## NNENNA OKORE

## **BORN**

1975 Australia

## **EDUCATION**

2023	Ph.D., Fine Art, Monash University
2005	MFA Sculpture, University of Iowa
2004	MA, Sculpture, University of Iowa
1999	BA Painting, University of Nigeria

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2025 2024	Between Earth and Sky, Installation at The Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, UK. Landfeels, O'Connor Gallery of Art, Dominican University, IL Neo-Custodians: Woven Narratives of Heritage, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE
	Holding Space, The Bentway, Toronto, CA Chasing Butterflies in Harmattan, Sakhile & Me Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany
2023	Spirit Dance, University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA Narrative Threads: Fiber Art Today, Moody Center for the Arts, Huston, TX Fragments & Fabrications, Bradbury Art Museum, Arkansas State University, Ionashara, AR
2022	Jonesboro, AR  In/Flux, MADA Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2022	Macroscopic Organisms', AKAA Art Fair, Paris, France
	Making Kin, Carlson Tower Gallery, Chicago, IL
2021	Bioplastic: Thing Power, B27 Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2019	Plasmorganisms, Chicago Public Library Albany Branch, Chicago, IL
2018	Guilty Pleasures, with Threewalls at Expo Chicago, Chicago, IL
	Embodiment, Sakhile & Me Contemporary Art Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany
	WHATIFTHEWORLD Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
	The Enlighteners, Palais des Papes, Musée du Petit Palais, Musée Calvet and Musée Lapidaire, France
2017	Ututu, Mattatuck Museum of Art, Watebury, CT
2017	Osimili, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Anima, CSPS, Legion Art Gallery, Cedar Rapids, IA
	Ukwa Ruo Oge Ya O daa, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom
2016	Sheer Audacity, Memphis Brook Museum of Art, Memphis, TN
	Mattatuck Museum, Connecticut, Waterbury, CT
	When All Is Said and Done, Installation for 'On the Wall at Monique Moloche
	Gallery, Chicago, IL
2015	Owu, Arrowhead Gallery, Waubonsee College, Sugar Grove, IL
	Nkata, Krannert Museum of Art, University of Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL
0014	On the Brink, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
2014	Twist and Turns, David Krut Gallery, New York, NY
	Fiber of Being, Welch School Galleries, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA Unfound, Beard Art Center Gallery, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

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

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2025	Art Basel, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
	Foundations, Haus kunst Mitte, Berlin, Germany
	FOG Design + Art, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	I Am All The Loves I Have Ever Known, Sakhile&Me Gallery, Frankfurt, GER
	Material Sensibilities, October Gallery, London, UK
	Voices from abroad, Behncke Gallery, Munich, Germany
2024	Public Matters (Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial), Abu Dhabi, UAE
	Climates and Carpets, Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum, Baku, BIR
	Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
	Art Basel: Basel, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
	Right is Right, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	FOG Design + Art, San Francisco, CA
2023	Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
	EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
	N, S, E and W, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

	Narrative Threads: Fiber Art Today, Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University, Houston, TX
	Fragments & Fabrications, Bradbury Art Museum, Jonesboro, AK To Build What We Become When We Dream', Queens Square Gallery, Ontario, Canada
2022	HerStory: Shaping History, Rele Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	Poetics of Materials, Rele Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
	AKAA Art Fair, Paris France
	The Armory Show, Ko Gallery, New York, NY
2021	Trauma, Triennale Brugge, featuring 'Nnenna Okore: And the World Keeps Turning', Brugge, Belgium
	Ecological Co-Development, 2021 Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu, China Columned Hall Exhibition, Stoa169, Polling, Germany
	The Invincible Hands, Yemi Shyllon Museum of Art, Lagos, Nigeria
	Natural Materials, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Podium II, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2020	Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art, Cleveland Museum of Art,
	Cleveland, OH
	31: Women, Daimler Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
	Prête-Moi Ton Rêve, Musée des Civilizations Noires, Dakar, Senegal
2019	Water, Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts, Cedarburg, WI
	Transformed: Paper in Dimension, Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton, NJ
	Fuel for Thought, Art Exchange Gallery, Essex, United Kingdom
2018	Materiality, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL
	Summertime, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists, August Wilson
	Center, Pittsburgh, PA
	Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists, Samuel Dorsky
	Museum of Art, State University of New York, New Paltz, NY
2017	Abstract Minded, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
	Shelter: Crafting a Safe Home, Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC), Pittsburg, PA
2016	Expo Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
	Seattle Art Fair, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Seattle, WA
	Summertime, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Art Market San Francisco, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
	Standing Out, Temple Muse, Lagos, Nigeria
	La mer/La mère, St Mary's College, South Bend, IN
	On the Wall Installation, Monique Moloche Gallery, Chicago, IL
	Group Show, Art Dubai, Sakshi Gallery, Art Dubai, Dubai
	Nkata, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinios at Urbana-Champaign, IL
	Finding Shelter: An Exhibition of Contemporary Fiber Art, Baum Gallery,
0045	University of Central Arkansas, AK
2015	Exceptional: Handmade Paper Beyond Substrate, Minnesota Center for Book Art, Minneapolis, MN
	Works from Around Our State, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL
	Africa Africans, Museu Afro Brasil, Sao Paulo, Brazil
	Faculty Art Show, Brendel Library Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, IL
2014	Interwoven Histories, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom.
	Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art, Spelman Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Faculty Art Show, Brandel Library, North Park University, Chicago, IL

