gallery - Los Angeles  
2006: Electric Avenue - Bent Gallery - Pasadena  
2006: Hands On - Transport Gallery - Los Angeles

Select 2 & 3 man exhibitions

2014: ASSIOMA: Moneyless & A. Kofie - Avantgarden Gallery - Milan, Italy  
2013: 3 The Hard Way: Joker Inscoe, CD Bruno, A. Kofie - Breeze Block - Portland  
2012: Conversations: Jaybo & A. Kofie - Soze Gallery - Los Angeles  
2012: GATHER: 2 man Exhibition - The Lovell Gallery - Cape Town, South Africa  
2007: THANKS with Frohawk 2-Feathers, Unitard gallery - Los Angeles  
2005: Greg Craola Simkins & Kofie One - FIFTY24SF Gallery - San Francisco

Select group exhibitions

2016: Brick To Canvas - Tinney Contemporary - Nashville, Tennessee  
2016: Exceptional - Curated by Remi Rough - Scream Gallery, London  
2015: Cosmic Flush - Rammellzee Tribute - Magda Gallery, London  
2015: L.A. Muralists: In Their Studios II - Couturier Gallery - Los Angeles  
2015: A Study Of Camouflage - Backwoods Gallery - Melbourne  
2015: GRAFFUTURISM 5 Year Anniversary - 866 Geary gallery - SF  
2014: REWIRED - Gamma Transport Division - Eidenburgh, Scotland  
2014: Exhibit Z- Group exhibition - Library Street Collective - Detroit, Michigan  
2013: L'Avenir - A Graffuturism Group Show - White Walls Gallery - San Francisco  
2013: De La Ligne a L'abstraction - Yves Laroche Gallery - Montreal  
2013: Out With The Old - Library Street Collective - Detroit, Michigan  
2012: FUTURISM 2.0 Gamma Proforma - Blackall Studios - London, England  
2012: GEOMETRICKS - Brooklyn Street Art - Gallery Brooklyn - New York  
2012: Space // Form - Breeze Block Gallery - Portland, Oregon  
2012: Streets Of The World - Opera Gallery - New York, NY  
2012: White Walls Gallery - Winter Group Show - San Francisco  
2011: Rudimentary Perfection - Recoat Gallery - Glasgow  
2011: David Bloche Gallery - Group Exhibition - Marrakech  
2011: Linear Empires - White Walls Gallery - San Francisco  
2011: Unintended Calculations - Becker Galleries - Vancouver  
2010: Op Straat - Willem Kerseboom Gallery - Amsterdam  
2010: L'art Urbain - Addict Gallery - Paris  
2010: Urban Avantgarde - STROKE 2.0 Urban Art Exhibition - Munich  
2010: Street Legal - Rivera & Rivera Gallery - Los Angeles

2009: Climb In The Back Window - Philadelphia  
2005: SCION Installation2 - Track 16 Gallery at Bergamot Station - Santa Monica  
2003: Street Dreams - Ghetto Gloss Gallery - Silverlake  
2003: Beyond GRAFFITI - Headquarters Gallery - Hollywood  
2002: Abstract Reality - ICU Gallery - Los Angeles  
1990's: Wild Wild West - ICU Art Gallery - Los Angeles

Select experiences

2016: ARTSHARE LA - Artist talk- Los Angeles, CA  
2016: Mural intervention - Grenoble, France  
2015: Beyond Graffiti 2 - A+D Museum - Los Angeles, CA  
2015: Urban Art Biennale - World Cultural Heritage Site at the Völklingen Ironworks Museum - Völklingen , Germany  
2014: SCRATCH? Exhibition - Getty Research Institute - ESMoA, El Segundo, CA  
2013: Urban Art Biennale - World Cultural Heritage Site at the Völklingen Ironworks Museum - Völklingen , Germany  
2012: Mural installation - Picturin Festival - Torino, Italy  
2012: Mural intervention & conference - Board Dripper Festival - Queretaro, Mexico  
2012: Amplify Campus Mural intervention - Venice, California  
2011: GRAFFUTURISM - In Situ Installation - Art Basel:Miami  
2011: Street Cred - Pasadena Museum of California Art - Pasadena  
2010: Dreams Deferred - Artists respond to Immigration - The Chinese American Museum (CAM) - Los Angeles