

# AMARACHI OKAFOR

2013 –

## **FOUNDER/LEADER, ORIE STUDIO**

\* Full time studio practice

\* Art professional and researcher (curatorial) organising systemised art databases and archival systems for private, public art collections for individuals and Institutions towards richer art education in Africa

2009 – 2013

\*Artist, working majorly part time, whilst working as a curator with the Nigeria National Gallery of Art.

\*I held various exhibitions, Talks and Workshops during this period

## **EDUCATION**

MARCH 2017

### **KLEIN ARTISTS WORKS (KAW 20, SPRING 2017)**

Professional Development - Art

2011 - 2012

### **MA CURATORIAL PRACTICE (CURATING CONTEMPORARY ART), FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY, CORNWALL, UK**

Modules included- 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

### **MFA SCULPTURE, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA (UNN)**

Modules included- 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

**BA (HONS. PAINTING, MAJOR) 2:1, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA (UNN)**

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

**SKILLS**

I have a personal inclination to organising and caring for things/objects and Spaces- Tenacity, Attention to detail, Critical thinking, Critical context, Research, Writing

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

**Main-** Cultural Production. Cultural Advocacy. Project Management/Planning – learning & education projects (through art). Management/Advisory – documenting Collections/Studio Management

**Sub-** Learning advocacy

**SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS**

**AWARDS/GRANTS/ RESIDENCIES**

Recipient, Scholarship from *Klein Artist Works*, Chicago, USA **2017**

-to attend KAW for professional artistic development

Grant and Residency from the Yayasan Biennale Yogyakarta, Indonesia, **2015**

Winner (Jury Prize), African Artists Foundation *National Art Competition* **2014**

- To challenge artists and encourage professional art practice

Recipient, Grant Award to graduating MA Art student, *Falmouth University*, UK **2012**

-supported my internship/Work experience at October Gallery London.

Popopstudios Centre for the Visual Arts, Nassau, Bahamas, Residency by Grant from the Commonwealth Foundation **2010**

Winner, *Commonwealth Connections* **2009** – A Commonwealth Foundation Award for artistic excellence **2009**

-To enhance professional development, motivate/build networks and explore art in another Commonwealth country

Nkd (Nordisk Kunstnarsenter Dalsåsen), Norway, Grant and Residency from Nkd **2009**

Winner, *ARESUVA*, an exhibition and Grant award from the National Gallery of Art (Nigeria) **2008**

for the first 'African Regional Summit and Exhibition on Visual Arts' *ARESUVA* '08, Abuja-Nigeria

-To facilitate the commission - participation in the exhibition as an artist

Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder Trondheim, Norway, Residency by Grant from the United Nations and the Trondheim Kommune **2007**

Winner, *UNESCO Aschberg* – A Unesco Award for artistic excellence in Art **2007**

Aina Onabolu Studios, National Gallery of Art Lagos, Nigeria, supported by the National Gallery of Art, **2004**

### **CURATORIAL (& ART HANDLING) EXPERIENCES** **[INSTITUTIONAL/INDEPENDENT]**

Appointment, Curator, *Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF)*, *Humanism* **2024**

Art handling/Installation team support & Deinstallation team support [El Anatsui's] *Logoligi Logarithm* at the Diriyah Biennale, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia **2024**

Art handling/Installation Manager, [Bright Eke's] *Heavy Clouds* at the 'Net Zero' Exhibition, King Abdulhaziz Centre for World Culture (Ithra), Aramco, Saudi Arabia **2023**

Appointment, Curator, *Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF)*, *Fix It* **2023**

Appointment, Africa Commissioner, *Gangwon Triennial, Warm Revitalisation* **2021**

Appointment, Assistant, with the preparation and installation of the exhibition *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale*, Curated by Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu (assisted by Haus der Kunst Curator, Damian Lentini) **2017-2020**

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] **2019**

Organised *Orie Studio hand paper-making workshop* [self-initiative] **2018**

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] **2014**

Co-curator *Scattered Plots & Routes We Take*, A solo exhibition by international artist Katja Davar, Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange, Cornwall **2012**

Internship: October Gallery London (Gallery Assistant) **2012**

Assistant: to the organizing team of the 2012 *Penzance Convention* **2012**

*Jerwood Drawing Prize* 2012 by Parker Harris contemporary visual art specialists (Falmouth University Submission Center), **2012**

*National Gallery of Art (NGA), Nigeria* (Full time job, 2008 – 2015)

-Senior Curator, **2012-2015**

-Curatorial Assistant, **2008-2012**

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] **2010**

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] **2010**
- Curatorial Assistant, first African Regional Summit and Exhibition on Visual Arts (*ARESUVA*) 2008, Abuja-Nigeria [Coordinated documentation for the project, co-curated the exhibition installation at the space] **2008**

