

Nengi Omuku

BORN IN WARRI, NIGERIA, 1987

LIVES AND WORKS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA

Education

2012 MA, Slade School of Art, University College London, United Kingdom

2010 BA, Slade School of Art, University College London, United Kingdom

Solo Exhibitions

2024 Kasmin, New York, NY (forthcoming)

2023-24 "Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World," Hastings Contemporary, United Kingdom

"Nengi Omuku: As Water Never Touched," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

2022 "Parables of Joy," Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2021 "Chorus," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2020 "Gathering," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2017 "Stages of Collapse," September Gray, Atlanta, GA

2015 "A State of Mind," Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

2011 "To Figure an Encounter," Open The Gate, London, United Kingdom

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 "Soulsapes," Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, United Kingdom

"REFUGE: Lagos Biennial 2024," Lagos, Nigeria

2023 "Where the Wild Roses Grow," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Schloss Görne, Germany

"Aso oke: Prestige Cloth," Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO

"Rites of Passage," Gagosian, London, United Kingdom

2022 "CHAOS: CALM," Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB), Bangkok, Thailand

"Dissolving Realms," curated by Katy Hessel, Kasmin, New York, NY

"Uprising," Schloss Görne, Germany

"The Company She Keeps," Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos, Nigeria

"What Lies Beneath: Women, Politics, Textiles," Women's Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, United Kingdom

2021 "Self-Addressed," Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA

"Ubuntu," World Trade Organisation Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

"Dancing in Dark Times," Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, United Kingdom

"À Corps Défendant," La Galerie, Contemporary art Center, Noisy-le-Sec, France

2020 "All the Days and Nights," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2018 "Hospital Rooms," Griffin Gallery, London, United Kingdom

"At work," Arthouse, Lagos, Nigeria

- 2015 "Mapping Histories," Constructing Realities, ART15, London, United Kingdom
 2014 "The Next 50 Years," Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
 2012 "Jerwood Drawing Prize Exhibition," Jerwood Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2011 "Deep Cuts Last Measures," Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 "Surplus to Requirements," Slade Research Centre, London, United Kingdom
 2010 "The Future of Contemporary Art," Lloyd Gill Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom
 "Group Exhibition," Swiss Cottage Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2009 "Group Exhibition," Camden Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Grants & Awards

- 2024 Civitella Raneiri Residency, Italy
 2022-23 Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal
 2021 World Trade Organisation Residency, African Art Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland
 2012 Prankerd-Jones Memorial Prize, awarded by University College London, United Kingdom
 2011 Nancy Balfour MA Scholarship, awarded by University College London, United Kingdom
 2003 British Council CHOGM Art Competition

Exhibition Catalogues

- 2022 Jansen, Charlotte. *Nengi Omuku: Parables of Joy*. London: Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, 2022 (exh. cat.)

Articles & Reviews

- 2024 Gray, Susan. "Art review: Hurvin Anderson: Salon Paintings and Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World at Hastings Contemporary," *Church Times*, February 2, 2024, <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2024/2-february/books-arts/visual-arts/art-review-hurvin-anderson-salon-paintings-and-nengi-omuku-the-dance-of-people-and-the-natural-world-at-hastings-contemporary>.
- 2023 Steer, Emily. "Meet 8 Artists Who Broke Big in 2023—From Sculptor Mire Lee to Abstract Painter Rachel Jones," *Art News*, December 22, 2023, <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/breakout-stars-2023-2413605>.
 McGivern, Hannah. "How Moving Back to Her Home Country of Nigeria Changed the Course of Artist Nengi Omuku's Career," *Cultured Magazine*, December 8, 2023, pp. 128-129.
 Shurvell, Joanne. "Experience A Top Cultural Weekend Getaway In Seaside Gem, Hastings," *Forbes*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/joanneshurvell/2023/11/01/experience-a-top-cultural-weekend-getaway-in-seaside-gem-hastings/?sh=22595217f2c4>.
 Rees, Lucy. "This Nigerian-Born Artist Is Quickly Making Waves with Her Distinctive Style," *Galerie*, October 31, 2023, <https://galeriemagazine.com/nengi-omuku/>.
 "The Unbound Potential of Thread: Textile Works at Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2023," *Frieze*, October 14, 2023, <https://www.frieze.com/article/unbound-potential-thread-textile-works-frieze-london-and-frieze-masters-2023>.

Hastings, "First UK solo exhibition comes to Hastings by rising Nigerian Artist," *ITVxNews*, October 8 2023, <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-08/first-uk-solo-exhibition-comes-to-hastings-by-rising-nigerian-artist#>.

