

Rufai Zakari (b. 1982)



Rufai Zakari, "Wasila" The Lone Girl, 2021. Courtesy of Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London and Berlin.

Represented by: Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London and Berlin

Most wanted: Punchy character studies made with plastics

Price range: \$10,000–50,000

Rufai Zakari explores themes of environmental pollution, consumerism, labor, and trade in his varied oeuvre. His vibrant figurative works, highlighting lively portraits of Ghanaian men and women dressed in traditional or contemporary garb as they go about their day, are made from discarded single-use plastics gathered around Ghana. Born in 1990, he graduated from the Ghana College of Art and Design. Dedicated to recycling street waste and creating uplifting and thought-provoking works of art from used plastics, Zakari likes to look into the future. He splits his time between Accra and his native Bawku, hoping to instill into his hometown—which was torn apart after decades of tribal conflict—a sense of optimism and growth.