



MURAL ART PORTFOLIO 2025

NATASHA DICKENS

SWEETING

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Natasha Sweeting Dickens is a Tanzanian artist and graphic designer with over 25 years of professional practice. She has studied at Goldsmiths University, Loughborough University, Kent Institute of Art & Design and has had art exhibitions across the United Kingdom, Tanzania and Greece.

Predominantly known for her vivid bold large portraits depicting and celebrating women of colour, she draws inspiration from the strong and resilient women that surrounded her in her hometown of Dar es Salaam. Her colours are often saturated drawn from African textiles and the Tinga Tinga movement in post colonial Tanganyika.

The transition from paintings to murals came easy to Natasha partially due to her creating large scale works since high school. Murals were an exciting undertaking because of the culture and community that came with it. Politics, positive vibes, public and highly accessible art.



ART CURRICULUM VITAE

NATASHA SWEETING DICKENS

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EDUCATION

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2001 – 2004 | Fine Art BA, Kent Institute of Art & Design Canterbury, Kent, UK |
| 2000 – 2001 | Fine Art BA (1year), Goldsmiths College London, UK |
| 1999 – 2000 | Foundation Diploma in Fine Art, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK |

PUBLICATIONS

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 2017 | Bath Life Magazine Article promoting Solo Exhibition at Walcot Chapel |
| January 2008 | "Art in Tanzania" Precision Air In-flight Magazine Article on Artists recent work |
| 21st Dec 2007 | "Be Their Voice" The Guardian Newspaper Painting used in a Human Trafficking campaign |
| October 2007 | "Exhibitions of Art" Dar Guide Magazine Article on Artists exhibiting at Mawazo Gallery |
| 22nd Oct 2007 | "Power of the Brush" The Citizen Newspaper Photograph of painting from exhibition |
| November 2005 | East Africa Art Biennale 2005 Book & DVD documentary "Contemporary Art in Tanzania" |

EXPERIENCE

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2024 | Exhibited in Black Swan Arts Open Frome, UK |
| February 2024 | Exhibited in "Botanical Encounters" Exhibition 44AD Gallery, Bath, UK |
| October 2023 | Africa Day + Shoko Shoko Studios Launch Bradford on Avon, UK |
| June- July 2023 | Solo exhibition "Afro-motion" Bristol Guild, Park Street, Bristol, UK |
| October 2021 | Solo exhibition "Afroboriginal" Walcot Chapel, Bath, UK |
| October 2021 | Exhibited in "How I Make it Work" by Creativity Works 44AD Gallery, Bath, UK |
| November 2020 | 168 RWA Annual Open Exhibition Royal West of England Academy Bristol |
| April-June 2016 | Bath Society of Artists 111th Annual Exhibition Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, UK |
| April 2008 | Solo exhibition "Clothed Africa" Chatziginio Cultural Centre, Larisa, Greece |
| October 2007 | Solo exhibition "Clothed Africa" Mawazo Gallery, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania |
| November 2005 | Exhibited in "East Africa Art Biennale 2005" Alliance Française, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania |
| June 2004 | Exhibited works in "kiad 04" Degree Show Kent Institute of Art & Design, Canterbury, UK |
| April 2003 | Curated and Exhibited works in "2nd Coming" Art Exhibition, Old City Bar, Canterbury, UK |
| February 2003 | Curated and Exhibited works in "Altered View" Art Exhibition, IOTA Gallery, Ramsgate, UK |
| October 2001 | Curated and Exhibited in Solo exhibition 4twenty Bar, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania |
| June 2000 | Exhibited in Final Foundation Degree show Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK |



CARMEN BECKFORD INDOOR MURAL

Natasha was commissioned by Bristol University to paint a mural commemorating Carmen Beckford MBE who was one of the founders of St. Pauls Carnival, a race equality campaigner and Bristol's first Race Relations Officer. Bristol Union planned on opening a student bar at the Senate House and students voted for it to be called the Beckford because Carmen was renowned for her love of socialising, organising community celebrations and generally partying!