Oluwatobiloba Ajayi, *Dada Magazine*, Issue 2, October 2023 (cover)

Olsen, Annikka. "Get a Closer Look at Lagos-Based Artist Nengi Omuku's Intricate Textile Paintings—Made on Traditional Nigerian Cloth," *Artnet News*, September 29, 2023, <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/nengi-omuku-sanyan-textile-2366599>.

"New Artist Spotlight: Nengi Omuku at Kasmin," *Artsy*, June 19, 2023, <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-new-artist-spotlight-nengi-omuku-kasmin>.

Tovey, Russell and Robert Diament. *Talk Art*, season 15, episode 10, January 27, 2023, <https://shows.acast.com/talkart/episodes/nengi-omuku>.

2022 Rotinwa, Ayodeji. "Against the Odds: The Quiet Triumph of Lagos's Art Scene." *Art Basel*, December 8, 2022, <https://www.artbasel.com/stories/against-the-odds-the-quiet-triumph-of-lagos-art-scene>.

Akinkugbe, Alayo. "'People Seem to be Trying to Reconnect with Nature', in Conversation With Nengi Omuku." *The Republic*, October 31, 2022, <https://republic.com.ng/interviews/in-conversation-with-nengi-omuku/>.

Tabish, Kahn. "The Top 6 Art Exhibitions to See in London in July" *FAD Magazine*, July 3, 2022, <https://fadmagazine.com/2022/07/03/the-top-6-art-exhibitions-to-see-in-london-in-july/>.

Black, Holly. "Nengi Omuku: 'It's the Only Irreplaceable Thing in my Studio.'" *ELEPHANT*, June 27, 2022, <https://elephant.art/nengi-omuku-its-the-only-irreplaceable-thing-in-my-studio-27062022/>.

Rea, Naomi. "Artist Nengi Omuku Paints Portraits on Traditional Nigerian Textiles. See Inside Her Lagos Studio Here." *Artnet*, June 7, 2022, <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/studio-visit-nengi-omuku-2125897>.

"Nengi Omuku: Parables of Joy." *Contemporary And (C&)*, June 2, 2022, <https://contemporaryand.com/exhibition/nengi-omuku-parables-of-joy/>.

"The Rise of Amazons – African Female Artists." *Business Day*, March 12, 2022, <https://businessday.ng/bd-weekender/article/the-rise-of-amazons-african-female-artists/>.

Onabolu, Tobi. "As the Art World's Gaze Returns to Nigeria, Meet the Local Players Who Are Working to Ensure the Sustainability of its Market." *Artnet News*, February 8, 2022, <https://news.artnet.com/news-pro/nigeria-sustainable-collecting-2069608>.

2021 Olatunbosun, Yinka. "Art x Lagos Launches Short Film Series." *This Day*, September 12, 2021, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/09/12/art-x-lagos-launches-short-film-series/>.

Onuzo, Chibundu. "'If You Are of the Camp That Wants to Keep the Art World An Exclusive Club, Then Look Away Now'." *The Art Newspaper*, July 17, 2021, <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/06/17/if-you-are-of-the-camp-that-wants-to-keep-the-art-world-an-exclusive-club-then-look-away-now>.

Sarpong, June. "June Sarpong on the Power of Black Art and Visual Storytelling." *Vanity Fair*, May 25, 2021, <https://www.vanityfair.com/london/2021/05/june-sarpong-on-the-power-of-black-art-and-visual-storytelling>.

McDonald, Maya Asha. "Elebete Your Collection with the Social Set's 10 Favourite Female Artists." *Tatler*, March 4, 2021, <https://www.tatler.com/article/social-set-favourite-female-artists>.

2020 Okoro, Enuma. "Processing an Impossible Year Through Art." *Harper's Bazaar*, December 28, 2020, <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/art-books-music/a35048154/nengi-omuku-art-essay/>.

Walton, Mille. "Painting The Collective: An Interview with Nengi Omuku." *Trebuchet Magazine*, December 4, 2020, <https://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/nengi-omuku/>.

Amendah, Hanou. "Nengi Omuku Paints a Cartography of Collective Strife and Solidarity." *The Sole Adventurer*, November 14, 2020, <https://thesoleadventurer.com/nengi-omuku-paints-a-cartography-of-collective-strife-and-solidarity-by-hanou-amendah/>.

2018

"Last Chance Traces: Contemporary Africa." *Magpie*, November 10, 2018.

Public Collections

Azman Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection

Easton Capital Collection, New York, NY

HSBC Art Collection, London, United Kingdom

Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Miami, FL

Loewe Art Collection, Madrid, Spain

Monsoon Art Collection, London, United Kingdom

Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Women's Art Collection, Edwards Murray College, Cambridge, United Kingdom