

# NNENNA OKORE

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## EDUCATION

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- 2005 M.F.A. Sculpture, University of Iowa.  
2004 M.A. Sculpture, University of Iowa.  
1999 B.A. Painting, University of Nigeria. (First Class Honors)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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- 2015- Professor, North Park University, Chicago, USA  
2012-13 Fulbright Scholar, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria.  
2011- 15 Associate Professor, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
2005-11 Assistant Professor, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
2005-05 Research Assistant, Library Information Arcade, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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- 2018 *Guilty Pleasures*, with Threewalls at Expo Chicago, Chicago, USA.  
*Embodiment*, Sakhile&Me Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2017 *Ukwa Ruo Oge Ya O daa*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Ututu*, Mattatuck Museum of Art, Waterbury, CT, USA.  
*Anima*, Legion Art CSPS Galleries, Cedar Rapids, USA.  
*Osimili*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA.
- 2016 *Sheer Audacity*, Installation at Memphis Brook Museum of Art, Memphis, USA.  
*When All Is Said and Done*, Installation for 'On the Wall at Monique Moloche Gallery, Chicago, USA.
- 2015 *Owu*, Arrowhead Gallery, Waubensee College, Sugar Grove, USA.  
*Nkata*, Krannert Museum of Art, University of Urbana-Champaign, USA.  
*On the Brink*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, USA.
- 2014 *Twist and Turns*, David Krut Gallery, New York, USA.  
*Fiber of Being*, Welch School Galleries, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA.  
*Unfound*, Beard Art Center Gallery, Indiana Wesleyan University, Indiana, USA.  
*Will You Walk With Me to the End of the Earth?*, Carlson Tower Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.
- 2013 *Akaraka: What will be*, Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria.  
*Flow*, Wheatbaker Hotel Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2012 *Transfiguration*, Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York, USA.
- 2011 *Nnenna Okore: New Works*, Herron School of Art and Design Gallery, Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA.  
*Shokoloko*, Craft Alliance, St. Louis, USA.  
Rush, Skidmore College Gallery, New York, USA.  
*Metamorphoses*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Torn Apart*, David Krut Projects, New York, USA.  
*On The Edge*, Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA.
- 2010 *Life After*, Noyes Art Center, Evanston, USA.  
*Textile*, Blachere Foundation Art Center, Apt, France.  
*Recovered Energies*, Bekris Gallery, San Francisco, USA.  
*Abstrud Beauty*, Northeastern Illinois University Gallery, Chicago, USA.
- 2009 *Strings and Patterns*, Viterbo University Gallery, La Crosse, USA.  
*Anyanwu*, Carl A. Fields Center Gallery, Princeton University, Princeton, USA.  
*Twisted Ambience*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, USA.  
*Of Earth...Bark and Topography*, Goethe Institut, Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2008 *Ulukububa*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Moonlight Tales*, Tall Grass Gallery, Park Forest, USA.  
*Affrika West*, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, UK.
- 2007 *Reflection*, Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York City, USA.  
*Sub-consciousness*, Adam Hall Gallery, Wheaton College, Wheaton, USA.
- 2006 *Betwixt and Between*, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.
- 2005 *Paper to Paper*, Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.
- 2004 *Accumulations*, Arts Iowa City, Iowa City, USA.
- 2003 *Re-presented*, Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.
- 2002 *Beyond the Lines*, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.

