

AMARACHI OKAFOR (Orie)

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EXPERIENCE

2013 – present

FOUNDER/LEADER, ORIE STUDIO

- Full time studio practice

2009 – 2013

- Part time studio practice
- Curatorial positions, National Gallery of Art, Abuja, Nigeria. Curatorial Studies. Personal art exhibitions and Institutional art projects.

EDUCATION

2017

KLEIN ARTIST WORKS (KAW 20, SPRING 2017)

Professional development in art

2011 – 2012

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY, CORNWALL, UK

MA Curatorial Practice (Curating Contemporary Art)

Modules - Research as Practice, Curatorial Practice, Curatorial Models, Professional Practice, Co-curated group exhibition project (planning & delivery), and writing a fully developed exhibition/project proposal

- Broadened and enhanced my understanding of professional practice (research and studio) in contemporary art and earlier practices (focusing on contemporary Art in Africa)

2004 – 2006

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA (UNN)

MFA Sculpture

Modules - Exploration and Inquiry, Sculpture Theory, Sculpture Processes, Drawing for Sculpture, Seminar Report and exhibition(mid-level), Project Report and exhibition (final level)

- Developed independent professional studio practice

1998 – 2002

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA (UNN)

BA (Hons. Painting, Major)

Modules included- 2years of engaging with Sculpture, Textile, Graphics, Painting, Photography, Humanities, Foreign Language (French), Archaeology, Philosophy, Theatre Arts and Computer Science; another 2 years taking courses in Painting (major), Art History, African Architecture. Painting (major, 2:1)

- Guided into/towards professional art practice

PROFILE

Innovative institutionally-oriented artist who makes quirky singular artworks investigating human actions in society. I am examining the concept of use and the history of(used) things through and across diverse materials.

SKILLS

- Organizing and caring for objects and spaces
- Tenacity and care
- Attention to detail
- Critical thinking/Critical Context
- Research, Writing

EXPERTISE

- Curatorial: Exhibitions Management
- Advisory: Studio Management
- Advisory: Collections Management
- Advisory: Documentation and Archiving
- Art Handling – Institutional

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

AWARDS / GRANTS / RESIDENCIES

2017	Recipient, Scholarship from <i>Klein Artist Works</i> , Chicago, USA -to attend KAW for professional artistic development
2015	Grant and Residency from the Yayasan Biennale Yogyakarta, Indonesia
2014	Winner (Jury Prize), African Artists Foundation <i>National Art Competition</i> - To challenge artists and encourage professional art practice
2012	Recipient, Grant Award to graduating MA Art student, <i>Falmouth University, UK</i> - supported my internship/Work experience at October Gallery London
2010	Popopstudios Centre for the Visual Arts, Nassau, Bahamas, Residency by Grant from the Commonwealth Foundation
2009	Winner, <i>Commonwealth Connections 2009</i> – A Commonwealth Foundation Award for artistic excellence -To enhance professional development, motivate/build networks and explore art in another Commonwealth country

	Nkd (Nordisk Kunstnarsenter Dalsåsen), Norway, Grant and Residency from Nkd
2008	Winner, <i>ARESUVA</i> , an exhibition and Grant award from the National Gallery of Art (Nigeria), for the first 'African Regional Summit and Exhibition on Visual Arts' <i>ARESUVA</i> '08, Abuja-Nigeria -To facilitate the commission/participation in the exhibition as an artist
2007	Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder Trondheim, Norway, Residency by Grant from the United Nations and the Trondheim Kommune Winner, <i>UNESCO Aschberg</i> – A Unesco Award for artistic excellence in Art
2004	Aina Onabolu Studios, National Gallery of Art Lagos, Nigeria, supported by the National Gallery of Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025	Special Solo Feature at the Abuja Art Fair, 1.0, The exhibition Pavilion, Abuja Theme <i>Amarachi Okafor: She Laughs at the Future</i>
2022	<i>Announcing Beauty, Mercy, Kindness and Love</i> , Red Door Gallery, Lagos
2021	<i>The Colour of Our Heats is the Colour of Our City</i> , Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos
2020	<i>The Colour of Our Heats is the Colour of Our City</i> , Thought Pyramid Art Centre, Abuja
2019	<i>I Am the Light</i> , a multi-dimensional public art project (taking art to new audiences) carried out in collaboration with children and teens of the Catholic Church of Assumption, at an 'alternative space' (Divine Mercy School), Asokoro-Abuja
2015	<i>I Learnt This</i> , A Public Art Intervention in 3 public locations (schools) in Jogjakarta Indonesia. A collaborative and interactive art with the public
2014	<i>Ask Yourself</i> , A Public Art Intervention in 4 public locations in Abuja. A collaborative interactive art with the public and with other artists
2009	<i>Seven Days Live Art</i> , Presentation of art pieces daily, - multiple variant locations, in Dalsasen, Dale I Sunnfjord, Norway <i>Open Studio to work in Progress</i> , Nkd Dalsasen, Dale I Sunnfjord, Norway
2008	Africa West, Oriel Mostyn Gallery Llandudno Wales, UK
2007	Europe at Financial Times, Babel Art Gallery, Trondheim. Norway <i>Open Studio</i> , Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder, Norway

