



Alfred Conteh is a contemporary American artist who creates powerful, thought-provoking pieces that explore the complexities of identity, history, and social justice. Conteh uses a variety of mediums, including painting, drawing and sculpture, to create artworks about race and power in society.

Aldred Conteh is a multi-disciplinary artist who was born in 1975 in Warner Robins, Georgia, USA. Conteh's work is heavily influenced by his experiences growing up as a Black man in America. Conteh is known for his thought-provoking paintings, drawings, and mixed media works. Although Conteh is best known for his vibrant portraits, he also creates sculptures and paintings incorporating landscapes and cityscapes.

Through his art, Alfred Conteh demonstrates a range of skills that include: technical expertise, a keen eye for detail, an ability to convey deep emotions and a commitment to exploring issues of race, identity, and power.

One of the most striking aspects of Conteh's work is his interesting use of colour and texture. He often uses a limited colour palette of greys, browns, and blacks, which gives his pieces a sense of depth and complexity. He also incorporates a variety of materials in his works. Some materials are more conventional, such as charcoal, oil paint, and collage. However, other materials are much more unusual, such as battery acid, urethane plastic and atomized steel dust. This range of materials and approaches further enhances the tactile quality of his work.

TOP FACTS ABOUT ALFRED CONTEH:

- Alfred Amadu Conteh was born in Georgia, USA in 1975 and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.
- He received his Masters degree in Fine Art from Georgia Southern University in 2004.
- Conteh's work often explores themes of identity, race, and socio-political issues.
- He has been recognized with numerous awards and honours.
- Conteh's work has been featured in exhibitions across the United States, including at the High Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia.
- He is known for his use of unconventional materials in his work, such as tar and found objects.
- Conteh is also a writer and has contributed essays and articles to various publications.
- He has been a visiting artist and lecturer at numerous universities and institutions, including the Savannah College of Art and Design and the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.
- His work is collected by numerous institutions and private collectors, and has been featured in publications such as ArtForum and The New York Times.

Alfred Conteh is a contemporary artist whose work is deeply rooted in the African American experience. His artistic style is characterised by bold, expressive lines, vivid colours, and powerful imagery that speaks to the struggles and triumphs of Black people throughout history. Conteh's work often explores themes such as identity, race, and social justice, and he is known for his ability to convey complex emotions and ideas through his art.

Have a look at the painting 'Sandtown Single' by Conteh. The main focus is the house, painted squarely in the middle of the canvas, which is also square. The lines on the neatly mown grass lead our eyes directly to the front of the house. The house is brightly lit in orange, brown and pink hues, contrasting the strong greens all around it. The house, trees and garden all look to be painted with realistic, if slightly vibrant, colours. This contrasts the image of a male figure, painted high up on the right above the trees. The figure is painted with dark colours, splashed in blue drips.

Through his art, Conteh seeks to spark conversations and provoke thoughts about issues that are often overlooked or ignored in mainstream culture. His work has been praised for its honesty, rawness, and unflinching portrayal of the human experience.



Alfred Conteh's portraits could be described as larger-than-life, with their highly saturated colours and intense contrast which gives importance to every crease of fabric or braid of hair. Conteh often makes use of a monochromatic colour scheme, showing a full range of tones in just one colour, making his work highly detailed yet surreal.

Conteh gets to know his subjects before he paints them by candidly interviewing them. He often asks people if he can take their photograph, allowing them to pose how they wish, rather than telling them how to stand or look. By asking people questions about their lives, interests and histories, Conteh adds another layer of depth to his work. The people in the paintings suddenly become real when we learn that they have their own stories to tell.

Conteh says: "My art is about giving voice to the voiceless."

How has Conteh used warm and cool colours to create contrast in the painting 'Trish'? Does the expression on the face also contrast the textures you can see? Why?

Look at the distressed, textured backgrounds that Conteh paints onto – how do you think these relate to the portraits?

What do you think of Alfred Conteh's artwork? How could you describe it? What messages or meanings can you interpret from the work?