2001 *Metaphors*, Alternate Space, Lagos, Nigeria.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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- 2018 *Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists*, August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.  
*Abstract Minded: Works by Six Contemporary African Artists*, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, State University of New York, New Paltz, NY, USA.
- 2017 *Abstract Minded*, N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, USA.  
*The Enlighteners*, Palais des Papes, Musée du Petit Palais, Musée Calvet and Musée Lapidaire, France.  
*Beyond the Surface*, with Assaf Evron and Leonard, curated by Cortney Lederer, Fashion Outlet of Chicago, Chicago, USA.  
*When the Heavens Meet The Earth*, The Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge, UK.  
*Weather or Not, That is the Question*, Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, USA.  
*Faculty Show*, Brendel Library Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.
- 2016 *La mer/La mère*, St Mary's College, South Bend, USA.  
*Group Show*, Art Expo, with Jerkins Johnson Gallery, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA.  
*Standing Out*, Temple Muse, Lagos, Nigeria.  
*Summertime Group Exhibition*, Jerkinks Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA.  
*Group Show*, Art Market San Francisco, with Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA.  
*Group show*, Art Dubai, with Sakshi Gallery, Dubai.  
*Finding Shelter: An Exhibition of Contemporary Fiber Art*, Baum Gallery, University of Central Arkansas, USA.
- 2015 *Exceptional: Handmade Paper Beyond Substrate*, Minnesota Center for Book Art, USA.  
*The Contemporaries*, Wheatbaker Hotel, Ikoyi, Nigeria.  
*Works from Around our State*, Evanston Art Center, USA.  
*Africa Africans*, Museu Afro Brasil, Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
*Faculty Art Show*, Brendel Library Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.
- 2014 *Interwoven Histories*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Brides of Anansi: Fiber and Contemporary Art*, Spelman Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, USA.  
*African Origins*, Morton Fine Art, Washington DC, USA.  
*Faculty Art Show*, Brandel Library, North Park University, Chicago, USA.
- 2013 *Six Draughtsmen*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporic Art (MoCADA), New York, USA.  
*International Biennial of Lin de Portneuf*, Quebec, Canada.  
*No One Belongs Here More Than You*, Center for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria  
*Textura*, Bekris gallery, San Francisco, USA.
- 2012 *Inside-out/Outside-in*, Two-person show, Visual Art Center Gallery, Mississippi State University, USA.
- 2011 *Environment and Object in Recent African Art*, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.  
*Transcending Integration*, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, USA.  
*Environment and Object in Recent African Art*, Tang Museum, Skidmore College, New York, USA.
- 2010 *Scratch*, presented by Sakshi Gallery at Latit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India.  
*(Re-) Cycles of Paradise*, UN COP16, Cancun, Mexico.  
*29th Sao Paulo Biennial*, Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
*Textile*, Blachere Foundation Art Center, Apt, France.
- 2009 *(Re-) Cycles of Paradise*, UN COP15, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
*Common Ground*, Bekris Gallery, San Francisco, USA.  
*In Progress*, Group show at Carlson Tower Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
*Trash Menagerie*, Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Salem, USA.  
*Paper to Pulp*, Howard County Center for the Arts, Ellicott City, USA.  
*Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Chance Encounters*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India.  
*Objects of A Revolution*, Galerie Dominique Fait, Paris.  
*Trace/Memory*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, USA.
- 2008 *Angaza Africa*, October Gallery, London, UK.  
*Affrika West* at Galeri Artspace, Caernarfon, UK.  
*Channel4 Art Exhibition*, Channel4, Art4, London, UK.  
*Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York City, USA.  
*Refabrication*, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
*Clay and Fiber*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, USA.  
*Joburg Art Fair*, (sponsored by October Gallery) Sandton Convention Center, Johannesburg, South Africa.

- 2006 *Trading Spaces*, Binghamton University, Binghamton, USA.  
 2006 *African Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Dakar Biennale, Senegal.  
 2005 *Twelfth SOFA International Exposition*, Chicago, USA.  
*Faculty Show*, Carlson Gallery, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
*8th International Open Exhibition*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, USA  
 2003 *Migrations*, Legion Arts CSPPS, Cedar Rapids, USA  
*Units*, Legion Arts CSPPS, Cedar Rapids, USA  
 2002 *New Works*, Armature Gallery, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA  
 2001 *New Energies*, Nimbus Gallery and Mydrim Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria.  
 1999 *B.A Exhibition*, Ana Gallery, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

## GRANTS/AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

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- 2018 Individual Professional Development Grant, North Park University, Chicago, USA.  
 2017 Research and Development Lab (RaD Lab) Award, Threewalls, Chicago, USA.  
 2012 Fulbright Scholar Award to Nigeria.  
 2011 Artist-in-residence/Teaching Fellowship, Skidmore College, New York, USA.  
 2010 Artist Residency, Jean Paul Blachère Foundation, Apt, France.  
 Artist-in-residence, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, USA.  
 2008 North Park University Individual Project Grant, Chicago, USA.  
 2007 Artist Full Fellowship at Global Art Village, Delhi, India.  
 Residency at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, USA.  
 2006 Art Omi International Residency, New York, USA.  
 UNESCO-Aschberg Fellowship for Artists (Gruber Jez Foundation), Mexico.  
 2005 North Park University Individual Project Grant, Chicago, USA.  
 2004 SFAI Residency, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, USA.  
 2002 Graduate Assistantship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.  
 Emma McAllister Novel Scholarship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.  
 Teaching Assistantship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA.  
 1999 Valedictorian (Fine Arts), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.  
 1994 First prize, UNIFEM Women's Art Contest, Lagos, Nigeria.  
 1993 First prize, UNICEF African Child's Day Art Competition, Mbabane, Swaziland.

