

BRUCE KARIM

Ugandan-Swedish multidisciplinary artist

Selected works and ongoing research



Painting / mixed media / creative reuse / dance / performance

Stockholm, Sweden | Portfolio 2026

Materials, body and belonging

I am a Ugandan-Swedish multidisciplinary artist based in Stockholm, working across painting, mixed media, creative reuse, dance and performance. I explore identity, belonging and freedom, and how strength and vulnerability can exist in the same image or body.

Painting and dance are connected languages in my practice. Colour, texture, rhythm and physical gestures allow me to express experiences that can be difficult to put into words. Sometimes movement leaves a trace on a surface; sometimes a painting becomes part of a live encounter with an audience.

I work with found and discarded materials, including packaging and textiles. Their previous lives remain visible within the work. Through these materials, and through portraits and animal imagery, I explore transformation and the value we give to what we see.

My current research includes Still Arriving, a developing visual art project about identity and belonging, and RISE UP, a performance in development bringing together live painting, movement, sound and installation. I want the work to leave room for viewers to bring their own experiences and questions.

Bruce Karim



Bruce Karim (Abdul Karim Katungi) is a Ugandan-Swedish multidisciplinary artist based in Stockholm, working across painting, mixed media, creative reuse, dance and performance. He studied Bild & Form at Basis Konstskola in 2023-2024. His practice includes exhibitions, live painting, performance and participatory workshops in Sweden and internationally.

He is the founder and chair of Rise & Change, a nonprofit association creating opportunities for children and young people through art, dance, movement, storytelling and creative reuse.

In 2017, aged 19, he created three paintings for Väsbyhem during a summer job in Upplands Väsby. The work was recognised in a youth magazine and through several interviews. This encouragement helped him continue his journey as an artist.

In 2020, he completed a separate municipal art commission for a youth centre in Upplands Väsby supporting young people with CVs, job searches and empowerment.

The Untouchable No-1

Acrylic on canvas | 2024



Animal imagery becomes a way of exploring feminine strength, protection and freedom. Colour and gesture hold both vulnerability and defiance within the image.

Born Champion

Acrylic on canvas | 80 x 80 cm | 2025



A buffalo portrait exploring resilience and determination through a direct gaze, layered colour and expressive marks.

Material transformations



Bird Without Feathers

Found packaging, textiles and painted surfaces become a bird-like figure. Process documentation.



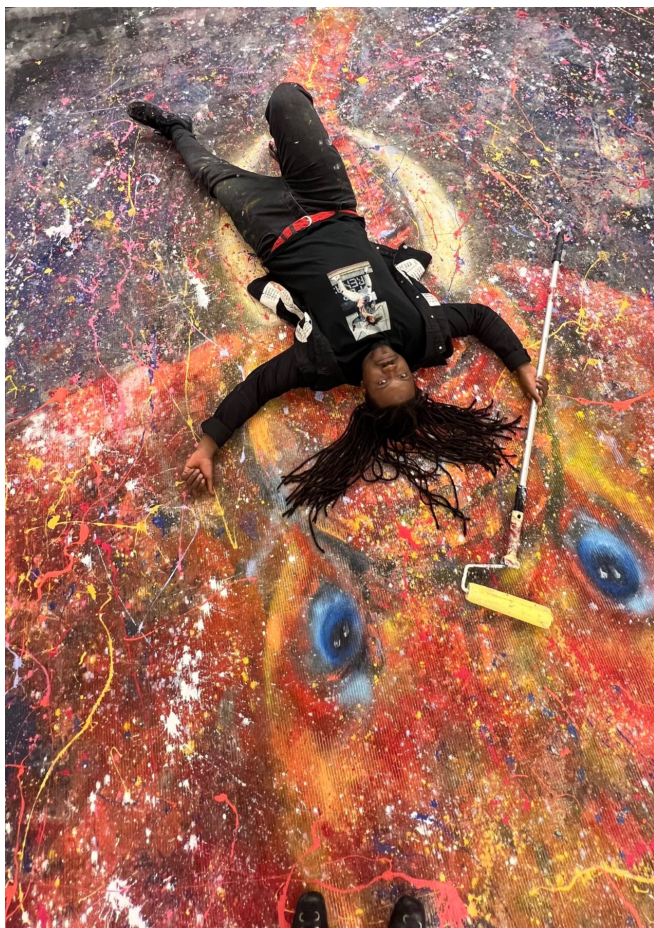
Fragments of Tomorrow

Acrylic, recycled packaging, a can and spray paint on plywood. Detail of a mixed-media portrait.

Creative reuse is part of my visual language. The shape, texture and previous use of a material influence the image that develops. Rather than hiding these traces, I allow them to remain part of the work.

Sound of Freedom

Movement-based painting | 5 x 5 m | MadeBy Gallery, Stockholm | 2025



Sound of Freedom brings the body into the act of painting. Created through movement and rhythm, the large floor work holds traces of physical presence and an unfolding creative process.

The work forms a connection between my painting and performance practice: the image is both a surface to look at and a record of movement through space.

[Watch Sound of Freedom](#)

RISE UP at Konsthall C

First public presentation | Stockholm | 2025

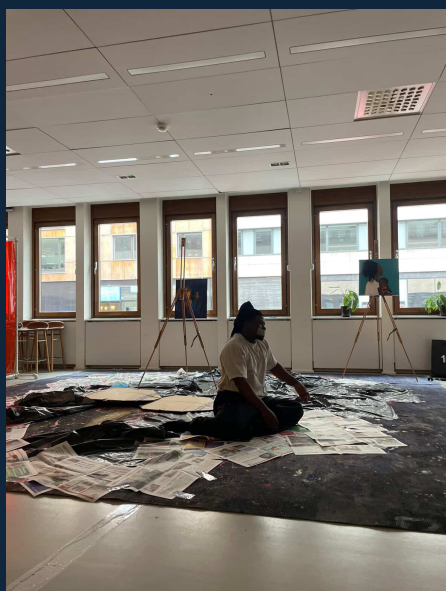


Live painting and movement create an encounter in which the audience sees the work taking shape. Rhythm, bodily gesture and the presence of other people affect how the image is experienced.