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Abuja Art Fair, 1.0, The exhibition Pavilion, Abuja
- In Between* an 'Abuja Open House' exhibition, The Nordic, Abuja
- Westbund Art & Design (Fair), 2025* with ShanghART Gallery, Booth No. 1C03, West Bund International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Shanghai, China
- 2024 *All The Images Will Disappear*, co-curated by Philippe Pirotte and ShanghART Gallery, ShanghART WB Central, Shanghai, China
- Slant: Perspectives on Sculpture*, a Juried exhibition of Artsy and the ISC, Gallery 14C, Jersey City, NJ, USA
- International Sculpture Centre Exhibition/Artsy Artist Exhibition*, an exhibition of Artsy and the ISC, Online
- 2023 *Stones Last A Wee Bit Longer (Dusk Art Festival, 2023, The CERA Project)*, a touring project –Portugal, Spain, Alba-Scotland, Iceland, Nigeria
- Krisis (Art Theorema #3)*, Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy
- 2021 *The Invincible Hands*, Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos
- My Super Power*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA
- Off The Wall*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA
- 13th Annual Juried Member Exhibition and Contest*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA
- 2020 *Summer Blues*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA
- 2018-2019 *LineGuage: Textual Imagery/Linear Allegory*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos
- 2017 *Clourful Africa*, MOESHEN contemporary art gallery, Penthouse Floor, Zen Building, Life Camp, Abuja
- Nkoli Ka (Nsukka School after 5 years)* - a touring exhibition-UNN, Nsukka; Abuja; Lagos
- 2015 *Hacking Conflict (Equator #3)*, Biennale Jogjakarta, Jogjakarta, Indonesia
- Anyu Fulu Ugo*, Exhibition in honour of El Anatsui & Obiora Udechukwu, Nsukka
- 2014 *Nigeria / Roots, Contemporary Artists from Nigeria*, Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy

National Art Competition, An African Artists Foundation exhibition. Lagos

Together Again, An exhibition of National Gallery of Art, Nigeria, Kaduna

Playing with Chance, Showing El Anatsui archives and the works of his female mentees, CCA Lagos

2013 *From Within*, An Art Fair of the National Gallery of Art, Kaduna

2012 *We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today*, a cultural Olympiad exhibition of the London 2012 Olympic, Manchester Art Gallery, UK

2010 *I am Bahamian. I eat Conch Salad*, an art experience/intervention with visual artists and fashion designers-The Hub Gallery, Nassau, The Bahamas

RAVY (Rencontres D'arts Visuels De Yaoundé), Festival. Yaoundé- Cameroun

2009 *FIAC Alger 2009*, The 1st International Festival of Contemporary Art of Algiers, Musée National d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Algiers

International Art Expo Nigeria 2009 [with Joe Musa Gallery], National Museum, Lagos

2008 *ARESUVA 2008*, International Conference Centre Abuja, Nigeria

Experimental frontiers: Society Through the Eyes of South African and Nigerian Artists, Vansa Western Cape Space, South Africa, curated by Okechukwu Nwafor

Art 4: Channel Four Television Corporation, London, UK

2007 *Guest Artists' Open Studio*, Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder Trondheim, Norway

