

NNENNA OKORE

born in 1975 in Canberra, Australia
lives and works in Chicago (IL), USA

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Education

2005	Master of Fine Arts, University of Iowa, Iowa City (IA), USA
2004	Master of Arts, University of Iowa, Iowa City (IA), USA
1999	Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

Solo Exhibitions

2022	"In/Flux", MADA Gallery (Monash University), Melbourne, Australia
	"Making Kin", Carlson Tower Gallery, Chicago (IL), USA
2021	"Bioplastic: Thing Power", B27 Gallery (Monash University), Melbourne, Australia
2019	"Plasmorganisms", Chicago Public Library Albany Branch, Chicago (IL), USA
2018	"Embodiment", Sakhile&Me, Frankfurt, Germany
2017	"Ukwa Ruo Oge Ya O daa", October Gallery, London, UK
	"Ututu", Mattatuck Museum of Art, Waterbury (CT), USA
	"Anima", Legion Art CSPA Galleries, Cedar Rapids (IA), USA
	"Osimili", Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA
2016	"Sheer Audacity", Memphis Brook Museum of Art, Memphis (TN), USA
	"When All Is Said and Done", Monique Moloche Gallery, Chicago (IL), USA
2015	"Owu", Arrowhead Gallery, Waubensee College, Sugar Grove (IL), USA
	"Nkata", Krannert Museum of Art, University of Urbana-Champaign (IL), USA
	"On the Brink", Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst (IL), USA
2014	"Twist and Turns", David Krut Gallery, New York (NY), USA
	"Fiber of Being", Welch School Galleries (Georgia State University), Atlanta (GA), USA
	"Unfound", Beard Art Center Gallery (Indiana Wesleyan University), Marion (IN), USA

	"Will You Walk With Me to the End of the Earth?", Carlson Tower Gallery (North Park University), Chicago (IL), USA
2013	"Akaraka: What Will Be", Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria
	"Flow", Wheatbaker Hotel Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
2012	"Transfiguration", Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York (NY), USA
2011	"New Works", Herron School of Art and Design Gallery (Indiana University), Indianapolis (IN), USA
	"Shokoloko", Craft Alliance, St. Louis (MO), USA
	"Rush", Skidmore College Gallery, Saratoga Springs (NY), USA
	"Metamorphoses", October Gallery, London, UK
	"Torn Apart", David Krut Projects, New York (NY), USA
	"On The Edge", Dittmar Memorial Gallery (Northwestern University), Evanston (IL), USA
2010	"Life After", Noyes Art Center, Evanston (IL), USA
	"Textile", Blachère Foundation Art Center, Apt, France
	"Recovered Energies", Bekris Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA
	"Absurd Beauty", Northeastern Illinois University Gallery, Chicago (IL), USA
2009	"Strings and Patterns", Viterbo University Gallery, La Crosse (WI), USA
	"Anyanwu", Carl A. Fields Center Gallery (Princeton University), Princeton (NJ), USA
	"Twisted Ambience", Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago (IL), USA
	"Common Thread", Bekris Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA
	"Of Earth...Bark and Topography", Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
2008	"Ulukububa", October Gallery, London, UK
	"Moonlight Tales", Tall Grass Gallery, Park Forest (IL), USA
	"Affrika West", Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, UK
2007	"Reflection", Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York (NY), USA
	"Sub-consciousness", Adam Hall Gallery (Wheaton College), Wheaton (IL), USA
2006	"Trans-figuration", Robert F. DeCaprio Art Gallery (Moraine Valley Community College), Palos Hills (IL), USA
	"Betwixt and Between", Carlson Gallery (North Park University), Chicago (IL), USA
2005	"Paper to Paper", Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City (IA), USA
2004	"Accumulations", Arts Iowa City, Iowa City (IA), USA
2003	"Re-presented", Armature Gallery (University of Iowa), Iowa City (IA), USA
2002	"Beyond the Lines", Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
2001	"Metaphors", Alternative Space, Lagos, Nigeria

