



Faces, with African twist

JO AIDOO

I am Jo Aidoo. I was born in Ghana and live in London.

I started stitching around the age of seven and have been sewing all my life. I have never been to a sewing or an art school. I would say that I was born with this skill as a form of expression. People who know me always say this about me. Even when I was deprived of materials, a sewing machine, or tools, I always found a way to be creative.

I have gone and I am still going through many life challenges, including mental health ones. But I find relief when I sew. It soothes my anxious mind when I focus on my creations. I have always created outstanding dresses and costumes – such as designing and creating many matching dresses and matching headdresses – but I never knew I could use fabrics to create other items and portraits.

In October 2021 I was asked by JSR (Jesuit Refugee Centre) – a charity that has been supporting me for some time – to design a patchwork for them to use as their Christmas card cover to send to their supporters. This is when I started creating patchworks squares, one of which they chose for their Christmas cards.

In early 2022 I was referred to Core Art, a therapy centre where I joined an IT class. There I was encouraged to design patchwork online while I continued to create the type of patchwork design I had originally been asked for by JRS which by then I was using to make cushion covers and table runners. I worked on this type of creation and design until March 2022 when I was taken seriously ill with Covid for two weeks. However, one day during that period I looked at myself in the mirror and saw my face as a patchwork, and this truly inspired me. A new idea was born.

As soon as I was well enough I replicated what I saw in the mirror on a canvas. My own face was my first patchwork face creation. From that day on I was driven to use my patchwork skills to create faces only. So far I have made around thirty patchwork faces, many of famous people, friends and family.





Maya Angelou





Ekow Eshun

My Ghanaian heritage illustrates the vibrancy of African textiles and fabric traditions. My artistic and creative methods allow me to examine several themes – include

my family,
my friends,
my youth,
and people of power



Self-portrait



Barack Obama



BY JO AIDOO

Michelle Obama

Colour is the
language that
speaks to me as
an African woman.



juxtaposing
interesting
fabrics and
colours to create
faces of black,
brown and
white people,
and unusual
backgrounds,
with African twist.