African Origins. Morton Fine Art. Washington D.C., DC

2013 Six Draughtsmen, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporic Art, New York, NY 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 2012 Inside-out/Outside-in, Visual Art Center Gallery, Mississippi State University, MI 2011 Environment and Object in Recent African Art, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA Transcending Integration, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MA Environment and Object in Recent African Art, Tang Museum, Skidmore College, New York, NY 2010 Scratch, presented by Sakshi Gallery at Latit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India (Re-) Cycles of Paradise, UN COP16, Cancun, Mexico 29th Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil Textile, Blachere Foundation Art Center, Bonnieux, France (Re-) Cycles of Paradise, UN COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark 2009 Common Ground, Bekris Gallery, San Francisco, CA In Progress, Group show at Carlson Tower Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, IL Trash Menagerie, Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Salem, MA Paper to Pulp, Howard County Center for the Arts, Ellicot City, MD Transvangarde, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom Chance Encounters, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India Objects of A Revolution, Galerie Dominique Fait, Paris Trace/Memory, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL 2008 Angaza Africa, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom Affrika West at Galeri Artspace, Caernarfon, United Kingdom Channel 4 Art Exhibition, Channel 4, Art 4, London, United Kingdom Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY Refabrication, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, IL Clay and Fiber, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL Joburg Art Fair, (sponsored by October Gallery) Sandton Convention Center, Johannesburg, South Africa Trading Spaces, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 2006 African Contemporary Art Exhibition, Dakar Biennale, Senegal Twelfth SOFA International Exposition, Chicago, IL 2005 Faculty Show, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, IL 8th International Open Exhibition, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL 2003 Migrations, Legion Arts CSPS, Cedar Rapids, MI Units, Legion Arts CSPS, Cedar Rapids, MI 2002 New Works, Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA New Energies, Nimbus Gallery and Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria 2001 1999 B.A Exhibition, Ana Gallery, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

### **AWARDS**

2024	North Park University Faculty Research Grant, Chicago, USA
2023	Threewalls Community Art Grant (Dreaming of a Better Future Project), Chicago,
	IL , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
2022	North Park University Travel Grant, Chicago
2021	Creative Victoria Art Grant, Melbourne, Australia
2020	Monash M Pavilion Art Grant, Melbourne, Australia
2018	Individual Professional Development Grant, North Park University, Chicago, IL
2017	Research and Development Lab (RaD Lab) Award, Threewalls, Chicago, IL
2012	Fulbright Scholar Award to Nigeria
2008	North Park University Individual Project Grant, Chicago, IL
2005	North Park University Individual Project Grant, Chicago, IL
2002	Graduate Assistantship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
	Emma McAllister Novel Scholarship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
	Teaching Assistantship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1999	Valedictorian (Fine Arts), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1994	First prize, UNIFEM Women's Art Contest, Lagos, Nigeria
1993	First prize, UNICEF African Child's Day Art Competition, Mbabane, Swaziland

## **RESIDENCIES**

2011	Artist-in-residence/Teaching Fellowship, Skidmore College, New York, NY
2010	Artist Residency, Jean Paul Blachére Foundation, Apt, France
	Artist-in-residence, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
2007	Artist Full Fellowship at Global Art Village, Delhi, India
	Residency at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan,
	Madison, ME
2006	Art Omi International Residency, New York, NY
	UNESCO-Aschberg Fellowship for Artists (Gruber Jez Foundation), Mexico
2004	SFAI Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

2024	Okore, Nnenna, et al. "Beyond the Matter: Collaborative Call-And-Response Learning with Bioplastic and Padlet." <i>Environmental Education Research</i> , October (2024): 1–18.
	Okore, Nnenna. "Creating a Climate of Change: Bioplastic Call-and-response." In
	The Work of Art in the Age of Planetary Destruction, edited by David Osrin, and
	Aarathi Prasad. CUSSH. 2024.
2023	"Spirit Dance' at the Stanley is a full-body experience,", by Avi Lapchick, Daily
	lowan, 2023.
2022	"Quantity of Movements," by Armelle Dakouo, Eva Barois and Seloua Luste
	Boulbina, Ellipseart Project, 2022.
2020	"Nnenna Okore: Climate Change feature at Investec Cape Town Art Fair", Cape Town Green Map.
2018	"These 20 Female Artists are Pushing Sculpture Forward", <i>Artsy</i> , July 30, 2018
	"San Francisco: Nnenna Okore- Jenkins Johnson Gallery", Sculpture, March
	2018.

