

# NENGI OMUKU

b. 1987 in Warri, Nigeria  
Lives and works in Lagos, Nigeria

## EDUCATION

2012 MA, Slade School of Art, University College London, UK  
2010 BA, Slade School of Art, University College London, UK

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 (Upcoming) Nengi at de Young Museum  
2024 *Wild Things and Perennials*, Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA 2023- *The Dance of People and The Natural World*, Hastings  
2024 Contemporary, UK  
2023 *As Water Never Touched*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA  
2022 *Parables of Joy*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK  
2021 *Chorus*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
2020 *Gathering*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK  
2017 *Stages of Collapse*, September Gray, Atlanta, USA  
2016 *A State of Mind*, The Armory Show, New York, USA  
2015 *A State of Mind*, Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria  
2011 *To Figure an Encounter*, Open The Gate, London, UK

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 (Upcoming) Lentos Museum, Austria  
(Upcoming) Pansori, a soundscape of the 21st century, 15th Gwangju Biennale, Korea  
*Exchanges*, The Whitworth, Manchester, UK  
*The Poetics of Dimensions*, curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco, USA  
Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal  
*A Spirit Inside*, travelling exhibition, Compton Verney, UK  
*Soulscapes*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, UK  
2023 *Free The Wine, The Spirit, and The Sun*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London  
*A Spirit Inside*, travelling exhibition, The Lightbox, Woking, UK  
*Aso Oke: Prestige Cloth from Nigeria*, St Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, USA  
*Rites of Passage*, Gagosian, London, UK  
2022 *CHAOS: CALM*, Bangkok Art Biennale, Bangkok, Thailand  
*Dissolving Realms*, curated by Katy Hessel, Kasmin, New York, NY  
*The Company She Keeps*, Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos, Nigeria  
*Uprising*, Schloss Görne, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
*What Lies Beneath: Women, Politics, Textiles*, New Hall Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, UK  
*Ubuntu: I Am Because We Are*, curated by Louise Stefani, Africana Art Centre, online exhibition  
2021 *Self-Addressed*, curated by Kehinde Wiley at Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, USA

- Ubuntu: I Am Because We Are*, World Trade Organisation, Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
- Dancing in Dark Times*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
- À Corps Défendant*, La Galerie, Centre D'Art Contemporain, Noisy-Le-Sec, France
- Facing The Sun*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery at Schloss Görne, Germany
- The Invincible Hands*, Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2020 *All the Days and Nights*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery (Wandsworth), London
- Untitled Art San Francisco, with Kristin Hjellegjerde, San Francisco
- 2019 *1-54*, with Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London
- 2018 *Hospital Rooms*, Griffin Gallery, London
- At work*, Arthouse, Lagos
- 2017 *ARTX*, Lagos
- Commotion*, 1:54, London
- 2015 *Mapping Histories*, Constructing Realities, ART15, London
- 2014 *The Next 50 Years*, Omenka Gallery, Lagos
- 2012 *Jerwood Drawing Prize Exhibition*, Jerwood Gallery, London
- 2011 *Deep Cuts Last Measures*, Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London
- Surplus to Requirements*, Slade Research Center, London
- 2010 *The Future of Contemporary Art*, Lloyd Gill Gallery, Bristol
- Group Exhibition*, Swiss Cottage Gallery, London
- 2009 *Group Exhibition*, Camden Art Gallery, London

## AWARDS

- 2022 Henrike Grohs Art Award Nominee
- 2012 Prankerd Jones Memorial Prize  
Awarded by University College London
- 2011 Nancy Balfour MA Scholarship  
Awarded by University College London
- 2003 Winner- British Council CHOGM art competition  
Awarded by Queen Elisabeth II

## COMMISSIONS & RESIDENCES

- 2024 Civitella Raneiri Residency, Italy
- 2022- Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal
- 2023
- 2022 Kòbomojé Artist in Residence, Ibadan, Nigeria
- 2021 World Trade Organisation Residency organised by African Art Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2018 Mural, family rooms, Eileen Skellern intensive care psychiatric ward, Maudsley Hospital, London

## COLLECTIONS

Azman Museum  
Baltimore Museum of Art  
Black Rock Senegal  
The Bunker Artspace Museum  
Easton Capital Collection  
HSBC Art Collection  
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, (ICA Miami)  
Loewe Art Collection  
Monsoon Art Collection  
Dawn Art Collection  
Women's Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge  
Whitworth, Manchester