MFA Graduation Exhibition, Department of Fine & Applied Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

Make-Op/Zombification (Performing Anthropology) Interdisciplinary Theatre Performance, practical workshop and presentation. Goethe-Institut Lagos, Nigeria

2006 *20th Century Art: a Story from Nigeria*, an 'Off Show' at Dak'Art 2006, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar-Senegal

2004 *Afrika Heritage 2004*, a Pan African Circle of Artists (PACA), Exhibition, Alliance Francaise, Enugu

Visual Orchestra, Alliance Francaise, Enugu

2003 *Heritage*, a Federal Capital Territory Council for Arts and Culture exhibition, FCT Abuja

2002 *Women in Art Exhibition*, A National Gallery of Modern Art Exhibition, National Gallery of Modern Art, Lagos

Exhibition organized by Chinze Art Place Abuja Sheraton Hotel, Abuja

Heritage, FCT Council for Arts and Culture, FCT Abuja

BA Hons. Award Exhibition, Department of Fine & Applied Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

Artytude, an association of Fine Arts Students exhibition, Art Theatre, UNN

2001 *Women in Art exhibition*, FCT Council for Arts and Culture, Abuja

Footprints, Ana Gallery, UNN

TALKS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

2025 *Holding the Centre: Art, Belonging, and the Power to Stay*, part of a series of events for Artistier Art Week, Amarachi Okafor, Obi Nwaegbe and Obinna Makata, three leading contemporary painters, whose practices are deeply rooted in Nigeria, in conversation to explore art as a centripetal force in the face of 'Japa', the growing desire for migration among young Nigerians.

Surviving Your Originality: Staying True as an Installation Artist, part of the 'Mentoring Moments' program organised as part of the Abuja Art Fair, 1.0, 2025

From Vision to Creation: Structuring Your Artistic Workflow, 'The Artist's Path' Masterclass organised by Artistier, Abuja

2023 *The Professional Value of Good Art Presentation*, 'Made in Nigeria Masterclass', a program of lectures, workshops and exchanges facilitated by Artistier, Abuja and the Nigerian-German Centre for jobs, migration and reintegration

2021 *The Colour of Lagos*, in conversation (over zoom) with Amarachi Okafor, Uche Okpa Iroha, Gerald Chukwuma and Oyindamola Fakeye, by CCA, Lagos and moderated by Emmanuel Ndefo

2018 *Orie Studio hand paper-making workshop, 2018, a hands-on art project of making art paper with indigenous materials, in collaboration with visiting artists from New Jersey, USA; Art Teachers Association, Nigeria (AVATIN), JSS Guduwa, Abuja; GSS Garki, Abuja*

2017 *The Power of Cultural Diplomacy: Cross cultural engagements - 'Identities of a female African Artist'*, a Society of Nigerian Artists Abuja & Embassy of USA in Nig., city-wide-exhibition project and panel discussion ['Abuja Unlocked....Discovering Art Spaces'], Abuja

2015 *I Learnt This*, a multi-dimensional art intervention, discussion, teaching and workshop series, at 4 venues in Jogjakarta Indonesia

Workshop and Discussion with women artists working in craft and with 'sewing' as a process, Kedai Kebun Forum (KKF), Jogjakarta, Indonesia

- 2014 *Ask Yourself*, a multi-dimensional art intervention, discussions, teaching and workshop series, at 4 venues in Abuja Nigeria
- 2013 *WORKSHOP WITH AMARACHI OKAFOR. Thinking About Exhibitions: on art exhibitions and the curatorial role*, A 5-day capacity building training/workshop, to curatorial Department staff, NGA, Abuja
- 2012 *In Conversation* (with Lucy Azubuike, Amarachi Okafor, Victorian Udondian, and Curator Gabriella Salgado), Tiwani Contemporary London
- 2011 *The Artist-Curator*, an artist-curator Talk presented by Amarachi Okafor, to the Curatorial Dept., National Gallery of Art, Abuja
- Development Dialogue for Capacity Enhancement*, A Capacity Building Training Workshop, organized by NGA Abuja
- 2010 *Schooner Bay Art Symposium*, Schooner Bay, Abaco, The Bahamas
- Artist Talk*, Popopstudios centre for the Visual Arts, Nassau, The Bahamas
- Art Workshop for Children, with Antonius Roberts and Amarachi Okafor, in collaboration with Aids Foundation, Nassau, The Bahamas
- 2007 *Performing Anthropology Workshop*- Interdisciplinary Theatre practice workshop, Goethe-Institut Lagos, Nigeria
- Artist Talk, Spike Island Studios, Bristol, UK
- Artist Talk, Weston College/Bath Spa University, W-S-M, UK
- Artist Talk, Kuumba project, St.Paul's, Bristol, UK

