

El Anatsui



Biography

El Anatsui (b. 1944, Ghana) is an internationally acclaimed artist who transforms simple materials into complex assemblages that create distinctive visual impact. Anatsui uses resources typically discarded such as liquor bottle caps and cassava graters to create sculptures that defy categorisation. Anatsui's use of these materials reflects his interest in reuse, transformation, and an intrinsic desire to connect to his continent while transcending the limitations of place. His work interrogates the history of colonialism and draws connections between consumption, waste and the environment. But at the core of Anatsui's work is his unique formal language that distinguishes his practice.

Anatsui is well-known for large scale sculptures composed of thousands of folded and crumpled pieces of metal sourced from local alcohol recycling stations and bound together with copper wire. These intricate works, which can grow to be massive in scale, are both luminous and weighty, meticulously fabricated yet malleable. He leaves the installations open and encourages the works to take different forms every time they are installed.

In 2015, Anatsui was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, the Venice Biennale's highest honour. Anatsui's solo exhibition *Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works* by El Anatsui, was organized by the Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio (2012), and travelled to the Brooklyn Museum, New York and the Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (2013); then to the Bass Museum of Art in Miami, Florida (2014); and concluded at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, California (2015). In 2019, *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale*, a major career survey curated by Okwui Enwezor, opened at Haus der Kunst and travelled to Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Kunstmuseum Bern and Guggenheim Bilbao in 2020.

Anatsui currently lives and works between Ghana and Nigeria.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022** *Freedom*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, SA
- 2022** *El Anatsui: Shard Song*, Efié Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2021** *El Anatsui: En quête de liberté*, La Conciagerie, Paris, FR
- 2021** *The Ancestors Are Converging Again*, Everard Read Gallery, Franschhoek, SA
- 2020** *Focus on El Anatsui*, Ocotber Gallery, London UK
- 2020** *Triumphant Scale*, Guggenheim Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain
- 2020** *Triumphant Scale*, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, Germany
- 2019** *Triumphant Scale*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Doha, Qatar
- 2019** *Triumphant Scale*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
- 2018** *Meyina*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Meyina*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2017** *Proximately*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Wijnegem – Antwerp
- 2017** *Benchmarks: Topology of Generosity*, Barakat Gallery, Seoul
- 2017** *Benchmarks: New Prints by El Anatsui*, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2016** *El Anatsui: New Works*, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2016** *El Anatsui: Five Decades*, Carriageworks, Sydney Festival 2016, Sydney, Australia
- 2015** *El Anatsui*, October Gallery, London, UK
- 2015** *El Anatsui: Five Decades*, Jack Shainman Gallery – The School, Kinderhook, New York, USA
- 2015** *El Anatsui of Dzi*, Kunstbanken Hedmark Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway
- 2014** *El Anatsui – Theory of Se*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014** *El Anatsui: Playing with Chance*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2014** *El Anatsui: New Worlds*, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, USA
- 2014** *El Anatsui: Trains of Thought*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2014** *El Anatsui*, Mnuchin Gallery, New York, USA
- 2012 – 2015** *Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui*, Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; Bass Museum of Art, Miami, USA; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, USA
- 2012-13** *Broken Bridge II*, the High Line, New York, USA
- 2012** *Pot of Wisdom*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA
- Stitch in Time*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2011** *El Anatsui*, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA
- 2010-12** *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote To You About Africa*, organised by the Museum for African Art, New York, USA; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts; Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina; Denver Art Museum, Colorado; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

2010-11 *A Fateful Journey*, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka; The Museum of Modern Art, Hayama; Tsuruoka Art Forum, Tsuruoka Art; The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan

2010 *Gli*, Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA

2010 *El Anatsui*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA

2009 *El Anatsui*, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

2009 *Process and Project*, BRIC Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, New York, USA

2008 *Earth Growing Roots*, San Diego State University Art Gallery, San Diego, USA

2008 *Zebra Crossing*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA

2006 *Asi*, David Krut Projects, New York, USA, in collaboration with October Gallery, London, UK

2006 *Nyekor*, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Milan, Italy, in collaboration with October Gallery, London, UK