Group Exhibitions

2023	<p>"Intimations", Sakhile&Me, Frankfurt, Germany</p> <p>"Narrative Threads: Fiber Art Today", Moody Center for the Arts (Rice University), Houston (TX), USA; Cambridge Art Gallery, Ontario, Canada</p> <p>"Fragments & Fabrications", Bradbury Art Museum (Arkansas State University), Jonesboro (AR), USA</p> <p>"To Build What We Become When We Dream", Queens Square Gallery (Cambridge Art Galleries), Ontario, Canada</p>
2022	<p>"HerStory: Shaping History", Rele Gallery, Los Angeles (CA), USA</p> <p>"Poetics of Material", Rele Gallery, Los Angeles (CA); Rele Gallery, Lagos, USA</p>
2021	<p>"Trauma", Triennale Brugge, Brugge, Belgium</p> <p>"Ecological Co-Development", Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu, China</p> <p>"Columned Hall Exhibition", Stoa169, Polling, Germany</p> <p>"The Invincible Hands", Yemi Shyllon Museum of Art, Lagos, Nigeria</p> <p>"Natural Materials", Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA</p> <p>"Podium II", Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA</p>
2020	<p>"Second Careers: Tributaries in African Art", Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland (OH), USA</p> <p>"31:women", Daimler Art Collection, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>"Prête-Moi Ton Rêve", Musée des Civilizations Noires, Dakar, Senegal</p>
2019	<p>"Art + Identity", Browngrotta Art Gallery, Wilton (CT), USA</p> <p>"Fuel for Thought", Art Exchange Gallery, Essex, UK</p> <p>"Transformed: Paper in Dimension", Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton (NJ), USA</p> <p>"Water", Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts, Cedarburg (WI), USA</p>
2018	<p>"Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists", August Wilson Center for African American Culture, Pittsburgh (PA), USA; Samuel Dorsky Museum, New Paltz (NY), USA; N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit (MI), USA</p>
2017	<p>"The Enlighteners", Palais des Papes, Avignon, France; Musée du Petit Palais, Avignon, France; Musée Calvet, Avignon, France; Musée Lapidaire Avignon, France</p> <p>"Beyond the Surface", Fashion Outlet, Chicago (IL), USA</p> <p>"When the Heavens Meet The Earth", The Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge, UK</p> <p>"Weather or Not, That is the Question", Children's Museum of the Arts, New York (NY), USA</p>
2016	<p>"La mer/La mère", St Mary's College, South Bend (IN), USA</p> <p>"Standing Out", Temple Muse, Lagos, Nigeria</p> <p>"Summertime Group Exhibition", Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA</p>

	"Finding Shelter: An Exhibition of Contemporary Fiber Art", Baum Gallery (University of Central Arkansas), Conway (AR), USA
2015	"Exceptional: Handmade Paper Beyond Substrate", Minnesota Center for Book Art, Minneapolis (MN), USA
	"The Contemporaries", Wheatbaker Hotel, Ikoyi, Nigeria
	"Works from Around our State", Evanston Art Center, Evanston (IL), USA
	"Africa Africans", Museu Afro Brasil, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2014	"Interwoven Histories", October Gallery, London, UK
	"Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art", Spelman Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta (GA), USA
	"African Origins", Morton Fine Art, Washington DC, USA
2013	"Six Draughtsmen", Museum of Contemporary African Diasporic Art, New York (NY), USA
	"International Biennial of Lin de Portneuf", Quebec, Canada
	"No One Belongs Here More Than You", Center for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria
	"Textura", Bekris Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA
2012	"Inside-out/Outside-in", Visual Art Center Gallery (Mississippi State University), Mississippi State (MS), USA
	"We Face Forward", Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
	"(Re-)Cycles of Paradise", LACE Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles (CA), USA
2011	"Transcending Integration", Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore (MD), USA
	"Environment and Object in Recent African Art", Anderson Gallery (Virginia Commonwealth University), Richmond (VA), USA; Tang Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs (NY), USA
2010	"As It Is: Contemporary Art from Africa and the Diasporas", Mojo Gallery, Dubai, UAE
	"Scratch", Latit Kala Akademi (Sakshi Gallery), New Delhi, India
	"(Re-)Cycles of Paradise", UN COP16, Cancun, Mexico
	"29th Sao Paulo Biennial", Sao Paulo, Brazil
	"Textile", Blachère Foundation Art Center, Apt, France
2009	"(Re-)Cycles of Paradise", UN COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark
	"Common Ground", Bekris Gallery, San Francisco (CA), USA
	"In Progress", Carlson Tower Gallery (North Park University), Chicago (IL), USA
	"Trash Menagerie", Peabody Essex Museum, Salem (NY), USA
	"Paper to Pulp", Howard County Center for the Arts, Ellicott City (MD), USA
	"Transvanguard", October Gallery, London, UK
	"Chance Encounters", Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India
	"Objects of A Revolution", Galerie Dominique Fait, Paris
	"Trace/Memory", Evanston Art Center, Evanston (IL), USA