2017 "Artist Q&A: Nnenna Okore", Art Itd., May 26, 2017. "Nnenna Okore: Between Fragility and Potency A World of Sculptural Transformation", I am Nigeria, December 2017. Guily, Elsa. "Between Fragility and Potency-A world of Sculptural transformation", Intense Art Magazine, #3, October 2017. Perry, Elle. "Nnenna Okore's Sheer Audacity at the Brooks", Memphis Flyer, 2016 December 1, 2016. Enwonwu, Oliver. "Matter As Metaphor: The Art of Nnenna Okore", Omenka Magazine, Issue 4, Vol 1, 2016. Knaur, Rebecca. "A Sprint and a Stroll Through Krannert Art's New Exhibition", 2015 Smile Politely: Urbana-Champaign Online Magazine, September 15, 2015. Heckel, Jodi. "Krannert Art Museum features Solo Show of Chicago-based Artist", Illinois New Bureau, August 26, 2015. "Nnenna Okore", Inspirational Magazine, Vol 4, May 2015. Plagens, Peter. "Paintings of a Caricaturists, Plus Two Sculptors", Wall Street Journal, January, 2, 2015. 2014 "Wise Buys: 50 Women Artist Worth Watching", Art+Auction Magazine, September, 2014. 2013 Preece, Robert. "Political by Nature: 2500-word interview with Nnenna Okore", by Sculpture Magazine, July/August 2013. Anyanwu, Faustina, "Finding inspiration in the most simple things...", C.Hub Magazine, December-February, Issue 2, Vol 1, 2012/13. 2012 Spring, Chris. "African Textiles Today", Smithsonian Book/British Museum Press, 2012 Cutter, Holland. "Nnenna Okore: 'Transfiguration'", The New York Times, November 9, 2012. Wullschlarger, Jackie. "We Face Forward...", Financial Times, August 12, 2012. Hudson, Mark. "Out of Africa Comes the Art of Noise", The Telegraph, July 18, 2012. Sowole, Tajudeen. "Step Aside, Ferguson, African Art takes over Manchester", The Nigerian Guardian, June 15, 2012. Opurum, Nkechi. "Okore receives Fulbright Award", The Daily Times, May 3, 2012. 2011 Oladipo, Juliana. "Communication for Change celebrates the launch of a new documentary series...", Fab Magazine, Online, July 11, 2011. McCrickard, Kate. "Waste Management/Things Torn Apart", Art South Africa, Volume 9.4, June 2011. "With Metamorphoses, Okore returns to the UK", The Nigerian Guardian, April 19, 2011. Weaver, A.M. "Fragility, Elegance and Decay", Ceramics: Art and Perception, Issue 83, March 2011. 2010 Nwachukwu, McPhillip. "Nigerian Art Market..., says Nnenna Okore", Vanguard, November 25, 2010. Hemmings, Jessica. "Material Meaning", Wasafiri Magazine, Issue 63, 2010. Upper, Elizabeth. "Into the Art of Africa", Above Magazine, Winter 2009/2010 2009 Agulu-Okeke, Chika and Enwezor, Okwui. "Contemporary African Art Since 1980", 2009 Agulu-Okeke, Chika "New Order", Arise Magazine, Issue 6, October 2009 Kronika, Jessica. "Nnenna Okore's art .... recycled material installation", The Examiner, August 11, 2009.

Giuliano, Mike. "Visual Arts: Five artists 'paper' the arts center", *Howard County Times*, July 30, 2009.

Stabler, Albert. "Tom Torluemke and others at the Cultural Center", *Proximity Magazine*, July 26, 2009.

Uzoatu, Maxim, Uzor. "Wakeful Souls", *Next Newspaper*, July 10, 2009. Offiong, Vanessa. "From Rags to Riches with Art", *Weekly Trust*, June 2009 *Ehikhamenor, Victor.* "The goddess of small things ...", *Next Newspaper*, June 19, 2009.

Uwaezuoke, Okechukwu. "Imitations of Nature", *This Day*, June 20, 2009. Nnabuife, Chuka. "'Of Earth...' Nnenna Okore stages home show", *Nigerian Compass*, June 16, 2009.

Hemmings, Jessica. "Nnenna Okore: Ulukububa at October Gallery, London", Surface DesignvJournal, July edition, 2009.

Anyifite, Emmanuel. "Contemporary Art Auction in Lagos", *Next Newspaper*, April 9, 2009.