2005 *Danudo: Recent Sculptures of El Anatsui*, Skoto Gallery in collaboration with Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York, USA

2003-08 *El Anatsui: Gawu*, Oriol Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales, UK; Model Arts & Niland Gallery, Sligo, Ireland; Gallery Oldham, Oldham; October Gallery, London; Djanogly Art Gallery, University of Nottingham, UK; Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida; Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; Fowler Museum, University of California, Los Angeles; University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson; The National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

2002 *New Works*, October Gallery, London, UK

1998 *A Sculpted History of Africa*, October Gallery, London, UK

1997 *Hakpa*, French Cultural Centre, Lagos, Nigeria

1995 *El Anatsui: Sculptures and Reliefs*, October Gallery, London, UK

1991 *Old and New: An Exhibition of Sculpture in Assorted Wood*, National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria

1987 *Venovize: Ceramic Sculpture by El Anatsui*, Faculty of Art and Design Gallery, Cornwall College, Redruth, UK

1987 *Pieces of Wood: An Exhibition of Mural Sculpture*, The Franco-German Auditorium, Lagos, Nigeria

1982 *Sculptures, Photographs, Drawings*, Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria

1980 *Wood Carvings*, Cummington Community of Arts, Cummington, Massachusetts, USA

1979 *Broken Pots: Sculpture by El Anatsui*, British Council, Enugu, Nigeria; Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

1976 *Wooden Wall Plaques*, Asele Art Gallery, Nsukka, Nigeria

Group Exhibitions

2021 *Debut Exhibition (Efie Gallery)*, Burj Plaza by EMAAR, Dubai, UAE

2021 *Diaspora at Home*, KADIST, Paris, FR

2021 *Duende Art projects: THREADS*, Zwartzusters Monastery, Antwerp, BEL

2021 *Summer Exhibition 2021*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

2021 *Seeing the Invisible*, Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Jerusalem, ISR

2021 *SITE: Art and ARchitecture in the Digital Space*, Michigan Central Station, US

2021 *Tomorrow is a Different Day*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL

2021 *Textures: A Print and Fiber Showcase*, Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, New Mexico, US

2021 *Socle du Monde Biennale 2021: Welcome Back My Friends to the Show that Never Ends*, Saint John's Church, Copenhagen

2021 *Portals*, City Library (former Public Tobacco Factory), Athens

2021 *Invisible Sun*, The Broad, LA, US

2021 *The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, US

2021 *Gold and Magic*, ARKEN Museum for Moderne Kunst, Denmark

2021 *First Look: Recent Acquisitions & Rarely Seen Gems*, MW Gallery, Flint, Michigan

2021 *A National Treasure: Fred Meijer, His Collection and Legacy*, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, US

2021 *The Met Unframed*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

2020 *The Nsukka Group: Cultural Abstraction*, Kunstmatrix

2020 *Small World Real World*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

2020 *Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art*, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, US

2020 *252nd Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London

2020 *Black Stories*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, US

2020 *Re-Materialize*, Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, US

2020 *Making the Met*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, US

2020 *Creating Vital Space – 50 years of prints by Black Artists*, Dolan/Maxwell, Philadelphia, US

2020 *New Beginnings: the Epoch of African Art*, Pure Lagos Gallery, Norfolk, VA

2020 *Myths, Martyrs, Monsters and Masterpieces*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA

2020 *Atmospheres: Artists of the Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK

2020 *IMPART Collectors' Show*, School of the Arts, Singapore

2019 *Prête-moi ton Rêve [Lend me Your Dream]*, Musée des Civilisations Noire, Dakar, Senegal, Dakar

2019 *New to the Museum*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, US

2019 *I've Grown Roses In this Garden of Mine*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK

2019 *In The Absence of Light: Gesture, Humor and Resistance in The Black Aesthetic*, Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago, USA

2018 *Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK

2018 *LOCAL/GLOBAL: A Group Exhibition*, Madelyn Jordon Fine Art, Scarsdale

2017 *Three Dimensions*, Acquavella Galleries, New York, USA

2016 *Marrakech Biennale 6; Not New Now*, Marrakech, Morocco

2015 *Africa Africans*, Museu Afro Brazil, São Paulo, Brazil

2015 *Field, Road, Cloud: Art and Africa*, Anna K. Meredith Gallery, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa, USA