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 *The Colour of our Hearts is the Colour of our City- Lagos City*, a book documentation of the same exhibition. Published in the UK by Orie Studio
- 2021 *Ask Yourself*, a book based on the 2014 project *Ask Yourself* [see Independent Curatorial Projects]. Published in Nigeria by Orie Studio
- 2020 *The Colour of our Hearts is the Colour of our City- Abuja City*, a book documentation of the same exhibition. Published in Nigeria by Orie Studio

- 2019 *I Learnt This Film*, a documentary based on the 2015 project *I Learnt This* [see Individual Exhibitions]. Produced in Nigeria by Orie Studio
- Ask Yourself Film*, a documentary based on the 2014 project *Ask Yourself* [see Independent Curatorial Projects]. Produced in Nigeria by Orie Studio
- 2012 *I am Bahamian. I eat Conch Salad*, a book documenting the exhibition/art intervention (featuring an essay [*Questioning the Canon: Art and the Museum's Social Responsibility*] by Frank Ugiomoh) Published in the UK by Orie Studio

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 *Appointment, Curator, Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF), Humanism*
- Art handling/Installation team support & Deinstallation team support [El Anatsui's] *Logoligi Logarithm* at the Diriya Biennale, Diriya, Saudi Arabia
- 2023 Art handling/Installation Manager, [Bright Eke's] *Heavy Clouds* at the 'Net Zero' Exhibition, King Abdulhaziz Centre for World Culture (Ithra), Aramco, Saudi Arabia
- 2024 *Appointment, Curator, Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF), Humanism*
- Art handling/Installation team support & Deinstallation team support [El Anatsui's] *Logoligi Logarithm* at the Diriya Biennale, Diriya, Saudi Arabia
- 2023 Art handling/Installation Manager, [Bright Eke's] *Heavy Clouds* at the 'Net Zero' Exhibition, King Abdulhaziz Centre for World Culture (Ithra), Aramco, Saudi Arabia
- Appointment, Curator, Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF), Fix It*
- 2021 *Appointment, International Commissioner (for Africa), Gangwon Triennial, 2021, Revitalization 1 «Tanyak» (Ammunition maintenance plant), Gangwon Art & Culture Foundation, Republic of Korea*
- 2017 – 2020 *Appointment, to support the exhibition project (preparation to Installation/Deinstallation) El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Curated by Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu, curatorial assistant Damian Lentini [Haus der Kunst]*
- 2019 Curated *I Am the Light*, a multidisciplinary public art intervention that took place with children and teens, in collaboration with the Catholic Church of Assumption Asokoro, Abuja. (self-initiative)
- 2018 Organised *Orie Studio hand paper-making workshop* (self-initiative)
- 2014 Curated *Ask Yourself*, a multidisciplinary public art intervention that took place through eight weeks in four public locations in the city of Abuja. *Ask Yourself* at its' first exposition worked

actively with approximately 400 people as collaborators, assistants, volunteers and participants of the intervention. (self-initiative)

