

EVERARD READ

EL ANATSUI

(b. 1944 Anyako, Ghana)

EL ANATSUI is a Ghanaian sculptor who has spent much of his achievement packed career living and working in Nigeria, where he currently maintains his studio. He is one of the most highly acclaimed artists in African History and foremost contemporary artists in the world.

An alumnus of the College of Art, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana, Anatsui holds a BA (Art) as well as a post-graduate diploma in Art and Education (1969). For many years he was Professor of Sculpture and, latterly, Departmental Head at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

El Anatsui uses resources typically discarded such as liquor bottle caps and cassava graters to create sculpture that defies categorisation. His use of these materials reflects his interest in reuse, transformation, and an intrinsic desire to connect to his continent while transcending the limitations of place. His work can interrogate the history of colonialism and draw connections between consumption, waste, and the environment, but at the core is his unique formal language that distinguishes his practice.

Anatsui is well-known for large scale sculptures composed of thousands of folded and crumpled pieces of aluminium bottle caps sourced from local alcohol recycling stations and bound together with copper wire. These intricate works, which can grow to be massive in scale, are luminous and weighty, meticulously fabricated yet malleable. He leaves the installations open and encourages the works to take new forms every time they are installed.

El Anatsui was born in 1944 in Anyako, Ghana, a citizen of the Ewe Nation and son of a master weaver of Kente cloth. He acquired art training at the College of Art, University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, one of the highest-ranking universities in Ghana. In 1975, when he had graduated from the university, El began teaching at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, as a Professor of Sculpture. He has taught at UNN for over four decades.

As a member of the faculty at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, El Anatsui began to incorporate Uli and Nsibidi of south-eastern Nigeria into his work alongside his indigenous Adinkra symbols and other Ghanaian motifs and ideographic and logographic symbolism. He soon after became affiliated with Nsukka Group, a group with a shared vision to revive the practice of Uli and incorporate its designs into contemporary art.

El Anatsui's works can be found amongst some of the most prestigious art collections in the world including permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, NY; National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; The British Museum; the Vatican Museum and many more.

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2017 Praemium Imperiale Award for Sculpture, The Japan Art Association, Tokyo, Japan
Lorenzo il Magnifico Lifetime Achievement Award, XIth Florence Biennale Florence, Italy
Brandywine Workshop and Archives Lifetime Achievement Award, Philadelphia, USA
- 2016 Honorary Doctor of Arts, 365th Commencement Ceremony, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA), 2016 graduation ceremonies, The University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa
- 2015 Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement Award, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2014 Elected Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA, USA
Elected Honorary Academician, British Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2nd Best Monographic Museum Show in New York category, AICA-USA, "Gravity and Grace: Works by El Anatsui", Brooklyn Museum, NY, USA
- 2013 Charles Wollaston Award, 245th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2009 30th Anniversary Award, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C. USA

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- Prince Claus Award, Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2008 Visionaries Award, Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY, USA
- 1999 Public's Prize, 7th Small-Scale Sculpture Triennial, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1998 Bronze Prize, 9th Sculpture Triennial, Osaka, Japan
- 1995 Kansai Telecasting Corporation Prize, 3rd Sculpture Triennial, Osaka, Japan
- 1990 Honorable Mention, 44th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Focus on El Anatsui, October Gallery, London
El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland
- 2019 El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Arab Museum of Modern Art (MATHAF), Doha, Qatar
El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Haus Der Kunst, Munich, Germany
El Anatsui: Recent Works, Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, New Mexico, USA
El Anatsui: Material Wonder, October Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 El Anatsui: Proximately, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Wijnegem, Belgium
Ofrendas, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, USA
El Anatsui: MEYINA, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
The Beginning and the End, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 El Anatsui: Proximately, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Wijnegem, Belgium
El Anatsui: Topology of Generosity, Bakarat Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
El Anatsui: MEYINA, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
El Anatsui: MEYINA, Prince Claus Fund Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
El Anatsui: Benchmarks, Royal Academy of Arts, Mayfair, London / October Gallery, Bloomsbury, London (London: 2017)
- 2016-2017
El Anatsui: MEYINA, Prince Claus Fund Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2016 Afrikas stjerne – Monumentale værker af El Anatsui (Star of Africa – Monumental works by El Anatsui, Trapholt Museum for Moderne Kunst, South Jutland, Denmark
El Anatsui: New Works, October Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui: Five Decades, Carriageworks, Sydney Festival 2016, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 El Anatsui – Selected Works, October Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui Of Dzi, Kunstbanken Hedmark, Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway
El Anatsui: Five Decades, The School – Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA
Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works By El Anatsui, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA, USA
- 2014 El Anatsui: New Worlds, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, Mount Holyoke, MA, USA
El Anatsui: Trains of Thought, Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, USA
El Anatsui: Playing with Chance, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria

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El Anatsui-Theory of Se, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong, China
Metas, Mnuchin Gallery, NY, USA

2012 – 2015

Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH, USA
Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Des Moines Art Center, IA, USA
Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL, USA
Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA

2013 El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You About Africa, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Tsiatsia – Searching for Connection, Royal Academy of Arts, London

2012 – 2013

Broken Bridge II, the High Line, NY, USA
Pot of Wisdom, Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, USA

2012 El Anatsui: Stitch in Time, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

2011 El Anatsui, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA, USA

2010 – 2012

El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH, USA
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA, USA
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, USA
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, Denver Art Museum, CO, USA
El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

2010 – 2011

A Fateful Journey, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan
A Fateful Journey, The Museum of Modern Art, Hayama, Japan
A Fateful Journey, Tsuruoka Art Forum, Yamagata, Japan
A Fateful Journey, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan

2010 El Anatsui: Gli (Wall), Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA
El Anatsui: Wall Sculptures, Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, USA

2009 El Anatsui (Off the Grid: 2009 Surface Design Association Conference), Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO, USA
El Anatsui: Process and Project, BRIC Arts | Media House, Brooklyn, NY, USA

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- 2008 Earth Growing Roots, San Diego State University Art Gallery, San Diego, CA, USA
Zebra Crossing, Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, USA
- 2006 El Anatsui: Asi, David Krut Projects, NY, USA, in collaboration with October Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui: Nyekor, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Milan, Italy, in collaboration with October Gallery, London, UK
- 2005-2006
Danudo: Recent Sculptures of El Anatsui, Skoto Gallery in collaboration with Contemporary African Art Gallery, NY, USA
- 2005 El Anatsui, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2003–2008
El Anatsui: Gawu, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales, UK
El Anatsui: Gawu, Model Arts & Niland Gallery, Sligo, Ireland
El Anatsui: Gawu, Gallery Oldham, Oldham, Greater Manchester, UK
El Anatsui: Gawu, October Gallery, London, UK
- El Anatsui: Gawu, Djanogly Art Gallery, University of Nottingham, UK
El Anatsui: Gawu, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA
El Anatsui: Gawu, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA
El Anatsui: Gawu, Fowler Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA
El Anatsui: Gawu, University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ, USA
El Anatsui: Gawu, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2002 El Anatsui: Recent Works, October Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 A Sculpted History of Africa, October Gallery, London, UK
- 1997 Hakpa, French Cultural Centre, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1995 El Anatsui: Sculptures and Reliefs, October Gallery, London, UK
- 1993 So Far: Drawings, Paintings, Prints 1963–1993, Italian Cultural Institute, Lagos, May 8–22, 1993
- 1991 Old and New: An Exhibition of Sculpture in Assorted Wood, National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1987 Venovize: Ceramic Sculpture by El Anatsui, Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Cornwall College, Redruth, UK
Pieces of Wood: An Exhibition of Mural Sculpture, The Franco-German Auditorium, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1982 Sculptures, Photographs, Drawings, Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1980 Wood Carvings, Cummington Community of Arts, Cummington, Massachusetts, USA

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1979 Broken Pots: Sculpture by El Anatsui, British Council, Enugu, Nigeria
Broken Pots: Sculpture by El Anatsui, Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

1976 Wooden Wall Plaques, Asele Art Gallery, Nsukka, Nigeria

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 The Met Unframed, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
A National Treasure: Fred Meijer, His Collection and Legacy, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2020-2021
Making the Met, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art, Cleveland Museum of Art
252nd Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Grace Before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio, Nottingham Contemporary, UK

2020 Atmospheres: Artists of the Transvanguard, October Gallery, London
Re-Materialize, Arthur Ross Gallery, Pennsylvania University
IMPART Collectors' Show 2020, School of the Arts' (SOTA), Singapore