Documentation of the first public presentation of RISE UP at Konsthall C in 2025. The work continues to develop through movement, live painting, sound and installation.

RISE UP at Amnesty

Amnesty Activism | Stockholm | 2026



LIVE PAINTING AND PERFORMANCE

RISE UP at Amnesty Activism in 2026. The audience gathers around a floor-based performance space of newspapers, plastic and painted surfaces.

These photographs document the live encounter between body, materials and audience, alongside the earlier presentation at Konsthall C in 2025.

[Watch Amnesty Activism, 2026](#)

The body as a language



Dance is a language within my multidisciplinary practice. Rhythm, gesture and stillness allow me to work with presence and expression beyond words.

I explore how this physical language connects with painting, performance and the spaces in which people encounter the work.

Alongside my artistic work, I teach dance and lead movement workshops for children and young people.

Movement portrait

Dance Instagram: [@brucekarim_](https://www.instagram.com/brucekarim_)

Dance workshops in Uganda

Dance / movement / creative exchange



Dance workshops and creative exchange in Uganda: group practice in the studio and movement activities with children in the community. Teaching and sharing movement are established parts of my multidisciplinary practice.

[Watch dance workshop documentation - Uganda, 2022](#)

STAGE PERFORMANCE

Rågsved festival

Stockholm | 2025



On stage at Rågsved festival. Live performance is part of my multidisciplinary practice, connecting movement, rhythm and the energy of an audience.

RISE UP

Live painting / dance and movement / sound / installation

RISE UP asks what it means to seek a place to belong, to want to be seen and heard, and to carry experiences that others cannot see. The work grows from my own experiences while leaving space for the audience to recognise something from their own lives.

AN EMERGING SCENIC LANGUAGE

I am exploring a body among cardboard boxes, a covered mouth, breath, stillness and the act of painting in public. Paintings may be carried into the space by other performers, gradually becoming a living exhibition and an installation.

I want the performers to be active collaborators, whose bodies, movements and encounters with the paintings shape the work. I am interested in how a collective can form without everyone moving in the same way.

QUESTIONS GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT

When do we look at an artwork, and when do we meet the person behind it? How do sound and silence change our experience of a body? What remains when a shared moment ends?

RISE UP was first presented publicly at Konsthall C in 2025. I am now developing its scenes, choreography, spatial arrangements and sound into an expanded performance.

Still Arriving

Identity / belonging / perception / documents

Still Arriving explores the tension between how I understand my identity and how others read my belonging. I am Ugandan-Swedish. When I return to Uganda, I am seen as a foreigner. In Sweden, I experience that same distance. I belong to both places, yet I feel like an outsider in both.

The project asks what it means to keep arriving in the eyes of others, even when you know who you are. Documents and the way people interpret them are emerging as another part of this inquiry.

DEVELOPING A BODY OF WORK

I am developing the project through painting and mixed media, with an interest in how material, memory and bodily experience can carry these questions. The main body of paintings is still to be made.

Planned research in Uganda would bring together artistic exchange and exploration of sound, movement and materials. This is a future research direction, rather than a completed journey or confirmed exhibition.

Still Arriving and RISE UP share questions about visibility and belonging. Each is developing its own form: one through a visual body of work, the other through a live encounter between bodies, paintings, sound and an audience.

Rise & Change

Art / dance / movement / storytelling / creative reuse



I founded Rise & Change to create opportunities for children and young people to explore their own expression. Through Trygga rum för barn och unga, the association runs creative activities in schools, after-school settings, school holidays and community spaces.

This participatory work is connected to my artistic practice through experimentation, movement and shared making. The participants bring their own ideas and expressions.



Individual guidance and shared creative activities are part of my workshop practice.

Rise & Change

Workshop documentation

Creating together

Children sharing their paintings after a creative workshop



Every painting holds a different idea. Shared creative activities give children space to experiment, make choices and show what they have created.

Rise & Change

Selected experience and contact

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCE

2026 - Group exhibition, Diva Gallery, Gamla stan, Stockholm
2026 - Group exhibition, Chiselstudio, Stockholm
2026 - Amnesty Artivism, CMNTY, Stockholm
2026 - The Qave, Sundbyberg
2026 - Sollentuna konstrunda
2025 - Chiselstudio, Stockholm
2025 - Sound of Freedom, MadeBy Gallery, Stockholm
2025 - RISE UP, first public presentation, Konsthall C, Stockholm
2025 - Beit Kultur / Konsthall C, Stockholm
2025 - Easy Gallery, Bergen
2024 - Artist Arena, Stockholm
2023 - Juste Gallery, Stockholm
2019 - Solo exhibition at my own studio, Sundbyberg

EDUCATION AND CURRENT ROLES

2023-2024 - Basis Konstskola, Bild & Form / mixed media
Dance teacher, Solna Kulturskola
Founder and chair, Rise & Change
International practice - dance workshops in Uganda

BRUCE KARIM

Abdul Karim Katungi | Multidisciplinary artist
Stockholm, Sweden

abdulkarimbruce@gmail.com

brucekart.wordpress.com

Instagram: [@bruce.k.art](https://www.instagram.com/bruce.k.art)

Rise & Change: info@riseandchange.art