

## ***Biography***

Denyse Gawu-Mensah, also known as “Scorpio Eyes” is a passionate 25-year-old female artist currently living and working in Ghana. As a child she was often fascinated by design, shapes, colours, drawing and exploring things to satisfy her curiosity. After discovering her passion and love for art, she went on to study visual art in high school and communication design at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. For her, art had become a lifestyle.

A natural born adventurer, she has a strong appreciation for nature and spends a lot of her time traveling, exploring and immersing herself in new experiences, lifestyles and cultures. Being an avid collector, as she moves around, she finds herself gathering and recycling objects such as shells, glass artefacts, feathers and more. These journeys, objects and experiences play an important role in her artistic process as they serve largely as inspiration for her.

When she isn’t out exploring, the artist’s wild imagination serves as the springboard for her creations. She often finds herself drifting away from reality and it’s routine, while going about her daily activities. Describing her thought process, the artist says “Sometimes, it begins with a simple question I ask myself. For example, who is that woman? Why is she dressed like that? And then, my mind begins to thread a story from all the possible answers to these questions in the most bizarre of ways.”

The artist believes curiosity and wonder is what fuels her wild imagination. For her, her art pieces are nothing but visual expressions and manifestations of her inner thoughts and emotions. In the future, she plans on creating physical spaces that mirror these imagined worlds, bringing her audience into environments that only existed in her mind while pushing them to also use their imagination. She believes that imagination is the tool necessary to creating and inventing the new.

Denyse is the only female member of the “Asafo Black” art collective. Together they have participated internationally in exhibitions like the Stellenbosch Triennale in South Africa and with their “guerrilla-tactics interventions” have held their own self-funded exhibitions here in Ghana, such as the “Why so serious?” exhibition at KNUST Fire station and “Truth or dare” at the Ghana National Theatre. She has also participated in events and exhibitions hosted by institutions such as the 2020 Ake Arts and Book festival hosted in Nigeria and the launch of Moon Girls at the Kuenyehia Trust for Contemporary Art.

As a firm believer that the youth is the future, and inspired by her time teaching creative arts in Takoradi, one of her goals is to put together a private art project centered on nurturing young creatives in Ghana. For her, being able to help foster and grow these talents is her own contribution to the local art community. Currently, she is working on an exciting new project that revisits and researches the past of a Ghanaian culture. She looks at this project as a creative way of archiving these almost forgotten lifestyles in a particular time of the Ghanaian community. The artist is also looking forward to exploring her interest in spatial design with hopes of transforming spaces and making an impact with her unique perspective.