2019-2020
Layers, LaBanque Art Center, Béthune France

2019 I've Grown Roses in This Garden of Mine – Group Show, Goodman Gallery, London
In the Absence of Light: Gesture, Humor and Resistance in the Black Aesthetic, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago
Listen to the Hum, Alice Black, London
251st Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Art, London
The Moon, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
The Warmth of Other Suns: Stories of Global Displacement, The Phillips Collection, Washington DC
Prête-moi ton Rêve [Lend me Your Dream], Maison de l'Union, Casablanca, Morocco
Prête-moi ton Rêve [Lend me Your Dream], Dakar, Senegal
Frieze New York, Randall's Island Park, New York
Infinitive Mutability, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong
El Anatsui: Cire Perdue, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire
Investec: Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
The Crime of Mr Adolf Loos, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Belgium
El Anatsui: Cire Perdue, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France
Ex Africa: Storie e Identità di un'Arte Universale, Archaeological Civic Museum, Bologna
Intimate Immensity, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
The Light Show, Denver Art Museum, Denver
New to the Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Biennale Arte 019, Venice

2018-2019
South South/Between Land and Sea: I don't understand what you're talking about but I know what you mean, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town
Common Threads: Weaving Stories Across Time, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA, USA
MAD Collects: The Future of Craft Part 1, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, United States
Museum Collection III – All of the Contemporary Art Collection, Setagaya Art Museum, Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan

2018 Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Center, Johannesburg, South Africa
Summer 2018, Mnuchin Gallery, NY, USA
Domestic Alien, Gazelli Art House, Baku, Azerbaijan
Feedback: Art, Africa and the 1980s, Iwalewahaus, Bayreuth, Germany

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Carnegie International, 57th Edition, 2018, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Transvanguard: Leading Contemporary Artists, October Gallery, London, UK
250th Summer Exhibition: Art Made Now, Royal Academy of Arts, London UK
Art Brussels, 2018, Brussels, Belgium
Dak'Art Biennale 2018, Dakar Senegal
Exhibition by the Masters, Desiderata, Banana Island, Ikoyi, Lagos
Masterpiece London, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London
All Things Being Equal . . . , Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
BRAFA Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium
Resignifications, ZAC – Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa, Sicily, Italy
Second Life, MACAAL, Marrakech, Morocco
Art Basel, Hong Kong
Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami Beach Convention Center, Florida
MoMA at NGV: 130 Years of Modern and Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Southbank, Australia
African Metropolis: An Imaginary City, Museo Nazionale Delle Arti Del XXI Secolo (MAXXI), Rome
Private Exhibition of Seth Dei Collection, Residence of the British High Commissioner in Accra, Ghana
Parking on Pavement, The School-Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA
Local/Global, Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, New York

2017-2018

Domestic Alien, Gazelli Art House, London
The Coffins of Paa Joe . . . , Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

2017

Les Eclaireur: Sculpteurs d'Afrique, Palais de Papes, Avignon, France
Domestic Alien, Gazelli Art House, London
Three Dimensions: Modern and Contemporary Approaches to Relief And Sculpture, Acquavella Galleries, New York
A Journey: El Anatsui, Anish Kapoor And Jannis Kounellis, Kewenig Galerie, Berlin
Afrique Capitales: Cape of Good Hope Here We Come, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France
La Terra Inquieta/ The Restless Earth, Palazzo de la Triennale, Milan, Italy
Summer Exhibition 2017, Burlington House, London
Intuition, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
El Anatsui: Ugwu, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France

2016-2017

African Artists as Innovators, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, California

2016

Art Basel, Unlimited, Basel, Switzerland
Marrakech Biennale 6: Not New Now, Marrakech, Morocco
Of A Different Nature, Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, USA
Chaumont-Sur-Loire Arts and Nature program, 2016, The Domaine of Chaumont-sur-Loire [The Chateau and the Centre of Arts & Nature], France
Green Pastures: In Memory of Thornton Dial, Sr., High Museum, Atlanta, GA, USA
The Woven Arc, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art, (The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research), Harvard University- Cambridge, MA, USA
Summer Exhibition 2016, Royal Academy of Arts, UK
12th Edition of Dak'Art, Dakar, Senegal
African Artists as Innovators, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, California
Festival International des Jardins: Gardens from the Coming Century, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France
Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design, Centre de Cultura Contemporànea de Barcelona (CCCB), Spain

2015-2019

Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona [CCCB], Spain
Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain

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Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

