

ARTIST STATEMENT

My artistic mission is transformation. Evolving from merely figurative paintings in the past to abstracts and the combination of the two, my current artwork is mostly driven by the exploration and implementation of found objects collected from different parts of the USA, Nigeria, Germany, Italy and UK. At times I add photographs taken on my discovery journeys, transforming all materials into a new context. In my earlier works, I have been drawn to the depiction of people from the individual to the couple or group, ceremonial dances, weddings and celebrations. In my art I have found a place to address issues and themes of cultural diversity.

The circle of nature is broken. That's reality. I recycle. With my paintings I combine objects with canvas, opposing colors of nature versus found non-natural objects thrown into our environment. Trashed objects are footprints of what people leave behind. We live in a society where consumption and mass production are shaping our minds and landscapes. We are conditioned to expect unlimited accessibility and availability of materialistic "needs". In my art, previously mass-produced objects become unique items, shaped by time and usage. Trash transforms into Zen with a message. Materials tell stories and are taken out of reality. I aim to see, recycle and rebalance.

Adding materials and objects to my paintings was triggered by a body of work I created on Yoruba Nigerian deities, including their actual attributes onto canvas. It led me to further explore bringing reality into the fictional world rather than portraying reality through painting. I am testing the boundaries of material, surfaces and painting.

BIO

Mascha Oehlmann graduated with a BA in Graphic Design from the Multi-Media Design School **Lette Verein** in Berlin, Germany after pursuing an educational year in Fine Arts in Paris, France. In the past, Mascha Oehlmann has worked as a Graphic Designer in Germany as well as in New York.

Prior to moving to New York City her paintings have been displayed in film and exhibition in Berlin, Germany. For the past years she has dedicated her focus entirely to her art with commissions and exhibitions of her work in various galleries and venues in New York City. She has given artist talks and interviews. Her art and writing continue to be published in the international Paris-based **Clam Magazine** and appeared in NY Arts Magazine, **New York Amsterdam News** and **24-7**.

As a Brooklyn resident and member, Mascha's work first appeared in numerous group shows curated by the artist organization **SONYA**. Following were various exhibitions at **Danny Simmons Corridor Gallery**, one being in collaboration with a fellow artist visualizing mythological tales and deities. Since then she was chosen as one of three artists to create portraits of neighborhood celebrities for the **Brooklyn Icons Wallscapes Campaign** in 2004, publicly displayed as banners to promote a positive image of the neighborhood. In 2005, her work was selected for Project Diversity, a multi-venued exhibition of 200 artists and 16 Brooklyn galleries.

In 2006 she joined forces twice with musician **Keziah Jones** in their **Music and Art Event** at Sputnik.

Manhattan venues such as the **Affordable Contemporary Art Fair** at **Pier 92**, The Eickholt Gallery in Soho and The Square Foot Show at Art Gotham in Chelsea displayed her work. She contributed her art to the **Visual Aids Benefit** event at **Sikkema Jenkins & CO** and the **Rwanda Art Auction** at the **Manhattan Open Center** in Chelsea. In honor of the Black History Month, her work was exhibited twice at the **Pen and Brush Galleries**.

In 2007 her work appeared at the **UN Fundraiser and Art Auction** to combat the effects of global warming in the South Pacific. She was represented at the **AAF-Contemporary Art Fair** in Chelsea and exhibited her work in a group show at **Woman Made Gallery** in Chicago.

She currently lives and works in Berlin and New York. Her **Studio 313** is located at **Aqua Carré Berlin**, a creative house of diverse multi-media studio spaces.