Natasha created the mural to include tropical colours yet staying within the existing bar and Student Union brand tones. She included different plants to show diversity and an ocean blue background to depict Carmen's immigration on ship from the Caribbean to the UK when she was just 16. The mural had to be joyous and youthful.

Carmen Beckford Mural (2021)

Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol
Commissioned by Bristol University Student Union



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CARMEN BECKFORD INDOOR MURAL



MOXY HOTEL PLYMOUTH

Amsterdam Street Art group were commissioned by the hotel chain Moxy Hotels to install art in their many hotel interiors all around the world! Kristel Steenbergen, an established artist and illustrator working in the Netherlands was commissioned to travel to Plymouth and work on the entrance lobby and ground floor bathrooms with a seaside theme in 2023. She in turn recruited Natasha to collaborate and ensure the artwork was completed in the short three days allocated for it.

Natasha found it interesting working with on a creative project balancing the honouring of their style while maintaining some sense of self within the work, and all on an incredibly tight schedule and with no electricity (as it hadn't been connected to the city lines yet!). It made for a very fulfilling experience.

Moxy Hotel Plymouth Mural (2023)

Collaboration with Kristel Steenbergen
Commissioned by ASA (Amsterdam Street Art)



MOXY HOTEL PLYMOUTH



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

Natasha attended an call out to female muralists to paint a women themed artwork on International Women's Day at Dean Lane Skate Park in Bristol made out by the Bristol Mural Collective in 2023. A blustery morning brought several female artists out to choose a wall and in under 5 hours produce artwork that invoked a conversation about women in today's time. It was an excellent opportunity to meet so much talent in one day.

Dean Skate Park is renowned for graffiti artists especially in the art of tagging and it was interesting to learn the politics of public wall ownership, the culture of tagging, and the nature of temporary art (murals tend to last a little as a few hours although the 'We Can Do It' artwork happily remained for a couple of weeks).

International Women's Day (2023)

Bristol Mural Collective
Dean Lane Skate Park, Bristol



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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



CARMEN BECKFORD OUTDOOR MURAL

After a fantastic reception of the indoor mural made for Carmen Beckford, Bristol University reached out to Natasha to create another artwork for the entrance of the Student Union building at the Senate House. This wrap-around commission was to have a relationship with the indoor artwork, colour and style wise but to not be identical.

Natasha took this opportunity to learn more about outdoor murals and public art. Practical knowledge about colour steadfastness, quality and nature of paints, historical knowledge about public art and the importance of having visuals that represented the location and environment they are placed, and political knowledge and the effect of using art as a platform for the people's voices and concerns.

Carmen Beckford was of course a major political figure in Bristol and Britain's history and yet she wanted to be known as celebratory person to use negative tactics to spread her message of inclusivity and diversity.

Carmen Beckford Mural (2024)

Senate House, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol
Commissioned by Bristol University Student Union



CARMEN BECKFORD OUTDOOR MURAL



TROWBRIDGE MUSEUM

Inspired by surveys and evaluations conducted with young visitors to Trowbridge Museum, a collection of ideas and themes representing the town of Trowbridge was gathered to form the commissioning of a new mural. Three artists were selected to bring these insights to life. Natasha led the design of the overall composition and, alongside established local artists Gus Scott and Tom Sturgess, collaborated on the creation of a large scale, vibrant mural that celebrates both place and people.

The project presented an exciting creative challenge: to produce a final artwork that genuinely resonated with young audiences, aligned seamlessly with the Museum's visual identity, honoured the distinct signature styles of all three artists, and remained bold, cohesive, and dynamically composed. The result is a colourful, energetic mural showcasing the power of collaboration and contemporary visual storytelling.

Trowbridge Museum (2025)

Court Street, Trowbridge
Wiltshire, South West England



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TROWBRIDGE MUSEUM





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