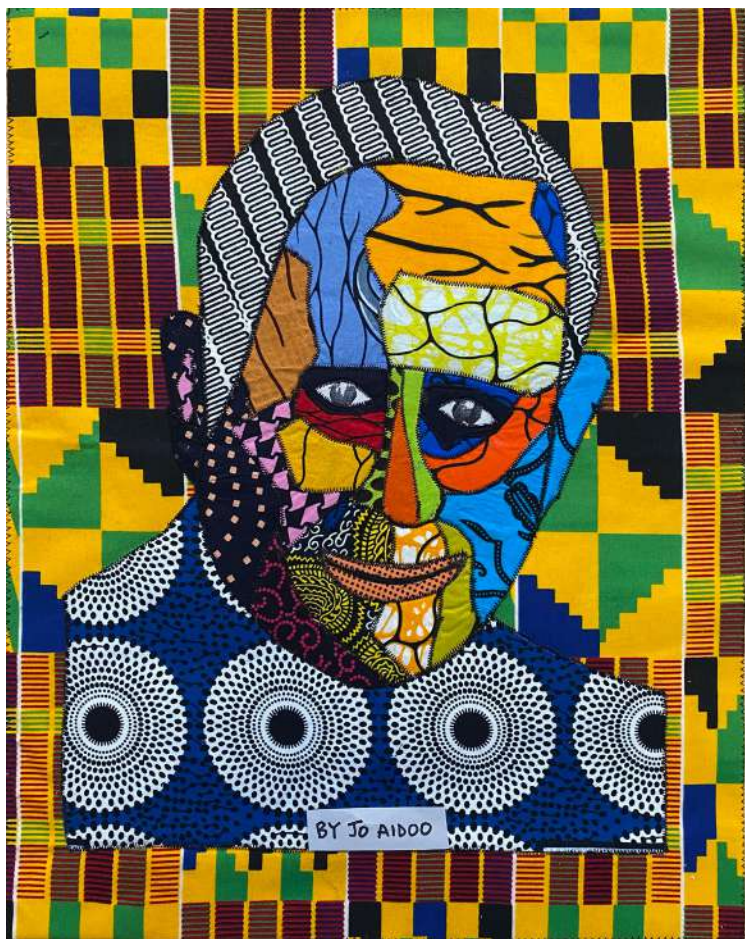


Alice

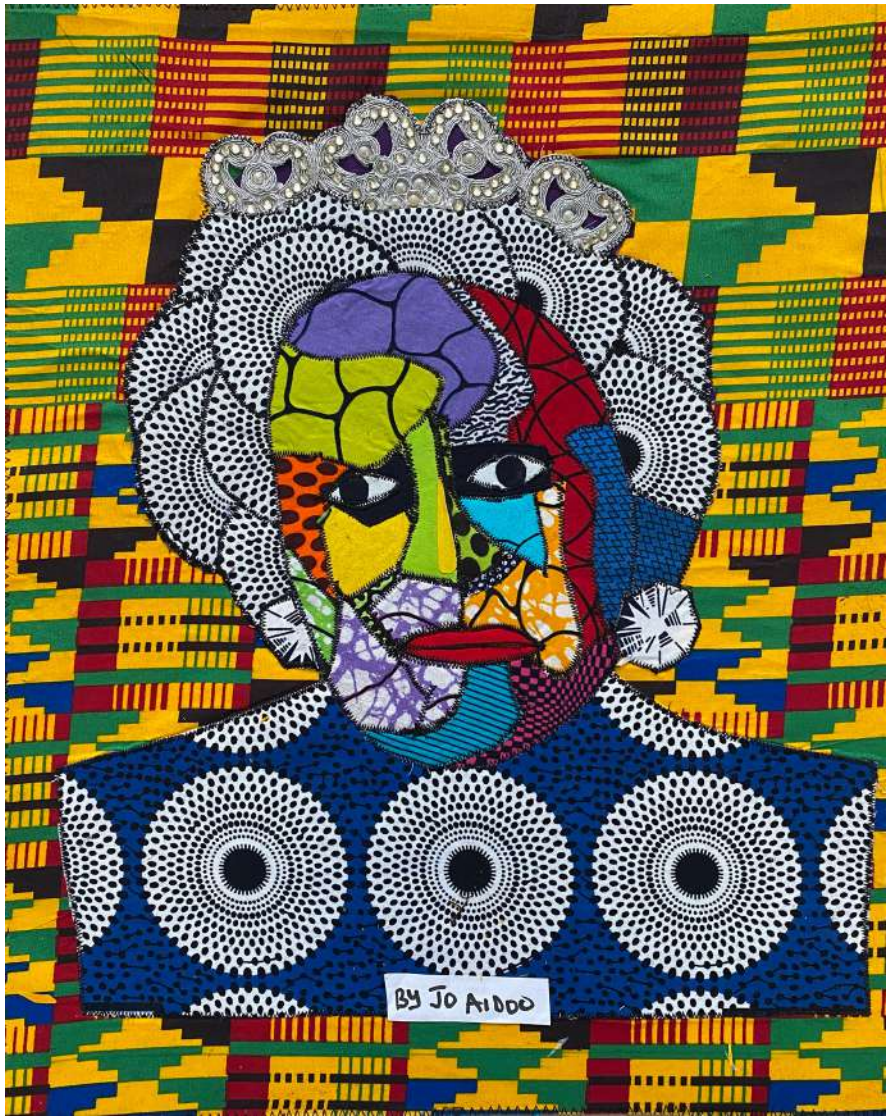
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Above: King Charles III
Left: Princess Charlotte



