

Clara Nartey is a self-taught artist. Nartey's practice explores culture and identity, joy, belonging and resilience, through the medium of threads and fabrics.

Born in Accra, Ghana, Nartey moved to New York where she earned an MBA before permanently settling in Connecticut.

Centuries of Eurocentric norms have dictated beauty standards for women in society. Nartey's portraits disrupt these aesthetic standards and give Black women permission to authentically embrace their natural hair and imagine new possibilities.

Her work is inspired by how fabrics are used in her African heritage to tell stories, to memorialize events, and to share words of wisdom. She incorporates language in her work by the use of symbols.

Nartey's work has been exhibited widely including at The Slater Memorial Museum, Carnegie Center for Art and History, and Morris Museum. Her work is in both private and institutional collections. She's also been featured in many publications including Contemporary Art Issue, Artforum, Create Magazine!, and Uppercase.