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WHAT'S ON

CULTURE · EVENTS · TRAVEL

by COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

Sister Act: Trailblazing Women in Art

Meet the women taking the lead in the art world

2. Marcia Kure

Artist



China Okeke Agulu

Kure's art explores the limits of line. 'Line marks boundaries and borders, shapes spaces, and keeps things in, out, or in-between. It contains and divides. It is the trail of my pencil and the path of movement of bodies, planes, ideas.' She also interrogates the social conditions of women and the history of Africa's relationship with the West, using visual elements from Disney cartoons, Japanese anime, manga and kawaii, medieval fashion, military outfits, and contemporary couture.

What are the challenges of navigating the art world as a woman? For years I struggled with the reality of relocating from Nigeria to the US and had to confront an art world that has for so long catered to white artists. Change is slow, in spite of the great work of Okwui Enwezor and others like Koyo Kouoh and Bisi Silva. The world needs more black women scholars and curators, and art institutions must double their commitment to the work of women of all races. After all, we are almost half the population and are making first-rate and outstanding art!

Who inspires you in the art world? Louise Bourgeois for her balance, tension, sexuality and exploration of the interior landscape. Toni Morrison, who captured memory, pain, trauma and life in America with such grace, courage and confidence. Colette Omogbai for her 1965 essay, *Man Loves What is Sweet and Obvious*.

Female artist to know about right now? Bronwyn Katz.

Favourite exhibition you've seen this year? El Anatsui: *Triumphant Scale* at Haus der Kunst. His ability to build splendid sculptures from small metallic fragments is otherworldly.

Hottest art city or town? Lagos, Nigeria.

Marcia's work is currently exhibited at Purdy Hicks Gallery. purdyhicks.com