Queen Elizabeth II



William, Prince of Wales




Catherine, Princess of Wales



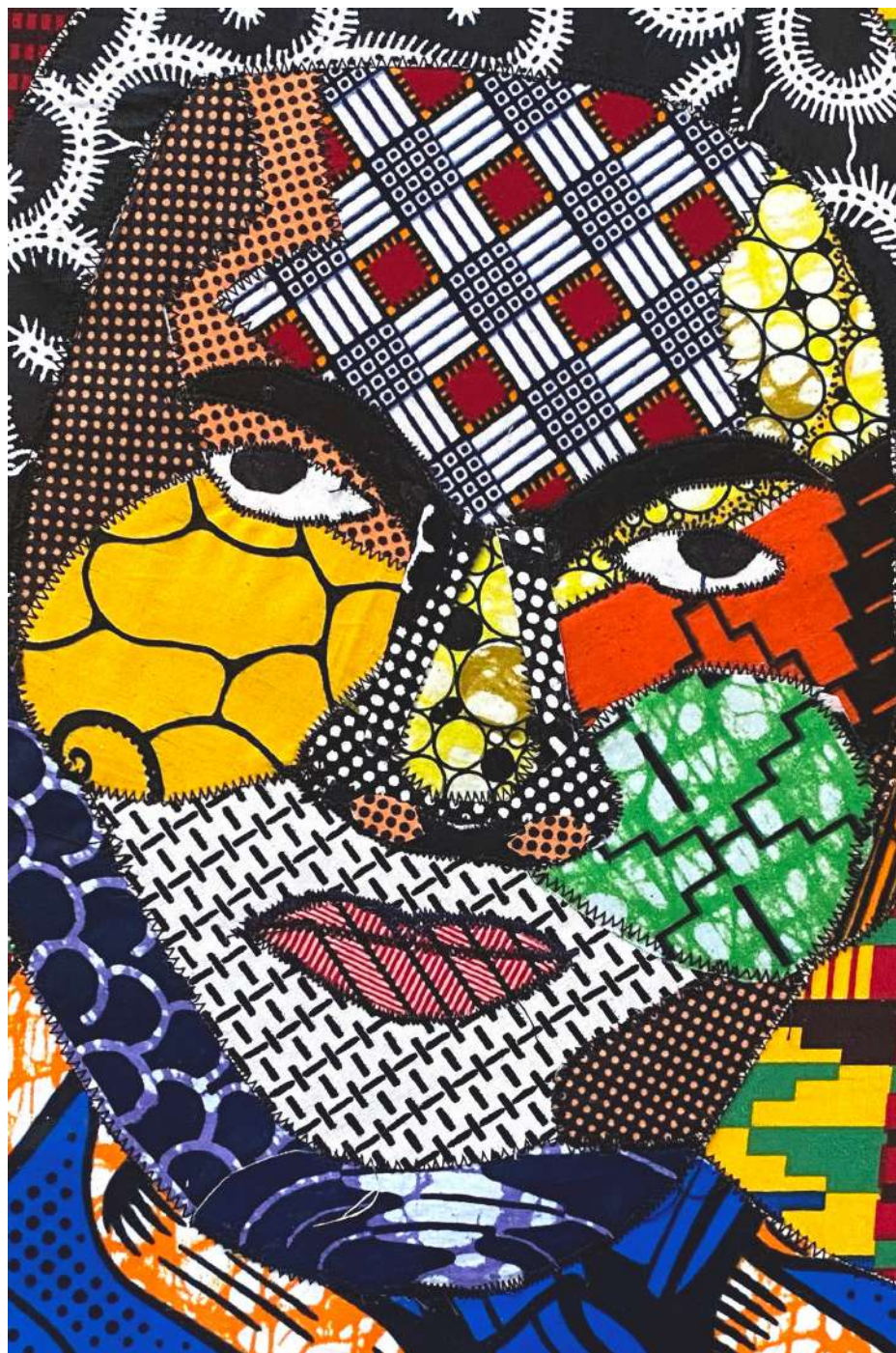
Adele

BY JO AIDOO



I've never seen
the sky this colour
before
it's like I'm noticing
everything a little bit
more

