

# Review of: "Unearthing the Cultural Values of Personalities in Photorealism Portraiture: The Iconography of the Works of the Ghanaian Fine Artist, Samuel Otu"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The main merit of the article is that it manages to make visible artistic practices of a bygone area in the History of Art. Africa has enough cultural values to ignore the artistic-literary expressions of its contemporaneity. Consequently, the way in which the authors focus, through the hyperrealistic portrait, on current problems such as childhood, the relationship with tradition, the search for equity and social justice, among others, is interesting. So, the artist reaffirms himself as an active social subject, sensitive to the problems of his community. This is suggested by the case of Samuel Otu.

The representations show an impeccable workmanship, manage to connect with the viewer and convey a palpable intentionality. This fact allows the purpose of the article to be fulfilled, however, richer and more illustrative nuances of current African society could be provided if the selection of portrayed subjects were diversified, according to the title of The African Story series.

Authors should be careful when affiliating with a method of analysis. Once this framework has been selected, it is necessary to make explicit its procedure applied to the chosen sample, in the methodological section. According to the method, references to the representation of the portrait within African art could be used, especially from Ghana, so that the contributions of the hyperrealist portrait in this context are more clearly noted.

On the other hand, it would be convenient to incorporate readings from other authors who have broadened the frameworks of the iconology exposed by Panofsky. Sometimes, the methods act as a straitjacket and the interpretive exercise should not disdain tools of different procedures that enrich the intention of the investigation. Authors like W. Mitchell and his text *Iconology. Image, text, ideology* (2016), can serve as an example for this purpose.

The fluent writing and the clarity in the exposition of the ideas are appreciated; as well as the coherence in the structure of the article. For the bibliographic settlement, it is suggested to use the APA Standard 7 version.