

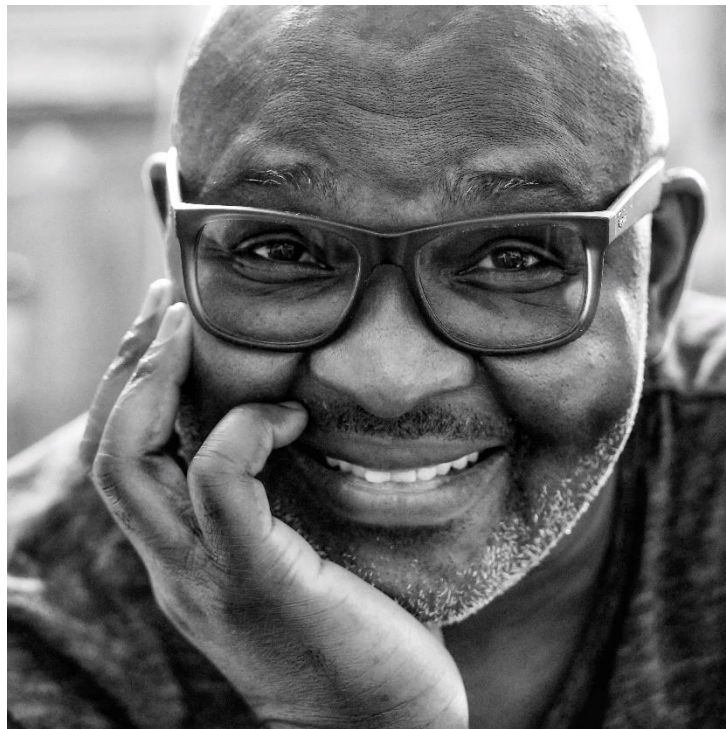


CENTENNIAL ART COMMISSIONS

The Phillips Collection presents commissions by Wesley Clark, Nekisha Durrett, and Victor Ekpuk

The Phillips Collection presents bold, contemporary site-specific commissions by DC-based artists Wesley Clark, Nekisha Durrett, and Victor Ekpuk.

The Phillips Collection's Centennial Artist Commissions are supported generously by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Frauke de Looper Trust, and the Sherman Fairchild Foundation.



Victor Ekpuk

Artwork site: The Phillips Collection entrance vestibule, summer 2021

Victor Ekpuk (b. 1964, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria; lives in Washington, DC) is internationally renowned for his paintings, drawings, and sculptures, which reimagine the ancient Nigerian communication system, *Nsibidi*, to create his own unique language of abstraction. In recent years, Ekpuk has focused on large-scale projects, including a 30 x 18-foot mural for the North Carolina Museum of Art in 2017, and a 20-foot metal sculpture *Hope and Dream Under Glory* housed at Boone Elementary School in Southeast DC in 2019. Ekpuk is a Smithsonian Fellow and holds a BFA from Obafemi Awolowo University. His work has been featured in national and international exhibitions, including Dakar Biennial, Senegal; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Museum of Arts and Design, New York; Somerset House, London; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; and the 12th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba. Ekpuk's work is included in numerous collections including the Hood Museum,

Hanover, New Hampshire; Newark Museum of Art, New Jersey; and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, DC.

“In the vestibule of The Phillips Collection, I want to welcome visitors to a sense of a spiritual sacred space through an immersive experience. Through my ‘script’ drawings, the distinction between writing and visual art, legibility and illegibility are all dissolved. This process encourages viewers to experience my work in a holistic manner, allowing the abstraction rooted in ancestral knowledge and indigenous power symbols to build intuitive meaning. In the vestibule, I wish to create a collective experience across cultures and space to connect the ancient past and the contemporary moment.”

Watch Victor talk about his work

WATCH VIDEO