Collaborative Anthropological Field Project *Shared Perspectives*, a cross-cultural research study of 'Mbari Owerri' (with British artist Kate Parsons), Imo State Nigeria [self-initiative] **2008**  
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] **2008**

## **INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)**

*Announcing Beauty, Mercy, Kindness and Love*, Red Door Gallery, Lagos **2022**

*The Colour of Our Heats is the Colour of Our City*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos **2021**

*The Colour of Our Heats is the Colour of Our City*, Thought Pyramid Art Centre, Abuja **2020**

*I Am the Light*, 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, Nigeria **2019**

*I Learnt This*, A Public Art Intervention in 3 public locations (schools) in Jogjakarta Indonesia. A collaborative and interactive art with the public **2015**

*Ask Yourself*, A Public Art Intervention in 4 public locations in Abuja. A collaborative interactive art with the public and with other artists **2014**

*Seven Days Live Art*, Presentation of art pieces daily, - multiple variant locations, in Dalsasen, Dale I Sunnfjord, Norway **2009**

*Open Studio to work in Progress*, Nkd Dalsasen, Dale I Sunnfjord, Norway **2009**

*Africa West*, Oriel Mostyn Gallery Llandudno Wales, UK **2008**

Europe at Financial Times, Babel Art Gallery, Trondheim. Norway **2007**  
*Open Studio*, Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder, Norway **2007**

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)**

*Slant: Perspectives on Sculpture*, a Juried exhibition of Artsy and the ISC, Gallery 14C, Jersey City, NJ, USA **2024**

*International Sculpture Centre Exhibition/ Artsy Artist Exhibition*, an exhibition of Artsy and the ISC, Online, **2024**

*Stones Last A Wee Bit Longer (Dusk Art Festival, 2023, The CERA Project)*, a touring project – Portugal, Spain, Alba-Scotland, Iceland, Nigeria **2023**

*Krisis (Art Theorema #3)*, Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy **2023**

*The Invincible Hands*, Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos **2021**

*My Super Power*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA **2021**

*Off The Wall*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA **2021**

*13th Annual Juried Member Exhibition and Contest*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA **2021**

*Summer Blues*, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY, USA **2020**

*LineGauge: Textual Imagery/ Linear Allegory*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos **2018-2019**

*Clourful Africa*, MOESHEN contemporary art gallery, Penthouse Floor, Zen Building, Life Camp, Abuja **2017**

*Nkoli Ka (Nsukka School after 5 years)* - a touring exhibition-UNN, Nsukka; Abuja; Lagos **2017**

*Hacking Conflict (Equator #3)*, Biennale Jogjakarta, Jogjakarta, Indonesia **2015**

*Anya Fulu Ugo*, Exhibition in honour of El Anatsui & Obiora Udechukwu, Nsukka **2015**

*National Art Competition*, An African Artists Foundation exhibition. Lagos **2014**

*Together Again*, An exhibition of National Gallery of Art, Nigeria, Kaduna **2014**

*Playing With Chance*, Showing El Anatsui archives and the works of his female mentees **2014**

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

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

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

*RAVY (Rencontres D'arts Visuels De Yaoundé)*, Festival. Yaoundé- Cameroun **2010**

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

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

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

*Experimental frontiers: Society Through the Eyes of South African and Nigerian Artists*, Vansa Western Cape Space, South Africa- Curated by Okechukwu Nwafor **2008**

*Art 4*: Channel Four Television Corporation, London, UK **2008**

*Guest Artists' Open Studio*, Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder Trondheim, Norway **2007**  
*MFA Graduation Exhibition*, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) **2007**  
*Make-Op/ Zombification (Performing Anthropology) Interdisciplinary Theatre Performance*, practical workshop and presentation. Goethe-Institut Lagos, Nigeria **2007**

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

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

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

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

Exhibition organized by Chinze Art Place Abuja Sheraton Hotel, Abuja **2002**

*Heritage*, FCT Council for Arts and Culture, FCT Abuja **2002**

Bachelor's Degree Award Exhibition, Fine Arts Department, UNN **2002**

*Artytude*, an association of Fine Arts Students exhibition, Art Theatre, UNN **2002**

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

*Footprints*, Ana Gallery, UNN **2001**

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE/Administrative Experience**

Juror, 7<sup>th</sup> National Visual Art Competition (Abuja, Cyprain Ekwensi Cultural Centre) **2023**

Juror, LIMCAF, Nigeria [Abuja Zone] **2022**

Juror, Life In My City Art Festival (LIMCAF), Nigeria 2017, [Abuja Zonal Jury, & 2017 National Jury Board] **2017**

