

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

2024 (Upcoming) 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) Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
EXPO Chicago, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Chicago, IL
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
Dawn Art Collection
Ditau Collection
Easton Capital Collection
HSBC Art Collection
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, (ICA Miami)
Loewe Art Collection
Monsoon Art Collection
The Bunker Artspace Museum
The Whitworth, Manchester
Women's Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge
The Norton Museum of Art

PRESS

- 2024 8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows Across America in January**
<https://galeriemagazine.com/must-see-gallery-shows-january-2024/>.
Nengi Omuku: As Water Never Touched
<https://www.surfacemag.com/events/nengi-omuku-as-water-never-touched/>
- 2023 Meet 8 Artists who broke big in 2023 – From Sculptor Mire Lee to Abstract Painter Rachel Jones**
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/breakout-stars-2023-2413605>.
How Moving Back to Her Home Country of Nigeria Changed the Course of Rites of Passage review: stilt-walkers and slave ship ghosts brave the Atlantic
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/mar/21/rites-of-passage-review-gagosian-london-slave-ship>.
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?lang=en>.
Artist Nengi Omuku's Career
<https://www.culturedmag.com/article/2023/12/08/artist-nengi-omuku-nigeria-palm-beach#:~:text=Omuku%20discovered%20the%20artistic%20potential,in%20the%20Lagos%20art%20scene>.
First UK solo exhibition comes to Hastings by rising Nigerian Artist
<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-08/first-uk-solo-exhibition-comes-to-hastings-by-rising-nigerian-artist>.
Rising Nigerian artist Nengi Omuku introduces her first major UK solo show
<https://www.creativeboom.com/features/nengi-omuku-introduces-her-first-institution-show/#:~:text=Interviews%20Art%20%26%20Culture-,Rising%20Nigerian%20artist%20Nengi%20Omuku%20introduces%20her%20first%20major%20UK,former%20career%20as%20a%20florist>.
L'arte Africana conquista Londra
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/l-arte-africana-conquista-londra-AFIOTrGB?refresh_ce=1.
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
- 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=
- 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-s-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: nigerain 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 Béguin, 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-units-with-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
- 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-contemporary-art-practice-in-nigeria>

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Lisa Anderson, *Soulscapes*, Exhibition Catalogue, Dulwich Picture Gallery
- 2023 Liz Gilmore, Azu Nwagbogu, Nengi Omuku, *Dance of People and The Natural World*, Exhibition Catalogue, Hastings Contemporary
- 2022 *Nengi Omuku: Parables of Joy*, essay by Charlotte Jansen, Exhibition Catalogue, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery
- 2021 *Ubuntu: I Am Because We Are*, Exhibition Catalogue, Africana Art Foundation
The Invincible Hands: An Exhibition of Works by Nigerian Women in Art, Exhibition Catalogue, Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Pan-Atlantic University