2015-2016

Embracing Space and Colour: Wall and Ceiling Mounted Sculpture, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL, USA

Us Is Them, The Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH, USA

I See Myself in You: Selections from the Collection, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

2015

The Contemporary 2: Who Interprets the World, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
El Anatsui, 2015, Farmyard Le Fenil Gallery, The Domaine of Chaumont-sur-Loire [The Chateau and the Centre of Arts & Nature], France

Africa Africans, Museu Afro Brazil, Sao Paulo, Brazil

El Anatsui: Five Decades, The School – Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA

Piece Work, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT., USA

Atopolis, Wiels in collaboration with Mons 2015, Manège de Sury, Mons, (Contemporary Art Centre in Brussels) Belgium

Meet Me Halfway: Selections from The Anita Reiner Collection, Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York, NY, USA

247th Summer Exhibition, 2015, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

Field, Road, Cloud: Art and Africa, Anna K. Meredith Gallery, Des Moines Art Centre, Des Moines, IA, USA

Embracing Space and Color: Art On & Off the Wall, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL, USA

Re:Purpose, The John & Mabel Ringling Museum of Art, State Art Museum of Florida, Florida State University, Sarasota, FL, USA

PROPORTIO, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy

The Contemporary 2: Who Interprets the World? 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan

Standing and Hanging, Altman Siegel Gallery, San Francisco, California

Necessary Force: Art in the Police State, University of New Mexico Art Museum, USA

Status Quo, The School, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

2014

246th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London, UK

Mise En Scène, The School – Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA

The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections, Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain

Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa, Fowler Museum, UCLA, USA

Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

2013

245th Summer Exhibition, installation of sculpture on the façade of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

Chosen, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Brodsky Center Gala 2013: Honouring El Anatsui and Alexandre Arrechea, Cedar Lake Theatre, New York, NY, USA

ArtZuid 2013, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Masters of the Transvanguard, October Gallery, London, UK

Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA

Art and Textiles, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany

Through the Eyes of Texas: Masterworks from Alumni, Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, USA

The Poetic Line, Makerere Art Gallery/Institute of Heritage Conservation and Restoration, University of Makerere, Kampala, Uganda

2012

El Gran Sur, 1st Montevideo Biennial, Montevideo, Uruguay

18th Biennale of Sydney: All Our Relations, Sydney, Australia

La Triennale: Intense Proximity, Palais de Tokyo/ Musée Galliera, Paris, France

African Cosmos: Stellar Art, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA

Dialogues with Contemporary Art, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

We Face Forward, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

Summer Exhibition 2012, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (Façade of the Burlington House)

Environment and Object: Recent African Art, Middlebury College Museum of Art, Vermont, USA

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2011 – 2012

Architectural Environments for Tomorrow: New Spatial Practices in Architecture and Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2011

The World Belongs to You, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

ARS 11, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

Hunters and Gatherers: The Art of Assemblage, Sotheby's, NY, USA

The Splendour of Truth, The Beauty of Charity, The Vatican, Rome, Italy

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio TX, USA

As It Is! Africa Applauded, The Mojo Gallery, Dubai

Environment and Object: Recent African Art, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, NY, USA

Environment and Object: Recent African Art, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas, The Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida

2010-2011

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden

2010

Who Knows Tomorrow, Alte National Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Human Rites, The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL, USA

A Collective Diary, an African Contemporary Journey, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya, Israel

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu, Romania

2009-2010

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, FL, USA

2009

3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art – Against Exclusion, 3rd Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia

Intramoenia Extra Art – On the Ground, Underground, Castelli di Puglia, Barletta Castle, Barletta, Italy

Chance Encounters: Seven Contemporary African Artists, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India

Transvanguard: Leading Contemporary Artists, October Gallery, London, UK

Confines Extremos. Confines Urbanos, Institut Valencia D'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain

Off the Grid, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO, USA

Homecoming, Artists Alliance Gallery, Accra, Ghana

Promoter-of- Nigerian-Art Series, Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria

Embrace!, Denver Art Museum, CO, USA

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Fundación Canal, Madrid, Spain

2008

Masterpieces of Modern Design: Selections from the Collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, USA

Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary, Museum for Arts and Design, NY, USA

The Poetics of Cloth: African Textiles, Grey Art Gallery, NY, USA

The Essential Art of African Textiles: Design Without End, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, USA

Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary, Museum for Arts and Design, NY, USA

World Histories, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA, USA

Angaza Afrika: African Art Now, October Gallery, London, UK

Recycling: The Whole House, Kunstbanken Hedmark Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway

Juego Africano de lo Contemporáneo: Pre-figuraciones Postcoloniales, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Unión

Fenosa (MACUF), A Coruña, Spain

The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Hillside Terrace Galleries, Daikanyama, Tokyo, Japan

Prospect.1 New Orleans, New Orleans, LA, USA

Sonsbeek 2008: Grandeur, Sonsbeek Park, Arnhem, The Netherlands

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- 2007 Artempo – Where Art Becomes Time, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
Think with the Senses, Feel with the Mind: Art in the Present Tense (52nd Venice Biennale), Arsenale, Venice, Italy
Uncomfortable Truths: The Shadow of Slave Trading on Contemporary Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Tapping Currents: Contemporary African Art and the Diaspora, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, USA
Un/Fair Trade: The Art of Justice, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria
From Courage to Freedom, October Gallery, London, UK
Living Masters, Terra Culture, Lagos, Nigeria
The Boys Craft, Haifa Museum of Art, Haifa, Israel
8th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
Afrika Remix, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Art for AIDS/Art Carte, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2006 – 2011
The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Rubin Museum of Art, NY, USA
The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Visual Arts Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA
The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2006
Altered, Stitched and Gathered, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) NY, USA
DAK'ART 2006, 7th Biennale of African Art, Dakar, Senegal
-poiesis, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Europe-Afrique: Regards Croisés, Ateliers des Tanneurs, Brussels, Belgium
Black Panther Rank and File, Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
Primitivism Revisited: After the End of an Idea, Sean Kelly Gallery, NY, USA
Expanding Africa: New Art, New Directions, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ, USA
Body of Evidence, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, CA, USA
The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama, Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2005
In the Making: Materials and Process, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Out There, Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, Norwich, UK
AKA . . . of Age 2005, Maison de France, Lagos, Nigeria
De Young Museum, DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2004 – 2007
Afrika Remix, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany
Afrika Remix, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Afrika Remix, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Afrika Remix, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Afrika Remix, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Afrika Remix, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2004
A Grain of Dust, A Drop of Water, 5th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
Intelligence Now!, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2003
Africa Informs, October Gallery, London, UK
Biennale of Ceramics in Contemporary Art, Villa Groppallo, Vado Ligure, Italy
Transfer(t)s, Palais de Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium
Homage to Asele, National Museum Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
Selected Works, Skoto Gallery, NY, USA
- 2002
The Independents, Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, Liverpool, UK

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2001–2002

The Happy Face of Globalization, 1st Albissola Ceramics Biennale, Albissola, Italy; Musée Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland

2001

El Tiempo de Africa, Centro Atlantico Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Canary Islands; Consejería de Cultura de Comunidad, Madrid, Spain
Encounters with the Contemporary, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
Africas: The Artist and the City, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), Barcelona, Spain
News from the Front, October Gallery, London, UK
Jazz and Visual Improvisations, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY, USA
Ebony Soliloquy: A Five Year Retrospective (1996–2001), Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, LA, USA
Messagers de la Terre, Rur'Art– Espace d'Art Contemporain d'École Agricole Xavier Bernard, Rouille, France

1999

New Colours From Old Worlds, October Gallery, London, UK
The Transvanguard, October Gallery, London, UK
Les Champs de la Sculpture, Champs Elysées, Paris, France
Contemporary Art from West Africa, October Gallery, London, UK

1998

7 Triennale der Kleineplastik, Stuttgart, Germany
9th Osaka Sculpture Triennale, Osaka, Japan
Riddle of the Spirits – Twelve African Artists, Skoto Gallery, NY, USA

1997

The Poetics of Line: Seven Artists of the Nsukka Group, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA
Free Form and Precision, Contemporary African Art Gallery, NY, USA

1996

Container '96: Art Across Oceans, Langelinie, Copenhagen, Denmark
Transvanguard, October Gallery, London, UK
Images of Africa, Torpedohallen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Africana, Sala 1, Rome, Italy
Transforms, October Gallery, London, UK
Group Exhibition, Avant-Garde Gallery, Kaduna, Nigeria
El Anatsui & Tesfaye Tessema, Contemporary African Gallery, NY, USA
El Anatsui & Sol Le Witt, Skoto Gallery, NY, USA