Agozino, Emmanuel and Nnabuife, Chuka. "Okore, Enwonwu, Onabrakpeya, Anatsui, Kentridge others in London's art auction", *Nigerian Compass*, April 7, 2009.

Roup, Julian. "Groundbreaking African Artists In Spotlight At First British Auction Of Contemporary African Art At Bonhams", *Bonhams Headlines*, March 2009. Burton de, Simon. "*Art of Africa*", *The Financial Times*, March 28, 2009. Donoghue, Katy. "Artist to Watch: Nnenna Okore", *Whitewall Magazine*, Spring Issue, 2009.

Wood, Molara. "Studio Visit with Nnenna Okore: Art from Discarded and Found Things", *Next Newspaper*, February 8, 2009.

Akpata-Ohohe, Bunmi. "Ulukububa: Infinite Flow", *Africa Today*, December 3, 2008.

Savage, Polly. "Introduction: Ulukububa-Infinite Flow", *Exhibition Catalogue, London,* Oct 16-Dec 6, 2008.

Smith, Roberta. "Using Old Materials to Put a New Face on the Museum", by Roberta Smith, *The New York Times*, September 26, 2008.

2007 Murray, Barbara. "Mind Openers-Women Artist in Africa", Farafina Magazine, No 8, January 2006.

Nwakama, Obi. "The Yam is King", Farafina Magazine, No. 7, October, 2006. Uwaerzuoke, Ugochukwu. "As Dak'art Beckons", This Day, March 26, 2006.

2005 "8th International Open, Exhibition Announcement", *Woman Made Gallery*, March 4, 2005.

2003 Murthy, Vidya. "Chasing the Paper Trails with Vision", *Daily Iowan*, June 26, 2003.

2002 Nnabuife, Chukka. "Plenty Art Shows, Lean Patrons" *The Guardian*, May 21, 2002.

2001 Ikwele, Victor. "The Metaphors of Today", National Interest, August 19, 2001. Uhakheme, Ozolua. "New Energies, Rebellion against the Old", The Guardian, May 15, 2001.

Uwaezuoke, Okechukwu. "The Real Values Beyond the Tags", *The Comet*, May 15, 2001.

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2015 Chicago Parks Foundation

2011 Chicago Sculpture International

2010 College Art Association

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Okore, Nnenna, et al. "Beyond the Matter: Collaborative Call-And-Response Learning with Bioplastic and Padlet." *Environmental Education Research*, October (2024): 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/13504622.2024.2405902.

Okore, Nnenna. "Creating a Climate of Change: Bioplastic Call-and-response." In *The Work of Art in the Age of Planetary Destruction*, edited by David Osrin, and Aarathi Prasad. CUSSH. 2024. https://projectcussh.org/projects/the-work-of-art/.

Okore, Nnenna. "African-inspired Eco-pedagogies." 111 CAA Annual Conference, 2023.

Okore, Nnenna. *Practice, Provocation and Participation: Thinking with Waste.* Monash University. Thesis. 2022. https://doi.org/10.26180/22358164.v1

Okore, Nnenna. "Socio-material Practice: A reimagined Response to Climate Change." 110 CAA Annual Conference, 2022.

Okore, Nnenna; Burke, Geraldine; Miles, Melissa. "Engaging with Bioplastic: A Padlet Exposé." Monash University. Educational resource. 2022. <a href="https://doi.org/10.26180/19100012.v2">https://doi.org/10.26180/19100012.v2</a>
Okore, Nnenna. "A Green Patch on a Wasteland." Climate in Crisis issue. Rejoinder 6 (Spring 2024). Institute for Research on Women | the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. <a href="https://irw.rutgers.edu/rejoinder-webjournal/issue-6-climate-incrisis/535-a-green-patch-on-a-wasteland">https://irw.rutgers.edu/rejoinder-webjournal/issue-6-climate-incrisis/535-a-green-patch-on-a-wasteland</a>.

Okore, Nnenna. "Shapes of Knowledge: Site for Socio-Pedagogic Art." *Academia Letters* (August. 2021). https://doi.org/10.20935/al3127.

### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA

Siren Betty Desgin, Chicago, IL

The Kruizenga Art Museum

The Illinois EPA Capital Development Board

The Mercedes Benz Art Collection

Orchid Resorts and Hotels, Lagos, Nigeria

Four Seasons Hotel and Resorts, CA

North Park University, Chicago, IL

World Bank, Washington DC

Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY

United States Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria

Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos, Nigeria

Halls Winery, Napa, CA,

Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA

Jean Paul Blachere Foundation, France Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN

Royal Collections, Abu Dhabi, UEA

Art House Contemporary Limited, Nigeria

Channel 4, London, United Kingdom

Renaissance Capital, Moscow, Russia

Daraja Art Foundation, London, United Kingdom