## PRESS

- 2023 **New Artist Spotlight: Nengi Omuku at Kasmin, 19 June, 2023**  
<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsyeditorial-new-artist-spotlight-nengi-omuku-kasmin>.  
**Talk Art – Guest: Nengi Omuku, 27 Jan 2023**  
[https://open.spotify.com/episode/3870qseDRvfiJy2nsomDmG?go=1&sp\\_cid=fe84acd6c1739e86eb1f3b219e5d6319&utm\\_source=embed\\_player\\_p&utm\\_medium=desktop](https://open.spotify.com/episode/3870qseDRvfiJy2nsomDmG?go=1&sp_cid=fe84acd6c1739e86eb1f3b219e5d6319&utm_source=embed_player_p&utm_medium=desktop)  
**Against the odds: the quiet triumph of Lagos's art scene**  
[https://www.artbasel.com/stories/against-the-odds-the-quiet-triumph-of-lagos-art-scene?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_content=](https://www.artbasel.com/stories/against-the-odds-the-quiet-triumph-of-lagos-art-scene?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=&utm_content=)
- 2022 **Chelsea Calling: this summer's group shows remind the reign of gallery district, The Artnewspaper**  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/07/18/chelsea-calling-this-summer-group-shows-remind-the-reign-of-gallery-district>  
**this summer's Artist Nengi Omuku Paints Portraits on Traditional Nigerian Textiles. See Inside Her Lagos Studio Here, Artnet**  
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/studio-visit-nengi-omuku-2125897>  
**As the Art World's Gaze Returns to Nigeria, Meet the Local Players Who Are Working to Ensure the Sustainability of Its Market, Artnet**  
<https://news.artnet.com/news-pro/nigeria-sustainable-collecting-2069608>  
**Spotlight Nigerian Artist Nengi Omuku, The Wick**  
<https://thewickculture.com/spotlight-nigerian-artist-nengi-omuku/>  
**Nengi Omuku: „It's the Only Irreplaceable Thing in My Studio”, Elephant Magazine**  
<https://elephant.art/nengi-omuku-its-the-only-irreplaceable-thing-in-my-studio-27062022/>  
**Interview: nigerian Painter Nengi Omuku On Precolonial Textiles, Floristry & Mental Health, Something Curated**

- <https://somethingcurated.com/2022/06/15/interview-nigerian-painter-nengi-omuku-on-precolonial-textiles-floristry-mental-health/>  
 “People Seem to be Trying to Reconnect with Nature” Conversation with Nengi Omuku, The Republic  
<https://republic.com.ng/october-november-2022/in-conversation-with-nengi-omuku/>
- 2021 Karim Kal et Nengi Omuku, Andréanne Beguin, Andréanne Béguin, Zérodeux  
<https://www.zerodeux.fr/reviews/karim-kal-et-nengi-omuku/>
- 2020 Trebuchet Magazine: Painting the Collective: An Interview with Nengi Omuku  
<https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/nengi-omuku/>  
 FAD Magazine: 16 artists explore portraiture through their different mediums at Kristin Hjellegjerde  
<https://fadmagazine.com/2020/02/25/16-artists-explore-portraiture-through-their-different-mediums-at-kristin-hjellegjerde/>  
 Artskop: A Race To Digitalize: African Art’s New Playground  
<https://www.artskop.com/artmedia/en/a-race-to-digitalize-african-contemporary-art-during-covid-19/>  
 The Sole Adventurer: Nengi Omuku Paints a Cartography of Collective Strife and Solidarity | By Hanou Amendah  
<https://thesoleadventurer.com/nengi-omuku-paints-a-cartography-of-collective-strife-and-solidarity-by-hanou-amendah/>
- 2019 Forbes: What To See And Buy At The African 1-54 Art Fair In London  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/joanneshurvell/2019/10/04/what-to-see-and-buy-at-the-african-1-54-art-fair-in-london/?sh=6695c7d85a4b>  
 Harpers Bazaar Arabia: Why Do We Need An Art Fair Dedicated To African Art?  
<https://www.harpersbazaararabia.com/art/fairs-and-events/154-contemporary-african-art-fair-answers-africas-call-to-be-seen>
- 2018 Chanel 4 News: Charity transforms Mental Health Units with Art  
<https://www.channel4.com/news/charity-transforms-mental-health-unitswith-art/> / <https://hospital-rooms.com/blog-home/2018/10/10/we-are-together-nengi-omuku-in-the-family-room-at-eileen-skellern-1>  
 In Studio with Sharon  
<https://soundcloud.com/instudiowithso/episode-11-nengi-omuku>  
 “Interview: Nengi Omuku”  
[http://showstudio.com/project/hospital\\_rooms/interview\\_nengi\\_omuku](http://showstudio.com/project/hospital_rooms/interview_nengi_omuku)
- 2016 “Interview: Nengi Omuku with Emmanuel Iduma,” Degree Critical.  
<https://artwriting.sva.edu/journal/post/interviews-nengi-omuku-with-emmanuel-iduma>  
 “Interview: Nengi Omuku with Paula-Anne Omiyi,” She Leads Africa.  
<https://sheleadsafrica.org/nengi-omuku-small-girl-large-canvas/>  
 “Inside the Armory Show’s Game Changing African Focus,” Okay Africa.  
<http://www.okayafrica.com/armory-focus-african-perspectives-2016/>
- 2015 “African Artists On the Way Up,” Financial Times.  
<https://www.ft.com/content/32a89642-8797-11e5-90de-f44762bf9896>

“Nengi Omuku’s State of Mind,”

<http://www.iam-africa.com/nengi-omukus-state-of-mind/>

“Tracing Emerging Contemporary Art in Nigeria,” Another Africa.

<http://www.anotherafrica.net/art-culture/tracing-emerging-contemporaryart-practice-in-nigeria>