

**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**

- 2024 *Landfeels*, O'Connor Gallery of Art, Dominican University, IL  
*Public Matters* (Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial), Abu Dhabi  
*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, Jonesboro, AR
- 2022 *In/Flux*, MADA Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia  
*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, Waterbury, CT  
*Osimili*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Anima*, CSPA, 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, Waubensee College, Sugar Grove, IL  
*Nkata*, Krannert Museum of Art, University of Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL  
*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  
*Flow*, Wheatbaker Hotel Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2012 *Transfiguration*, Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *Nnenna Okore: New Works*, Herron School of Art and Design Gallery, Indiana 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 Earth...Bark and Topography*, Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2008 *Ulukububa*, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Moonlight Tales*, Tall Grass Gallery, Park Forest, IL  
*Afrika 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 FOG Design + Art Fair, 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
- 2024 *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 Civilisations Noires, Dakar, Senegal  
*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 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL  
*Finding Shelter: An Exhibition of Contemporary Fiber Art*, Baum Gallery, 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  
*African Origins*, Morton Fine Art, Washington D.C., DC  
*Faculty Art Show*, Brandel Library, North Park University, Chicago, IL
- 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
- 2009 *(Re-) Cycles of Paradise*, UN COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*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, Ellicott City, MD  
*Transvanguard*, 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  
*Afrika West* at Galeri Artspace, Caernarfon, United Kingdom  
*Channel 4 Art Exhibition*, Channel4, Art4, 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
- 2005 *Twelfth SOFA International Exposition*, Chicago, IL  
 Faculty Show, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, IL  
*8th International Open Exhibition*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2003 *Migrations*, Legion Arts CSPA, Cedar Rapids, MI  
*Units*, Legion Arts CSPA, Cedar Rapids, MI
- 2002 *New Works*, Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 2001 *New Energies*, Nimbus Gallery and Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1999 B.A Exhibition, Ana Gallery, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

## 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, NJ  
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

## AWARDS

2023 Threewalls Community Art Grant (Dreaming of a Better Future Project), Chicago, IL  
2022 North Park University Travel Grant, Chicago, IL  
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 Blachère 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

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", *Artsy*, July 30, 2018  
"San Francisco: Nnenna Okore- Jenkins Johnson Gallery", *Sculpture*, March 2018.  
2017 "Artist Q&A: Nnenna Okore", *Art Ltd.*, 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.
- 2016 Perry, Elle. "Nnenna Okore's Sheer Audacity at the Brooks", *Memphis Flyer*, December 1, 2016.  
Enwonwu, Oliver. "Matter As Metaphor: The Art of Nnenna Okore", *Omenka Magazine*, Issue 4, Vol 1, 2016.
- 2015 Knaur, Rebecca. "A Sprint and a Stroll Through Krannert Art's New Exhibition", *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.  
Wulschlagger, 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.



- Nnabuiife, 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 Nnabuiife, 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, Molar. "Studio Visit with Nnenna Okore: Art from Discarded and Found Things", *Next Newspaper*, February 8, 2009.
- 2008 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.
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- 2005 "8th International Open, Exhibition Announcement", *Woman Made Gallery*, March 4, 2005.
- 2003 Murthy, Vidya. "Chasing the Paper Trails with Vision", *Daily lowan*, June 26, 2003.
- 2002 Nnabuiife, 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.