Juror, LIMCAF, Nigeria [Abuja Zone] **2016**

Juror, Spanish Art Competition – Abuja, Nigeria **2015**

Juror, Korean Cultural Centre, Children Art Competition – Abuja **2015**

National Gallery of Art Grants Committee **2011-2015**

National Gallery of Art Magazine (*Artivity*) Committee **2011-2015**

Juror, National Gallery of Art, Nigeria (Abuja, National Art Competition) **2014**

Co-ordinator: Platoon Theatre Group, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp, (Bauchi, Nigeria) **2002**

[Involved in theatre programs/acting, broadened my artistic capabilities]

Fine Art Teacher: Command Day Secondary School, 33 FAB Shadawanka Barracks, Bauchi, Nigeria (NYSC) **[2002-2003]**

Studio Assistant, Afrika Studio **1999-2000**

Internship, Afrika Studio (with renowned artist/Sculpture professor El Anatsui, Nsukka, Nigeria) **1999**

[Assisted to facilitate work in the artist's studio, adapting to professional studio art practice]

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*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 **2022**

*Ask Yourself*, a book based on the 2014 project *Ask Yourself* [see Independent Curatorial Projects]. Published by Orie Studio in Nigeria, **2021**

*The Colour of our Hearts is the Colour of our City- Abuja City*, a book documentation of the same exhibition. Published by Orie Studio in Nigeria, **2020**

*I Learnt This Film*, a documentary based on the 2015 project *I Learnt This* [see Individual Exhibitions]. Produced by Orie Studio in Nigeria, **2019**

*Ask Yourself Film*, a documentary based on the 2014 project *Ask Yourself* [see Independent Curatorial Projects]. Produced by Orie Studio in Nigeria, **2019**

*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, **2012**

Selected to document and catalogue the artwork images (content) for *ARESUVA 2008 Catalogue*; a publication of National Gallery of Art, Nigeria, for the same exhibition **2008**

## **PUBLIC LECTURES, WORKSHOPS DELIVERED**

*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 **2018**

*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 **2017**

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

Workshop and Discussion with women artists working in craft and with 'sewing' as a process, Kedai Kebun Forum (KKF), Jogjakarta, Indonesia 2015

*Ask Yourself*, a multi-dimensional art intervention, discussions, teaching and workshop series, at 4 venues in Abuja Nigeria **2014**

*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 **2013**

*In Conversation* (with Lucy Azubuiké, Amarachi Okafor, Victorian Udondian, and Curator Gabriella Salgado), Tiwani Contemporary London **2012**

*The Artist-Curator*, an artist-curator Talk presented by Amarachi Okafor, to the Curatorial Dept., National Gallery of Art, Abuja **2011**

*Development Dialogue for Capacity Enhancement*, A Capacity Building Training Workshop, organized by NGA Abuja **2011**

*Schooner Bay Art Symposium*, Schooner Bay, Abaco, The Bahamas **2010**

*Artist Talk*, Popopstudios centre for the Visual Arts, Nassau, The Bahamas **2010**

Art Workshop for Children, with Antonius Roberts and Amarachi Okafor, in collaboration with Aids Foundation, Nassau, The Bahamas **2010**

*Performing Anthropology Workshop*- Interdisciplinary Theatre practice workshop, Goethe-Institut Lagos, Nigeria **2007**

Artist Talk, Spike Island Studios, Bristol, UK **2007**

Artist Talk, Weston College/Bath Spa University, W-S-M, UK **2007**

Artist Talk, Kuumba project, St.Paul's, Bristol, UK **2007**

## **CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

*Anyá Fulú Ugo*, Faculty of Arts, UNN, Nigeria **2015**

*The Penzance Convention, Penzance, Cornwall* (Theme: *Extraction*) **2012**

Finale Symposium for British Art Show 7: *In the Days of the Comet* (Theme: *Precarious Times*-Symposium and PhD Workshop) **2011**

*First International Festival of Contemporary Art* at Musée d'art Moderne et Contemporain, Alger, Algeria **2009**

Themes discussed:

- Part au cœur des conflits idéologiques.
- Part Contemporain, environnement et flux migratoires.
- le marché de l'art entre le nord et le sud.

*Why Sculpture, Why Here*: exploring global contexts of contemporary sculpture, INIVA (Institute of International Visual Artists) London **2007**

*Think with the Senses, Feel with the Mind: Art in the Present Tense* Venice Biennial 2007, a press preview and critique **2007**

*AHAN (Association of Art Historians of Nigeria) Conference*, UNN, Nigeria **2005**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF EXTERNAL BODIES**

Member, International Sculpture (ISC) **since 2013**

Member, Arterial Network **since 2013**