2015 *Embracing Space and Color: Art On & Off the Wall*, Vero Beach Museum of Art, USA

2015 *Meet Me Halfway: Selections from the Anita Reiner Collection*, Cristin Tierney Gallery, Florida, USA

2015 *Re:Purposed*, The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, State Art Museum of Florida, Florida State University, Sarasota, Florida, USA

2015 *Piece Work*, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

2015 *Summer Exhibition 2015*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

2015 *Atopolis*, Wiels in collaboration with Mons 2015, Manège de Sury, Mons, Belgium

2015 *PROPORTIO*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy

2014 *Mise En Scène*, The School, Kinderhook, NY, USA

2014 *The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections*, Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain

2013 *245th Summer Exhibition*, installation of sculpture on the façade of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

2013 *ArtZuid 2013*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2013 *Masters of the Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK

2013 *Earth Matters: Land as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

2012 *El Gran Sur*, 1st Montevideo Biennial, Montevideo, Uruguay
2012 *All Our Relations*, 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
2012 *Intense Proximity*, Paris Triennial 2012, Palais de Tokyo/ Musée Galliera, Paris, France
2012 *African Cosmos: Stellar Art*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA
2012 *Dialogues*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2012 *We Face Forward*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
2011-12 *Environment and Object: Recent African Art*, Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, New York; Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, Vermont, USA
 Architectural Environments for Tomorrow: New Spatial Practices in Architecture and Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, Japan
2011 *The World Belongs to You*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy
2011 *ARS II*, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
2011 *Hunters and Gatherers: The Art of Assemblage*, Sotheby's, New York, USA
2011 *The Splendour of Truth, The Beauty of Charity*, The Vatican, Rome, Italy
2010 *Who Knows Tomorrow*, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
 Human Rites, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, USA
2010 *A Collective Diary, an African Contemporary Journey*, Herzilya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzilya, Israel
2009 *Against Exclusion*, 3rd Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia
2009 *Intramoenia Extra Art*, Castelli di Puglia, Barletta Castle, Barletta, Italy
2009 *Chance Encounters: Seven Contemporary African Artists*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India
2009 *Transvanguard: Leading Contemporary Artists*, October Gallery, London, UK
2009 *Confines Extremos. Confines Urbanos*, Institut Valencia D'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain
2009 *Off the Grid*, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
2009 *Homecoming*, Artists Alliance Gallery, Accra, Ghana
2009 *Promoter-of- Nigerian-Art Series*, Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria
2009 *Embrace!* Denver Art Museum, Colorado, USA
2008 *Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary*, Museum for Arts and Design, New York, USA
2008 *The Poetics of Cloth: African Textiles*, Grey Art Gallery, New York, USA
2008 *The Essential Art of African Textiles: Design Without End*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
2008 *Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary*, Museum for Arts and Design, New York, USA
2008 *World Histories*, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa, USA
2008 *Angaza Afrika: African Art Now*, October Gallery, London, UK
2008 *Recycling: The Whole House*, Kunstbanken Hedmark Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway
2008 *Juego Africano de lo Contemporáneo: Pre-figuraciones Postcoloniales*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Unión Fenosa (MACUF), A Coruña, Spain