1995 – 1996

An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima, Japan
An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Himeji City Museum of Arts, Himeji, Japan
An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama, Japan
An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Marugame Inokuma-Genichiro Museum of Contemporary Art (MIMOCA), Marugame, Japan
An Inside Story – African Art of our Time, Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan

1995

AKA '95, Bona Gallery, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '95, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
Contemporary African Art, World Intellectual Property Organisation Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
6th Osaka Sculpture Triennale, Osaka, Japan
Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden

EVERARD READ

- Configura 2, Dialog der Kulturen, Erfurt, Germany
The Right to Hope, Johannesburg Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa -touring to Cairo, Egypt; Amman, Jordan;
Gaza, Isreal; Jerusalem, Isreal; Tel Aviv, Isreal
Africus, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
Uli Art– Master Works, Skoto Gallery, NY, USA
- 1994 Arte/ Sociedad/ Reflexion, 5th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
AKA '94, Bona Gallery, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '94, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1993 New Currents '93 – Avant-Garde Nigerian Art, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
Six African Artists, October Gallery, London, UK
AKA '93, Bona Gallery, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '93, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1992 Arte Amazonas, Modern Art Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; travelled as: Klima Global to Staatliche Kunalle,
Berlin, Germany; and to Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
AKA '92, Bona Gallery, Enugu
AKA '92, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
AKA '92, Begegnung mit den Anderen, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany
- 1991 El Desafi de Colonization, 4th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
South of the World, Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea, Marsala, Italy
AKA '91, Bona Gallery, Enugu; Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
Works by a Group of African Artists, The World Bank Art Society Gallery, World Bank Headquarters, Washington
D.C., USA
The Sculptor's Guild of Nigeria Inaugural Exhibition, Murtala Mohammed Park, Enugu, Nigeria
- 1990 Five Contemporary African Artists (44th Venice Biennale), Venice, Italy
The Calabash 1st Art Exhibition, The Calabash, Lagos, Nigeria
AKA '90, The Presidential Hotel, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '90, Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
Achebe Celebration Exhibition, Continuing Education Centre, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition, The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY, USA
Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition, African-American Museum in Philadelphia [formerly Afro-
American Historical and Cultural Museum], Philadelphia, PA, USA
Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition, Chicago Public Library Cultural Centre, Chicago, IL, USA
Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition, The Museum of the National Center of African-American Artists
(NCAAA), Boston, MA, USA
- 1989 Zeitgenössische Nigerianische Kunst, Bonn, Bocholt and Mönchengladbach, Germany
- 1988 Walls and Gates – El Anatsui & Liz Willis, Avant-Garde Gallery, Kaduna, Nigeria
Thoughts and Processes – El Anatsui & Ndubisi Onah, The Italian Cultural Institute, Lagos, Nigeria
AKA '88, Nigerian Union of Journalists' Press Centre, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '88, Contemporary Art Gallery, Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria
AKA '88, National Gallery of Crafts and Design, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1987 AKA '87, The Presidential Hotel, Enugu, Nigeria
AKA '87, National Gallery of Crafts and Design, Lagos, Nigeria
Original Prints from the 3rd Nsukka Workshop, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1986 AKA '86 – Inaugural Exhibition of the AKA Circle of Artists, the French Centre, Enugu and Goethe-Institut, Lagos,
Nigeria

EVERARD READ

- Nigerian-German Prints, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Franco-German Auditorium, Lagos, Nigeria
- 1983 Four Contemporary African Artists, Mintec Gallery, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- 1982 Okike 10th Anniversary Exhibition, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
- 1981 Drawing on the World, Billingham Art Gallery, Billingham, UK
Drawing on the World, Middlesborough Art Gallery, Middlesborough, UK
Drawing on the World, The House of Commons Gallery, London, UK
- 1979 Christian Arts in Nigeria, Holy Trinity Cathedral Hall, Onitsha, Nigeria
The Nsukka School, Art Gallery of the Rivers State Council for Arts and Culture, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- 1975 Fabric Wall Hangings, Burnt Wooden Wall Plaques, The Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
- 1974 Tekarts Expo 5, National Arts Centre, Accra; Specialist Training College, Winneba, Ghana
- 1969 – 1970
Ghana National Collection, National Arts Centre, Accra, Ghana
Ghana National Collection, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA