

VICTOR EKPUK (b. 1964, Nigeria)

Lives and works in Washington, DC.

EDUCATION

1989 Bachelor of Fine & Applied Art, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Ekpuk, a Smithsonian Institution fellow, has been featured in several international and national exhibitions;

- 2022 *I am my Ancestor's Essence*, Aicon, New York
- 2021 *I am my Ancestor's Essence*, TAFETA, London
- 2019 *Marks and Objects*, Aicon Gallery, New York
Harlem Sunrise, The Africa Center, New York
- 2018 Art Dubai Modern, TAFETA, Dubai
- 2017 *These Moments*, Morton Fine Art Washington DC, USA
- 2016 *Coming Home*, Arthouse, the Space, Lagos, Nigeria
Portraits, Sulger Buel-Lovell Galery, London, UK
- 2015 *Auto Graphics*, Hood Museum, New Hampshire, USA
- 2014 *Auto-Graphics*, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, Illinois, USA
- 2013 *Reminiscences and Current Musings*, Mortons Fine Art, Washington DC, USA
Drawing Memories, Turchin Center for Art, Appalachian State University, N. Carolina, USA
- 2011 *Drawing Metaphors*, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA
- 2009 *Of Lines and Life*, The Richard F. Brush Gallery, University of St. Lawrence, Canton, New York
Victor Ekpuk, Long View Gallery, Washington DC, USA
- 2006 *Drawing From Within*, Galerie 23, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2005 *Storylines: Drawings of Victor Ekpuk*, Montgomery College, College Park, Maryland, USA
- 2004 *Trans/Script: The Art of Victor Ekpuk*, Brandeis University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
200 Manuscript Series (Ancient Symbols/Contemporary Forms), Parish Gallery, Washington D.C., USA
- 1998 *Songs*, 18th Street Arts Complex, Santa Monica, California, USA (Sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle)
- 1995 *Windsongs*, French Cultural Center, Lagos, Nigeria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020 *Vernacular Automatisms*, Aicon Gallery, New York

- 2019 *Get Up, Stand Up Now*, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2018 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York
Resignifications: The Black Mediterranean, University of Palermo, Palermo Italy
- 2017 *Treasures of Islam In Africa From Timbuktu to Zanzibar*, Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 2016 *Six Fold Symmetry*, Tang Museum, New York
- 2015 12th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
Africa Now-Political Patterns, Seoul Museum of Art, Korea
- 2014 Dakar Biennale, Dakar Senegal
- 2013 *Totem*, Fondation JP Blachere, Apt, France
Diaspora Dialogue, University of Maryland University College
- 2012 *Le Temps De L'Eau*, Musée des Tapisseries, Aix en Provence, France
- 2011 *Drawing Analogies*, Athenaeum, Alexandria, Virginia, USA
- 2010 *Global Africa Project*, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA
International Poster and Graphic Art Festival of Chaumont, France
Them-and-Us, Hudiksvallsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2009 *Unbounded: New Art for a New Century*, Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA
- 2008 *Africa Now!*, The World Bank, Washington DC, USA
Beyond Boundaries - mapping currents for the 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China
- 2007 *Inscribing Meanings*, National Museum for African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington (DC), USA. Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA
Art In Red Light, Oude Kirk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2006 *Inspired by Spinoza*, Vrije Akademie, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2003-05 *Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo Kuti*,
Traveling exhibition: New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA, The Barbican Galleries, London, UK Yerba Buena Center for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, California, USA
Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- 2001 *Arttexts*, Jamaica Center for Art and Learning, Jamaica, New York, USA
Kunst Raj, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1995 *Africus*, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa

GRANTS, RESIDENCIES & ARTIST LECTURES

- 2019 Conversation with Nnedi Okorafor, The Africa Center, New York
- 2018 *Objects & Stories: Excavating Memories of the Middle Passage*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, USA

- Master Class, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, USA
- 2017 Artist in Residence, Brooks Museum, Memphis Tennessee, USA
- 2015 Arthouse Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2013 Artist In Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico, USA
Artist in Residence, Foundation JP Blachere, Apt, France
- 2012 Artist Lecture, Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco, California, USA
- 2010 Falk Visiting Artist: University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
Artist Lecture: University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
- 2009 Artist Lecture: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum for African Art, Washington DC, USA
- 2007 Artist Residency: Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Artist Lecture: Africa Day, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2004 Artist Residency: Brandies University, Waltham Massachusetts, USA.
- 1998 Artist Residency: 18th Street Arts Complex, Santa Monica, California, USA (Sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle)
Artist Lecture: Pasadena College of Art and Design, Pasadena, California, USA

SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Created immersive work in entrance vestibule of The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, for the museum's centennial commission.
- 2019 20 ft. metal sculpture *Hope and Dream Under Glory*, commissioned by City of Washington District of Columbia at Boone Elementary School in SE Washington, DC.
The Face, 17 ft. landmark sculpture commissioned by Bank ABC (Arab Bank Corporation) at its world headquarters in The Kingdom of Bahrain.
- 2017 Cover illustrations for Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer at Ease*, *Arrow of God* and *The African Trilogy*. Published by Penguin Books
Large scale centerpiece mural (30 x 18 ft.) North Carolina Museum of Art
Mural painting "Essence of Memphis" in African Gallery commissioned by Brooks Museum, Memphis Tennessee.
- 2016 Trophy design for first AFRICAN ARTIST AWARD by Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art.
58 ft. mural *Essence of Memphis*, currently at the Memphis Brooks Museum, was site of a scene in *Brian Banks*, the latest movie by Tom Shavdiac.
Illustrated new covers of reissue popular books by Africa's most renowned author, Chinua Achebe. Commissioned by Penguin Random House Publishers. These volumes include, *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer at Ease*, *Arrow of God*, *A Man of The People*, and other well-loved Achebe novels.

COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Art Center, USA

Bank ABC International Headquarter, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Brooks Museum, USA

Elizabeth Miller Sculpture Center, Kansas

Hood Museum, USA

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India

Krannert Art Museum, USA

Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA

National Museum of African Art (NMAFA), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

National Museum of African American Culture & History (NMAACH), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, USA

United States Art in Embassies Art Collection

University of Maryland University College Art Collection, USA

The World Bank, Washington, DC, USA