

VICTOR EKPUK (b. 1964, Nigeria)

Lives and works in Washington D.C., USA

EDUCATION

1989 BFA & BAA, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *INTERwoven TEXTures*, Efi & Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Language and Lineage, Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey, USA
- 2021,22 *I am my Ancestor's Essence*, TAFETA, London, UK; Aicon, New York, USA
- 2019 *Marks and Objects*, Aicon, New York, USA
Harlem Sunrise, The Africa Center, New York, USA
- 2018 Art Dubai Modern, TAFETA, Dubai, India
- 2017 *These Moments*, Morton Fine Art Washington D.C., USA
- 2016 *Coming Home*, Arthouse, The Space, Lagos, Nigeria
Portraits, Sulger Buel-Lovell Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Auto Graphics*, Hood Museum, New Hampshire, USA
- 2014 *Auto-Graphics*, Krannert Art Museum, Illinois, USA
- 2013 *Reminiscences and Current Musings*, Mortons Fine Art, Washington D.C., USA
Drawing Memories, Turchin Center for Art, Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA
- 2011 *Drawing Metaphors*, James Madison University, Virginia, USA
- 2009 *Of Lines and Life*, The Richard F. Brush Gallery, University of St. Lawrence, New York, USA
Victor Ekpuk, Long View Gallery, Washington D.C., 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, Massachusetts, USA
USA200 Manuscript Series (Ancient Symbols/Contemporary Forms), Parish Gallery, Washington D.C., USA
- 1998 *Songs*, sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle, 18th Street Arts Complex, California, USA
- 1995 *Windsongs*, French Cultural Center, Lagos, Nigeria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *A Tapestry of Contemporary African Art*, Patchogue Arts Council, New York, USA
Contours of Memory, Montague Contemporary, New York, USA
Art on Paper, Morton Fine Art, Washington D.C., USA
Africa Supernova, Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort, The Netherlands

- 2023 *Pattern and Process*, Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, Illinois, USA
Ever Present, Efi & Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2022 *Under the African Sun*, Ethan Cohen, New York, USA
Disrupting Ant-Blackness: Artists Voicing Truths, Patricia & Philip Frost Art Museum, Florida, USA
- 2021-22 *A Passion for Collecting: The Vision of Louis Allan Ford (1942-2020)*, Galerie Myrtis, Maryland, USA
- 2021 *Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place*, Michael C. Carlous Museum, Georgia, USA
Black and Blue: Prints in the Time of COVID, Galerie Myrtis, Maryland, USA
Aicon x Palo Alto, Aicon, California, USA
- 2020 *Vernacular Automatisms*, Aicon, New York, USA
- 2019 *Get Up, Stand Up Now: Generations of Black Creative Pioneers*, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2018 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, USA
Resignifications: The Black Mediterranean, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy
It's About That Time: Prints from Lily Press, Washington D.C., Arts Center, USA
- 2017 *Treasures of Islam In Africa From Timbuktu to Zanzibar*, Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
Drawing Memory, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Tennessee, USA
- 2016 *Six Fold Symmetry*, Tang Museum, New York, USA
- 2015 12th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
Africa Now-Political Patterns, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
Take Me To The River, Octavia Art Gallery, Louisiana, USA
- 2014 Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
- 2013 *Totem*, Fondation JP Blachere, Apt, France
Diaspora Dialogue, University of Maryland, Maryland, USA
- 2012 *Le Temps De L'Eau*, Musée des Tapisseries, Aix en Provence, France
- 2011 *Drawing Analogies*, Athenaeum, Virginia, USA
- 2010 *Global Africa Project*, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA
International Poster and Graphic Art Festival, 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 D.C., USA
Beyond Boundaries - Mapping Currents for the 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China
- 2007 *Inscribing Meanings*, National Museum for African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.; Fowler Museum, UCLA, 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*, New Museum, New York, USA
 Traveling Exhibition: New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA, The Barbican Galleries, London, UK; Yerba Buena Center for Contemporary Arts, California, USA
 Contemporary Arts Center, Ohio, USA
- 2001 *Arttexts*, Jamaica Center for Art and Learning, New York, USA
Kunst Rai, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1995 *Africus*, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Gameli Hamelo, "Victor Ekpuk Turns Ancient African Communication Systems into Captivating Contemporary Abstraction," *ARTSY*, 2023.
- Briana Ellis-Gibbs, "Using A Nigerian Secret Writing System to Expose Social Injustice," *Hyperallergic*, 2023.
- Tris McCall, "Victor Ekpuk Communicates in Unique Way in Princeton Show," *NJ Arts*, 2023.
- Siba Kumar Das, "Victor Ekpuk: Language and Lineage at Princeton University Gallery," *Dart Magazine*, 2023.
- "Nigerian Artist Victor Ekpuk's New Exhibit Brings Ancient Nsibidi Visual Language to a Modern-Day Era, interview by Team EBONY, 2023.
- Bella Naija, "Design Week Lagos 2022 is Over! Here Are Some Amazing Highlights From the Show," *Bella Naija*, 2022.
- Farah Abdessamad, "Review: Aicon Gallery Presents Colorful Victor Ekpuk and Natvar Bhavsar's Pigments in Parallel Exhibitions," *Observer*, 2022.
- Jannie A. Sytsma, "Hidden Elements: Victor Ekpuk's Illustrations for the Daily Times of Nigeria," *African Arts*, Winter 2021: 38-51.
- Abby Elyssa, "Capturing the Capital City," *Inspire Design*, 2021.
- "Decoding Victor Ekpuk's New Installation - What Do You See?," *Experiment Station*, 2021.
- "Confronting the Beast Through Art," interview by Sharon Pendana, *Contemporary And (C&)*, 2021.
- "Centennial Art Commissions," *Phillips*, 2021.
- Tajudee Sowole, "Ekpuk and the Art of Native Contents," *The Guardian*, 2020.
- "Smithsonian Acquires Painting by Nigeria's Victor Ekpuk," *Eelive*, 2020.
- Milly Chan, "Artist Victor Ekpuk's Mesmerizing Mural Pays Homage to African Writing Systems," *CNN*, 2019.
- Bill Dries, "African Art Begins Transition at Brooks Museum," *The Daily News*, 2017.
- Chris Vitiello, "Victor Ekpuk's Divine Mural at the North Carolina Museum of Art Heralds New Life for Its African Galleries," *INDY*, 2017.
- "Victor Ekpuk at Tafeta Gallery," *Meer*, 2017.
- Auto-Graphics: Works by Victor Ekpuk; *Ukara: Ritual Cloth of the Ekpe Secret Society*. *African Arts* 2016; 49 (2): 84-86.