2008 *Prospect.1* New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
2008 *Sonsbeek 2008: Grandeur*, Sonsbeek Park, Arnhem, The Netherlands
2007 *Artempo – Where Art Becomes Time*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
2007 *Think with the Senses, Feel with the Mind: Art in the Present Tense*, Arsenale, 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
2007 *Uncomfortable Truths: The Shadow of Slave Trading on Contemporary Art*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
2007 *Tapping Currents: Contemporary African Art and the Diaspora*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
2007 *Un/Fair Trade: The Art of Justice*, Neue Galerie, Graz; Landesmuseum Joanneum, Styria, Austria
2007 *From Courage to Freedom*, October Gallery, London, UK
2007 *Living Masters*, Terra Culture, Lagos, Nigeria
2007 *The Boys Craft*, Haifa Museum of Art, Haifa, Israel
2007 *Still Life: Art, Ecology, and the Politics of Change*, 8th Sharjah Biennial, UAE
2006-11 *The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama*, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, California; Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, Illinois; Rubin Museum of Art, New York; Visual Arts Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California, USA; Hillside Terrace Galleries, Daikanyama, Tokyo, Japan; Fundación Canal, Madrid, Spain; The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA; Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu, Romania; Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden; San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas, USA
2006 *Altered, Stitched and Gathered*, MoMA PS1, New York, USA
2006 *DAK'ART 2006*, 7th Biennale of African Art, Dakar, Senegal
2006 *-poiesis*, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA
2006 *Europe-Afrique: Regards Croisés*, Ateliers des Tanneurs, Brussels, Belgium
2006 *Black Panther Rank and File*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, US
2006 *Primitivism Revisited: After the End of an Idea*, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, USA
2006 *Expanding Africa: New Art, New Directions*, Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey, USA
2006 *Body of Evidence*, National Museum of African Art, Institution, Washington, D.C., USA
2005 *In the Making: Materials and Process*, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2005 *Out There*, Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, Norwich, UK
 AKA... of Age 2005, Maison de France, Lagos, Nigeria
 De Young Museum, San Francisco, USA
2004-7 *Afrika Remix*, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany; Hayward Gallery, London, UK; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004 *A Grain of Dust, A Drop of Water*, 5th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
2004 *Intelligence Now!* October Gallery, London, UK
2003 *Africa Informs*, October Gallery, London, UK
2003 *Biennale of Ceramics in Contemporary Art*, Villa Groppallo, Vado Ligure, Italy
2003 *Transfer(t)s*, Palais de Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium
2003 *Homage to Asele*, National Museum Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
 Selected Works, Skoto Gallery, New York, USA
2002 *The Independent*, Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, Liverpool, UK
2001-02 *The Happy Face of Globalization*, 1st Albissola Ceramics Biennale, Albissola, Italy; Musée Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland
2001 *El Tiempo de Africa*, Centro Atlantico Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Canary Islands; Consejería de Cultura de Comunidad, Madrid, Spain
2001 *Encounters with the Contemporary*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA
2001 *Africas: The Artist and the City*, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), Barcelona, Spain
2001 *News from the Front*, October Gallery, London, UK
2001 *Jazz and Visual Improvisations*, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York, USA
2001 *Ebony Soliloquy: A Five Year Retrospective (1996-2001)*, Stella Jones Gallery, New Orleans, USA
2001 *Messagers de la Terre*, Rur'Art- Espace d'Art Contemporain d' Lycée Agricole Xavier Bernard, Rouille, France