## SELECTED WORK REVIEWS

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- 2017 *Between Fragility and Potency-A world of Sculptural transformation*, by Elsa Guily, Intense Art Magazine, #3, October, 2017.  
 2016 *Nnenna Okore's Sheer Audacity at the Brooks*, by Elle Perry, Memphis Flyer, December 1, 2016.  
*Matter As Metaphor: The Art of Nnenna Okore*, by Oliver Enwonwu, Omenka Magazine, Issue 4, Vol 1, 2016.  
 2015 *A Sprint and a Stroll Through Krannert Art's New Exhibition*, by Rebecca Knaur, Smile Politely: Urbana-Champaign Online Magazine, September 15, 2015.  
*Krannert Art Museum features Solo Show of Chicago-based Artist*, by Jodi Heckel, Illinois New Bureau, August 26, 2015.  
*Nnenna Okore*, Inspirational Magazine, Vol 4, May 2015.  
*Paintings of a Caricaturists, Plus Two Sculptors*, by Peter Plagens, Wall Street Journal, 2 January, 2015.  
 2014 *Wise Buys: 50 Women Artist Worth Watching*, Art+Auction Magazine, September, 2014  
 2013 *Political By Nature: 2500-word interview with Nnenna Okore*, by Robert Preece, Sculpture Magazine, July/August, 2013.  
*Finding inspiration in the most simple things...*, by Faustina Anyanwu, C.Hub Magazine, December-February, Issue 2, Vol 1, 2012/13.  
*African Textiles Today*, by Chris Spring, Smithsonian Book/British Museum Press, 2012.  
*Nnenna Okore: 'Transfiguration'*, by Holland Cutter, New York Times, November 9, 2012.  
 2012 *We Face Forward....*, by Jackie Wullschlagger, Financial Times, August 12, 2012.  
*Out of Africa Comes the Art of Noise*, by Mark Hudson, The Telegraph, 18 July, 2012.  
*Step Aside, Ferguson, African Art takes over Manchester*, by Tajudeen Sowole, The Nigerian Guardian, June 15, 2012.  
*Okore receives Fulbright Award*, by Nkechi opurum, Daily Times, May 3, 2012.  
 2011 *Communication for Change celebrates the launch of a new documentary series...*, by Juliana Oladipo, Fab magazine online, July 11, 2011.  
*Waste Management/Things Torn Apart*, by Kate McCrickard, Art South Africa, Volume 9.4, June 2011.  
*With Metamorphoses, Okore returns to the UK*, The Nigerian Guardian, April 19, 2011.