SELECTED ARTIST TALKS, LECTURES & CONFERENCES

- 2019 "Conversation with Nnedi Okorafor," The Africa Center, New York, USA

- 2018 “Objects & Stories: Excavating Memories of the Middle Passage,” Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
 Master Class, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2012 Artist Lecture, Museum of African Diaspora, California, USA
- 2010 Falk Visiting Artist, University of North Carolina, North Carolina, USA
 Artist Lecture, University of North Carolina, North Carolina, USA
- 2009 Artist Lecture, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum for African Art, Washington D.C., USA
 Artist Lecture, “Africa Day,” The Hague, The Netherlands
 Artist Lecture, Pasadena College of Art and Design, California, USA

SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Created immersive work in entrance vestibule of The Phillips Collection for the museum’s centennial commission, Washington D.C., USA
- 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, D.C., USA
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*, (Penguin Books), 2017.
 Large scale centerpiece mural (30 x 18 ft.) North Carolina Museum of Art, North Carolina, USA
 Mural painting “Essence of Memphis” in African Gallery commissioned by Brooks Museum, Tennessee, USA
- 2016 Trophy design for first African Artist Award, 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

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Artist in Residence, Brooks Museum, 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, California, USA
- 2007 Artist Residency: Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2004 Artist Residency: Brandies University, Massachusetts, USA
- 1998 Artist Residency: 18th Street Arts Complex, sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle, California, USA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Arkansas Art Center, Arkansas, USA

Bank ABC International Headquarter, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Brooks Museum, Tennessee, USA

Elizabeth Miller Sculpture Center, Kansas, USA

Hood Museum, New Hampshire, USA

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India

Krannert Art Museum, Illinois, USA

Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA

National Museum of African Art (NMAFA), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

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

The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., USA

United States Art in Embassies Art Collection

University of Maryland University College Art Collection, Maryland, USA

The World Bank, Washington D.C., USA