2008	"Angaza Africa", October Gallery, London, UK "Affrika West", Galeri Artspace, Caernarfon, UK "Art Exhibition", Art4 Gallery, Channel4, London, UK "Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary", Museum of Arts and Design, New York (NY), USA "Refabrication", Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago (IL), USA "Clay and Fiber", Woman Made Gallery, Chicago (IL), USA "Trading Spaces", Binghamton University, Binghamton (NY), USA "Moonlight Tales", Tall Grass Arts Association, Park Forest (IL), USA
2007	"African Contemporary Art Exhibition", Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
2005	"Twelfth SOFA International Exposition", Chicago (IL), USA "8th International Open Exhibition", Woman Made Gallery, Chicago (IL), USA
2003	"Migrations", Legion Arts CSPA, Cedar Rapids (IA), USA "Units", Legion Arts CSPA, Cedar Rapids (IA), USA
2002	"New Works", Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City (IA), USA
2001	"New Energies", Nimbus Gallery and Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

Art Fairs

2023	Art Basel Miami Beach (with Jenkins Johnson Gallery), Miami (FL), USA
2022	1-54 Contemporary African Art Gallery (with Sakhile&Me), London, UK The Armory Show (with Kó Art Space), New York (NY), USA
2020	Investec Cape Town Art Fair (with Sakhile&Me), Cape Town, South Africa
2018	Expo Chicago (with Threewalls), Chicago (IL), USA
2016	Expo Chicago (with Jenkins Johnson Gallery), Chicago (IL), USA
2015	1-54 Contemporary African Art Gallery (with October Gallery), London, UK

Teaching Experience

since 2015	Professor, North Park University, Chicago (IL), USA
2011-2015	Associate Professor, North Park University, Chicago (IL), USA
2005-2011	Assistant Professor, North Park University, Chicago (IL), USA

Residencies & Awards

2023	Threewalls Community Art Grant, Chicago, USA
2021	Creative Victoria Art Grant, Melbourne, Australia
2020	Monash M Pavilion Art Grant, Melbourne, Australia
2018	Individual Professional Development Grant, North Park University, Chicago, USA

2017	Research and Development Lab Award, Threewalls, Chicago, USA
2012	Fulbright Scholar Award
2011	Artist-in-residence/Teaching Fellowship, Skidmore College, New York, USA
2010	Artist Residency, Jean Paul Blachère Foundation, Apt, France Artist-in-residence, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, USA
2007	Artist Full Fellowship at Global Art Village, Delhi, India Residency at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, USA
2006	Art Omi International Residency, New York, USA UNESCO-Aschberg Fellowship for Artists (Gruber Jez Foundation), Mexico
2004	SFAI Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, USA
2002	Graduate Assistantship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA Emma McAllister Novel Scholarship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

Collections

Stanley Museum of Art (University of Iowa), Iowa City (IA), USA
 Krannert Museum of Art (University of Urbana Champaign), USA
 Kruizenga Art Museum (Hope College), Holland (MI), USA
 Jorge M. Pérez Collection, Miami (FL), USA
 North Park University, Chicago (IL), USA
 World Bank, Washington DC, USA
 Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York (NY), USA
 Newark Museum, Newark (NJ), USA
 Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis (IN), USA
 Jean Paul Blachère Foundation, Apt, France
 Mercedes Benz Art Collection, Stuttgart, Germany
 United States Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria
 Royal Collections, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Sina Jina Collection, London, UK