



Heavy J
G.O.A.T.
 2022
 oil and house
 paint on two
 recycled flour
 sacks sewn
 together
 40 x 60 in

DEADLY PREY

**HAND-PAINTED MOVIE
 POSTERS FROM GHANA**

JUNE 28 – JULY 12, 2024

Opening Reception:
Friday, June 28th, 7-11 PM
 with DJ Set by
Esteban Le Groue

Refreshments provided by
Land & Sea Dept. / Illuminated Brew Works / Visitor

Soccer Club Club is delighted to be hosting Deadly Prey Gallery, a Chicago-based traveling art gallery working with 10 artists in and around Accra, Ghana, Africa. They are dedicated to the preservation of hand-painted Ghanaian movie posters and supporting the artists who make them. Deadly Prey houses a unique collection that spans their 30+ year tradition and will be exhibiting a selection of their painted movie posters from these 10 artists, and more.

These wild movie posters were once the product of a much larger industry known as the "Ghanaian Mobile Cinema" which started in the late 1980's when Ghanaian entrepreneurs formed video clubs that traveled throughout the country. With a television, VCR, VHS tapes and a portable generator, they set up make-shift screening areas and would show movies that span from Hollywood action and horror, low budget American straight to video features, Bollywood films, Hong Kong martial arts movies to an ever-growing selection of native Ghanaian and Nigerian features.

With no affordable access to printing, the hand-painted movie poster was the most logical advertising vehicle for these mobile cinemas. Skilled local artists were now part of this growing entertainment industry in Ghana, and they brought their own distinct touch to each film they were called upon to promote. It was very common for the video operator to explain to the artists what to paint or give them reference material which might not exactly be in the movie. Often times extra violence, horror or sex was added to these painted posters in an effort to sell more tickets!

By the mid to late 2000's the mobile cinema had all but passed away, but these hand-painted movie posters remain a wonderful, tangible product of the time. Many of the same artists from Ghana's former mobile cinema continue to paint movie posters as art with Deadly Prey Gallery on a commission basis to a growing worldwide audience today, with 100% of the merch profits going to them and the central focus being supporting the incredible artists painting these posters.

Brian Chankin's obsession with movies started at age eight when his parents rented him Armed and Dangerous on VHS. Seventeen years later he'd open Odd Obsession Movies in Chicago, a video rental store specializing in everything weird, obscure and classic. During this time he started collecting hand-painted Ghanaian movie posters to decorate the walls of the video store, which led him to meet Robert Kofi Ghartey in Accra, Ghana. Robert worked with many of the movie poster artists in Ghana as a teenager in the 90's. Over the course of a couple years the two men became best friends, so in 2012 Deadly Prey Gallery was born with Brian and Robert as partners.