Adele



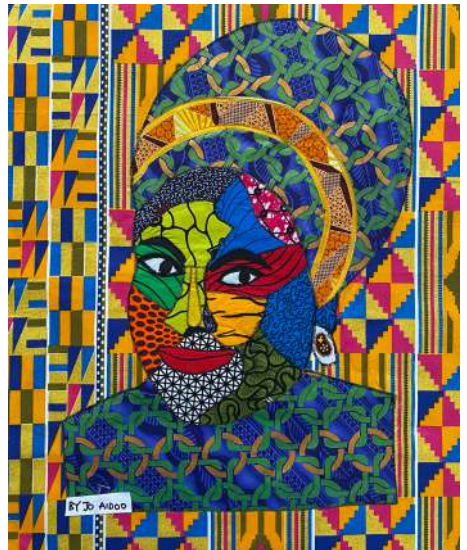
Nelson Mandela



Oprah Winfrey



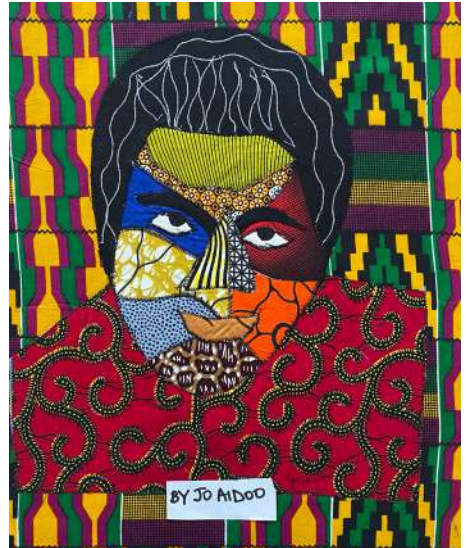
Dr. Ernest Mensah



Georgina



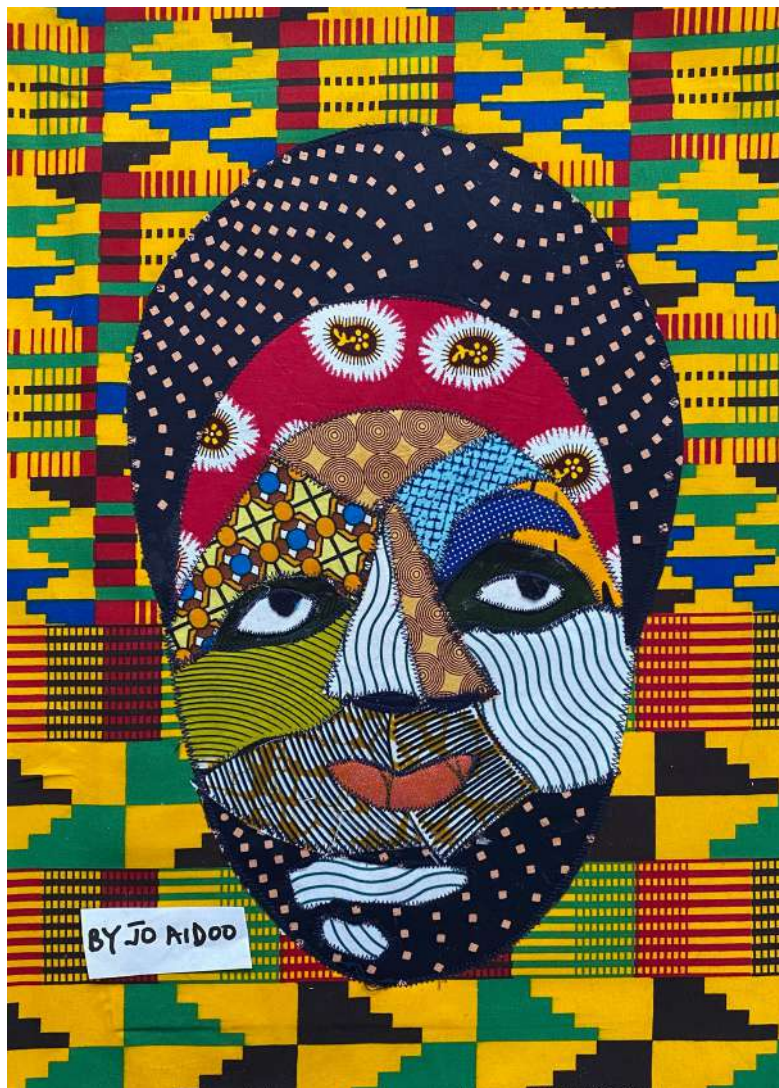
Grant



Elvis



Martin Luther King Jr.



Self-portrait

None of my work would possible without the help of a Congolese friend who generously donates fabrics (remnants) to me from her sewing business- Guylian Style in North London – and without the sewing machine my son bought for me. I owe them both a huge debt of gratitude.



Core Arts
promoting positive mental health
www.corearts.co.uk

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