1999 *New Colours From Old Worlds*, October Gallery, London, UK
1999 *The Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK
1999 *Les Champs de la Sculpture*, Champs Elysées, Paris, France
 Contemporary Art from West Africa, October Gallery, London, UK
1998 *7 Triennale der Kleingestaltung*, Stuttgart, Germany
1998 *9th Osaka Sculpture Triennale*, Osaka, Japan
1998 *Riddle of the Spirits – Twelve African Artists*, Skoto Gallery, New York, USA
1997 *The Poetics of Line: Seven Artists of the Nsukka Group*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA
1997 *Free Form and Precision*, Contemporary African Art Gallery, New York, USA
1997 *Container '96: Art Across Oceans*, Langelinie, Copenhagen, Denmark
1997 *Transvanguard*, October Gallery, London, UK
1997 *Images of Africa*, Torpedohallen, Copenhagen, Denmark
1997 *Africana*, Sala 1, Rome, Italy
1997 *Transforms*, October Gallery, London, UK
1997 *Group Exhibition*, Avant-Garde Gallery, Kaduna, Nigeria
1997 *El Anatsui & Tesfaye Tessema*, Contemporary African Gallery, New York, USA
1997 *El Anatsui & Sol Le Witt*, Skoto Gallery, New York, USA
1995-96 *An Inside Story – African Art of our Time*, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo; Tokushima Modern Art Museum, Tokushima; Himeji City Museum of Arts, Himeji; Koriyama City Museum of Art, Koriyama; Marugame Inokuma-Genichiro Museum of Contemporary Art (MIMOCA), Marugame; Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan
1995 AKA '95, Bona Gallery, Enugu; Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
1995 *Contemporary African Art*, World Intellectual Property Organisation Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
1995 *6th Osaka Sculpture Triennale*, Osaka, Japan
1995 Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden
1995 *Configura 2*, Erfurt, Germany
1995 *The Right to Hope*, Johannesburg Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 touring to Cairo; Amman; Gaza; Jerusalem; Tel Aviv
1995 *Africus*, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Uli Art– Master Works*, Skoto Gallery, NY, USA
1994 *Arte/Sociedad/ Reflexion*, 5th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
1994 AKA '94, Bona Gallery, Enugu; Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
1993 *New Currents '93 – Avant-Garde Nigerian Art*, Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
1993 *Six African Artists*, October Gallery, London, UK
1993 AKA '93, Bona Gallery, Enugu; Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
1992 *Arte Amazonas*, Modern Art Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; traveled as: Klima Global to Staatliche Kunalle, Berlin; Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
1992 AKA '92, Bona Gallery, Enugu and Didi Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
1992 *Begegnung mit den Anderen*, University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany
1991 *El Desafí de Colonization*, 4th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
1991 *South of the World*, Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea, Marsala, Italy
1990 *Five Contemporary African Artists*, 44th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
1990 *The Calabash 1st Art Exhibition*, The Calabash, Lagos, Nigeria
1990 AKA '90, The Presidential Hotel, Enugu; Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
1990 *Achebe Celebration Exhibition*, Continuing Education Centre, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1990 *Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia; Chicago Public Library Cultural Centre, Chicago; Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C.; Museum of the National Center of African-American Artists, Boston, USA
1989 *Zeitgenössische Nigerianische Kunst*, Bonn, Bocholt and Mönchengladbach, Germany
1988 *Walls and Gates – El Anatsui & Liz Willis*, Avant-Garde Gallery, Kaduna, Nigeria
1988 *Thoughts and Processes – El Anatsui & Ndubisi Onah*, The Italian Cultural Institute, Lagos, Nigeria
1988 AKA '88, Nigerian Union of Journalists' Press Centre, Enugu; Contemporary Art Gallery, Institute of African Studies, Nsukka; National Gallery of Crafts and Design, Lagos, Nigeria
1987 AKA '87, The Presidential Hotel, Enugu; National Gallery of Crafts and Design, Lagos, Nigeria
1987 *Original Prints from the 3rd Nsukka Workshop*, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
1986 AKA '86 – *Inaugural Exhibition of the AKA Circle of Artists*, the French Centre, Enugu and Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria
1986 *Nigerian-German Prints*, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Franco-German Auditorium, Lagos, Nigeria
1983 *Four Contemporary African Artists*, Mintec Gallery, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
1982 *Okike 10th Anniversary Exhibition*, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1981 *Drawing on the World*, Billingham Art Gallery, Billingham; Middlesborough Art Gallery, 1981 Middlesborough and the House of Commons Gallery, London, UK
1979 *Christian Arts in Nigeria*, Holy Trinity Cathedral Hall, Onitsha, Nigeria
1979 *The Nsukka School*, Art Gallery of the Rivers State Council for Arts and Culture, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
1975 *Fabric Wall Hangings, Burnt Wooden Wall Plaques*, The Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1974 *Tekarts Expo 5*, National Arts Centre, Accra; Specialist Training College, Winneba, Ghana
1969-70 *Ghana National Collection*, National Arts Centre, Accra, Ghana; National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA

Curated Exhibitions

2001 *New Energies – Recent Graduate Artists from Nsukka* (curator), Mydim and Nimbus Galleries, Lagos, Nigeria
1999 *Promoter of The Nigerian Art Series*, Goethe Institute, Lagos, Nigeria

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

1996-11 Professor of Sculpture, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria (UNN)
1998-00 Head of Department, Fine and Applied Arts Department, UNN
1982-96 Senior Lecturer, Fine and Applied Arts Department, UNN
1975-82 Lecturer, Fine and Applied Arts Department, UNN
1969-75 Lecturer, Art Education Department, Specialist Training College (now University of Winneba) Winneba, Ghana

Awards and Merits

2017 Praemium Imperiale Award for Sculpture, Japan.
2015 Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement of the 56th International Art Exhibition of the Biennale di Venezia – All the World's Futures, Venice, Italy
2013 Charles Wollaston Award, 245th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London.
2009 Prince Claus Award
2000 Member, International Selection Committee, Dakar Biennale.
2000 Founding Member & Fellow, Forum for African Arts Collections (Public)
1999 Publics' Prize, 7th Triennale der Kleinplastik, Stuttgart
1998 Bronze Prize, 9th Osaka Triennale Sculpture
1995 Kansai Telecasting Corporation Prize, Osaka Triennale (Sculpture), Japan.
1991 Founding Member, Pan-African Circle of Artist (PACA).
1990 Honourable Mention (joint), 44th Venice Biennale, Italy.

Academic Record and Residencies

2008 The Big 4, Channel 4 Headquarters, London, UK
2007 Resident Faculty Artist, The Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
2005 Out There, Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, Norwich, UK 2004 Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
2003 Residency, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky Visiting Artist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee Visiting Artist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa Visiting Artist, University of California, Santa Barbara Visiting Artist, St. Lawrence University, NY
2001 Residency and Fellowship, Civitella Ranieri Centre, Umbertide, Italy
1999 Cyfuniad International Artist's Residency, Plas Caerdeon, Barmouth, Wales, UK
1997 International Visitor, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC Ondambo– International Forum for African Artists, Windhoek, Namibia
1996 Visiting Artist, International People's College. Helsingør, Denmark Images of Africa, Helsingør and Copenhagen, Denmark
1993 International Visitors Programme, USA
1990–1992 World Council Member, International Society for Education through Art (INSEA) 1990 International Visitors Programme, USA 1985 Visiting Artist, Cornwall College, Redruth, UK 1984 Zweites Symposium Nordseeküste, Cuxhaven, Germany 1982–1985 World Council Member, International Society for Education through Art (INSEA) 1980 Artist-in-Residence, Cummington Community of Arts, Massachusetts

Collections

African Studies Gallery, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
 Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio
 Asele Institute, Nimo, Nigeria
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA
 The British Museum, London, UK
 Brooklyn Museum, New York
 The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC
 Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
 Clarks International Art Collection, Somerset, UK
 Denver Art Museum, Colorado
 Des Moines Art Center, Iowa
 de Young Museum, San Francisco
 Diamond Bank of Nigeria, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
 Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
 Fowler Museum, University of California, Los Angeles
 French Cultural Centre, Lagos, Nigeria
 Ghanaian Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 The Hammermill Collection, Hellebaek, Helsingør, Denmark
 Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, New Hampshire
 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN
 International Peoples' College, Helsingør, Denmark
 Iwalewa-Haus, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany
 Jordan National Gallery of Arts, Amman, Jordan
 Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA
 Missoni, Milan, Italy
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 Musée Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
 Museum of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa
 City, Iowa Museum kunst palast, Duesseldorf, Germany
 The Tate Modern, London, UK
 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
 The National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria
 The National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC
 The Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, Missouri
 The Newark Museum, NJ
 North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh
 UNAIDS, Geneva
 Osaka Foundation of Culture, Osaka, Japan
 Royal Ontario Museum, Canada
 Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL
 Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
 Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida
 Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan The World Bank Art Collection, Washington DC

Publications

- 2022** *El Anatsui: The Reinvention of Sculpture*, published by Damlani, auth. C Okeke-Agulu & O Enwezor
- 2021** *El Anatsui: Art and Life*, published by Prestel, auth. S M Vogel
- 2015** *El Anatsui: New Worlds*, published by Mount Holyoke, ed. J Stomberg & A Gilvin
- 2010** *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa*, published by Museum of African Art, ed. L M. Binder
- 2009** *El Anatsui: Zebra Crossing*, published by Jack Shainman, ed. by E Anatsui, E Harney & O Donald Odita
- 2003** *El Anatsui: Gawu*, published by Oriel Mostyn Gallery, auth. S Okwunodu, G Houghton, A K Ogbechie
- 1998** *El Anatsui: A Sculpted History of Africa*, published by Saffron Books & October Gallery