- 2012 Co-curator *Scattered Plots & Routes We Take*, A solo exhibition by international artist Katja Davar, Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange, Cornwall
- Gallery Assistant, October Gallery London (Internship)
- Project assistant to the organizing team of the *Penzance Convention*, 2012
- Jerwood Drawing Prize* 2012 by Parker Harris contemporary visual art specialists (Falmouth University Submission Center)
- 2012 - 2015 Senior Curator, at *National Gallery of Art (NGA), Nigeria* (Full time)
- 2008 - 2012 Curatorial Assistant, at *National Gallery of Art (NGA), Nigeria* (Full time)
- 2010 Artist-Curator *I am Bahamian. I eat Conch Salad* An experimental intervention in collaboration with [eight] fashion designers and visual artists, The Hub Gallery, Nassau, The Bahamas [self-initiative]
- On the documentation team responsible for providing information on the National Collection [NGA HQ, Abuja]; worked with a curatorial team to produce gallery projects [NGA HQ, Abuja]. Some of my projects include:
Curatorial Assistant, '*The March of History; Evolution of the Nigerian Nation: Trials and Triumphs*, Nigeria's 50th Independence Anniversary photo exhibition 1960-2010' (National Gallery of Art, Abuja)
[Coordinated final phase of all research work and documentation, co-prepared interpretation texts, co-curated exhibition space]
- 2008 Curatorial Assistant, first African Regional Summit and Exhibition on Visual Arts (*ARESIVA*) 2008, Abuja-Nigeria [Coordinated documentation for the project, co-curated the exhibition installation at the space]
- Collaborative Anthropological Field Project *Shared Perspectives*, a cross-cultural research study of 'Mbari Owerri' (with British artist Kate Parsons), Imo State Nigeria [self-initiative]
- Organised Artist Talks during the period at Council for Arts and Culture Abuja; University of Nigeria Nsukka for Dr. Kate Parsons (British artist and collaborator in *Shared Perspectives*) [self-initiative]

FURTHER ADMIN. EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Jury member, 7th National Visual Art Competition (Abuja, Cyprain Ekwensi Cultural Centre)
- 2022 Jury member, Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF) 2022, Nigeria [Abuja Zone]

2017	Jury member, LIMCAF 2017, Abuja Zonal Jury
	Jury member, LIMCAF 2017, National Jury Board
2016	Jury member, LIMCAF 2016, Abuja Zonal Jury
2015	Jury member, Spanish Art Competition, Abuja
	Jury member, Children Art Competition, Korean Cultural Centre, Abuja
2011 - 2015	Committee member, National Gallery of Art Grants Committee
	Committee member, National Gallery of Art, Art Magazine (<i>Artivity</i>)
2014	Jury member, National Gallery of Art - Abuja, National Art Competition
2008	<i>ARESUYA 2008</i> - a project of National Gallery of Art, Nigeria. I was the registrar for this exhibition, by appointment, and a curatorial assistant on the exhibition team
2002	Co-Ordinator, Platoon Theatre Group, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp, Bauchi
	- Involved in theatre programs/acting, broadening my artistic sensibilities
2002 - 2003	Art Teacher, Command Day Secondary School, 33 FAB Shadawanka Barracks, Bauchi (an NYSC primary assignment)
1999 - 2000	Studio Assistant, El Anatsui Studio, Nsukka, Nigeria
1999	Intern, El Anatsui Studio, Nsukka, Nigeria
	- Assisted to facilitate work in the artist's studio, adapting to professional studio art practice

SELECTED CONFERENCES ATTENDED

2015	<i>Anyu Fulu Ugo</i> , Faculty of Arts, UNN, Nigeria
2012	<i>The Penzance Convention, Penzance, Cornwall</i> (Theme: <i>Extraction</i>)
2011	Finale Symposium for British Art Show 7: <i>In the Days of the Comet</i> (Theme: <i>Precarious Times</i> -Symposium and PhD Workshop)
2009	<i>First International Festival of Contemporary Art</i> at Musee d'art Moderne et Contemporain, Alger, Algeria. Themes discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ l'art au cœur des conflits idéologiques. ▪ l'art Contemporain, environnement et flux migratoires. ▪ le marché de l'art entre le nord et le sud

- 2007 *Why Sculpture, Why Here*: exploring global contexts of contemporary sculpture, INIVA (Institute of International Visual Artists) London
- Think with the Senses, Feel with the Mind: Art in the Present Tense* Venice Biennial 2007, a press preview and critique
- 2005 *AHAN (Association of Art Historians of Nigeria) Conference*, UNN, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2013 – now Member, International Sculpture (ISC)
- 2013 – now Member, Arterial Network
- 2024 – now Member, Netvvrk