- 2010 *Fragility, Elegance and Decay*, by A.M Weaver, *Ceramics: Art and Perception, Issue 83, March 2011.*  
*Nigerian Art Market....*, says Nnenna Okore, by McPhillip Nwachukwu, Vanguard, November 25, 2010.  
*Material Meaning*, by Jessica Hemmings, Wasafiri Magazine, Issue 63, 2010.
- 2009 *Into the Art of Africa*, by Elizabeth Upper, Above Magazine, Winter 2009/2010.  
*Contemporary African Art Since 1980*, by Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu, 2009.  
*New Order*, by Chika Okeke-Agulu, *Arise Magazine, Issue 6, October 2009.*  
*Nnenna Okore's art .... recycled material installation*, by Jessica Kronika, The Examiner, August 11, 2009.  
*Visual Arts: Five artists 'paper' the arts center*, by Mike Giuliano, Howard County Times, July 30, 2009.  
*Tom Torluemke and others at the Cultural Center*, by Albert Stabler, Proximity Magazine, July 26, 2009.  
*Wakeful Souls*, by Uzor Maxim Uzoatu, Next Newspaper, July 10, 2009.  
*From Rags to Riches with Art*, by Vanessa Offiong, Weekly Trust, June 2009.  
*The goddess of small things ...*, by Victor Ekhikhamenor, Next Newspaper, June 19, 2009.  
*Imitations of Nature*, by Okechukwu Uwaezuoke, This Day, June 20, 2009.  
*'Of Earth...' Nnenna Okore stages home show*, by Chuka Nnabuiife, Nigerian Compass, June 16, 2009.  
*Nnenna Okore: Ulukububa at October Gallery, London*, by Jessica Hemmings, Surface Design Journal, July edition, 2009.  
*Contemporary Art Auction in Lagos*, by Emmanuel Anyifite, Next Newspaper, April 9, 2009.  
*Okore, Enwonwu, Onabrakpeya, Anatsui, Kentridge others in London's art auction*, by Chuka Nnabuiife and Emmanuel Agozino, Nigerian Compass, April 7, 2009.  
*Groundbreaking African Artists In Spotlight At First British Auction Of Contemporary African Art At Bonhams*, by Julian Roup, Bonhams Headlines, March 2009.  
*Art of Africa*, by Simon de Burton, The Financial Times, March 28, 2009.  
*Artist to Watch: Nnenna Okore*, by Katy Donoghue, Whitewall Magazine, Spring Issue, 2009.  
*Studio Visit with Nnenna Okore: Art from Discarded and Found Things*, by Molara Wood, Next Newspaper, February 08, 2009.
- 2008 *Ulukububa: Infinite Flow*, by Bunmi Akpata-Ohohe, Africa Today, December 3, 2008.  
*Introduction: Ulukububa-Infinite Flow*, by Polly Savage, Exhibition Catalogue, London, Oct 16-Dec 6, 2008.  
*Using Old Materials to Put a New Face on the Museum*, by Roberta Smith, *New York Times*, September 26, 2008.
- 2007 *Mind Openers-Women Artist in Africa*, by Barbara Murray, Farafina Magazine, No 8, January, 2007.
- 2006 *The Yam is King*, by Obi Nwakama, Farafina Magazine, No. 7, October, 2006.  
*As Dak'art Beckons*, by Ugochukwu Uwaerzuoke, This Day, March 26, 2006.
- 2005 *8<sup>th</sup> International Open*, Exhibition Announcement by Woman Made Gallery, March 4, 2005.
- 2003 *Chasing the Paper Trails with Vision*, by Vidya Murthy, Daily Iowan, June 26, 2003.
- 2002 *Plenty Art Shows, Lean Patrons*, by Chukka Nnabuiife, The Guardian, May 21, 2002.
- 2001 *The Metaphors of Today*, by Victor Ikwele, National Interest, August 19, 2001.  
*New Energies, Rebellion against the Old*, by Ozolua Uhakheme, The Guardian, May 15, 2001.  
*The Real Values Beyond the Tags*, by Okechukwu Uwaezuoke, The Comet, May 15, 2001.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- 2018 Guest Speaker, The Art Summit, Lagos, Nigeria.  
 Guest Artist, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL, USA
- 2016 Panel Discussion, with Karen Milbourne and Ato Malinda, AKAA Art Fair, Paris, France.  
 Booth Talk, Nnenna Okore in Conversation with Staci Boris, Expo Chicago, Chicago, USA.  
 Guest Speaker, Career Night at Wheaton College, USA.
- 2015 Visiting Artist, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA.  
 Panel Discussion, with Sidney Kasfir, Chika Okeke-Agulu and Ugochukwu Smooth Nzewi, Anya Fulu Ugo Symposium, University of Nigeria, Nigeria.  
 Panel Discussion, with Niaomi W Gakunga, Ablade Glover and Bright Eke, Museu Afro Brazil.  
 Gallery Talk, in conversation with Michelle Grabner, Elmhurst Art Museum, USA.
- 2014 Guest Artist, Georgia State University, USA.  
 Guest Artist, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York, USA.  
 Visiting Artist, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, USA.
- 2013 Visiting Scholar, University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- 2012 Panel Discussion, with Christa Clarke, Osi Audu and Marcia Kure, Newark museum, USA.
- 2011 Visiting Artist, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.

- Visiting Artist, Herron school of Art and Design, University of Indiana, Indianapolis, USA.  
Guest Artist, Tang Museum, Skidmore College, New York, USA.
- 2010 Guest Artist, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, USA.  
Visiting Artist, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, USA.  
Visiting Artist, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, USA.
- 2009 Guest Artist, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, USA.  
Guest Artist, Princeton University, Princeton, USA.  
Guest Artist, Viterbo University, La Crosse, USA.
- 2008 Guest Artist, Time Line Lecture series, Museum of African Art, New York City, USA.  
Visiting Artist, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.

## JURY EXPERIENCES

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- 2017 Juror, *Between the Seams*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL.  
2014 Juror, *So Much More*, Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago, IL.  
Juror, *Nonword + Upward*, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL.  
2010 Juror, Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL.  
2008 Juror, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Joseph Frasca memorial Works on Paper Exhibition, Around the Coyote Gallery, Chicago, IL.

## SELECT COLLECTIONS

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Orchid Resorts and Hotels, Lagos, Nigeria  
Four Seasons Hotel and Resorts, California, USA  
North Park University, Chicago, USA  
World Bank, Washington DC, USA  
Brooklyn Academy of Music, NY, USA  
United States Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria  
Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos, Nigeria  
Halls Winery, Napa, CA, USA  
Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA  
Jean Paul Blachere Foundation, France  
Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, USA  
Royal Collections, Abu Dhabi, UEA  
Art House Contemporary, Nigeria  
Channel 4, London, UK  
Renaissance Capital, Moscow, Russia  
Sina Jina Collection, London, UK