

KWAKU OPOKU

THE PRESIDENTIAL SERIES



Reez
552

DESCRIPTION OF ARTWORK

SINCE 1957, GHANA HAS BEEN RUN BY 12 DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS. STARTING OFF WITH DR. H. C. KWAME NKRUMAH, WHO DIDNT ONLY SET A STANDARD IN GHANA BUT ALSO OUTSIDE IT'S BORDERS, AS HE PAVED THE WAY FOR MANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW.

AFTER HIM THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER LEADERS, WHO HAVE BEEN VERY SIGNIFICANT IN GHANA'S 'UPBRINGING'-JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS, WHO LED THE FIRST COUP IN GHANA, WHICH WAS A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

HOWEVER I FEEL OUR PRESIDENTS ARENT HONORED ENOUGH, ITS EITHER YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM OR NOT. I REALLY DON'T BLAME OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ENTIRELY FOR THIS, BECAUSE PEOPLE CAN NOT BE SPOON FED WITH THIS KIND OF INFORMATION ALL THE TIME. BUT I DO FEEL THAT THIS KIND OF INFORMATION COULD BE 'STUMBLER UPON' IF IT WAS ACTUALLY MADE NOTICEABLE IN THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW MEMORIALS FOR THESE VETERANS, AND THAT COULD BE THE REASON WHY PEOPLE KNOW VERY LITTLE OR KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE.

THAT IS WHY I CAME UP WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL SERIES, TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THESE VETERANS. THIS WORK IS NOT GOING TO BE IN JUST ONE LOCATION BUT IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT SETTINGS, FROM CITIES TO VILLAGES, ON THE STREET AND IN BUILDINGS.

DESIGN

THE DESIGN OF THE WORK WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO ME, BECAUSE I HAD TO RE-CREATE IMAGES OF THE VARIOUS PRESIDENTS THAT ARE GOING TO MAKE UP THIS PIECE. I STARTED OFF WITH KWAME NKRUMAH, MAINLY BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF GHANA. WHAT I DID WAS TO GRAPHICALLY PAINT THEIR PORTRAITS WITH SHAPES, ULTIMATELY COMPRISED OF TRIANGLES, TO CREATE AN UNORTHODOX WAY OF PAINTING PORTRAITS. THIS I FEEL, IS QUITE EYE CATCHING AND ABLE TO DRAW ENOUGH ATTENTION FOR VIEWERS TO QUESTION NOT ONLY HOW IT WAS MADE, BUT WHY IT WAS MADE IN THE FIRST PLACE. ALSO PAINTING IT IN BLUE WAS ANOTHER CONSCIOUS DECISION, AS I WANTED TO GO FOR AN OUT OF THE ORDINARY COLOR, AND SORT OF SHY AWAY FROM LOCAL COLOR TO DRAW MORE ATTENTION TO THE WORK.

IN CONTEXT





· SPRAY PAINTING · CHAS

NKRUMAH

1909-1972



MATERIALS

THE PRIMARY MATERIAL GOING TO BE USED FOR THESE ARTWORKS, IS GOING TO BE ACRYLIC PAINT. THIS MEANS IT IS GOING TO BE EASY TO PAINT OVER IT IF THE NEED ARISES. HOWEVER THIS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY MATERIAL NEEDED, AS DIFFERENT SURFACES MAY CALL FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF PAINT OR OTHER MATERIALS, SUCH AS PAPER.

IMPACT OF INSTALLATION

IT IS MY OBJECTIVE AS STATED EARLIER, TO CREATE SOME AWARENESS ABOUT THESE GREAT PRESIDENTS GHANA HAS HAD. HOWEVER NOT EXPLICITLY STATING WHAT IT IS THEY HAVE DONE. THE MERE ACT RECREATING THEIR IMAGES ALONE MEANS A LOT. EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A PAINTING OF A PERSON, THERE IS A GREAT AMONUT OF SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO IT. THIS IS WHY I DO NOT WANT IT TO BE AT JUST ONE LOCATION, BUT AT SEVERAL DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, BECAUSE AS MUCH AS IT MAY JUST BE A PAINTING, IT WILL DEFINITELY MEAN SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO SEVERAL PEOPLE.

CONCLUSION

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF OUR
PROPOSAL AND WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SOON.