



Otobong Nkanga's work foregrounds ecological themes of relationality and becoming through a distilled poetics of entanglement. Her multidisciplinary practice examines the complex social, political, and material relationships between bodies, territories, minerals and the earth. Unsettling the divisions between minimal and conceptual or sensual and surreal approaches, the artist's research-based practice constellates humans and landscapes, organic and non-organic matter, Global North and Global South economies. Through drawing, installation, performance, photography, textiles and sculpture, Nkanga creates pathways translating the natural world – its plants, herbs, minerals and living organisms – into networked, aggregated situations evoking memory, labour, home, care, ownership, emotion, touch and smell.

Otobong Nkanga (born 1974, Kano, Nigeria) lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. She studied at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife-Ife, Nigeria; the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and did her masters in the Performing Arts at DasArts, Advanced Research in Theatre and Dance studies in Amsterdam. Nkanga has been an artist-in-residence at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam in 2002-04, DAAD Berlin programme in 2013-14 and at the Martin Gropius-Bau in 2019.

Her most recent solo exhibitions include: IVAM, Valencia, Spain (2023), Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges, Belgium (2022); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2021); Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin, Italy (2021-2022); Villa Arson, Nice, France (2021); Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Høvikodden, Norway (2020-2021); Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany (2020); MIMA, Middlesbrough, UK (2020); Tate St Ives, UK (2019); Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (2019); Ar/ge kunst Galleria Museo, Bolzano, Italy (2018); MCA Chicago, US (2018); Kunsthal Aarhus, Denmark (2017); Nottingham Contemporary, UK (2016); Beirut Art Center, Lebanon (2016); Tate Modern, London, UK (2015); Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany (2015); Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Schiedam, The Netherlands (2015); Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (2015), Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp, Belgium (2015); Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France (2015).

Her participation in international group shows includes: 'Dear Earth', Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2023); "THE MIND'S EYE. Images of Nature from Claude Monet to Otobong Nkanga", Fondation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland (2023); 'Busan Biennial 2022 – We, on the Rising Wave', Museum of Contemporary Art, Busan, South Korea (2022); 'KUB In Venice', Scuola di San Pasquale, Venice, Italy (2022); 'Black Melancholia', Hessel Museum of Art, New York, USA (2022); 'Currency: Photography Beyond Capture, 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg', Hamburg, Germany (2022); 'We Are History', Somerset House, London, UK (2021); 'Witch Hunt', Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA (2021); 'Global(e) Resistance', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2020); 'Our World is Burning', Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2020); 'Seismic Movements', Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh (2020); '58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia', Venice, Italy (2019); 'Sharjah Biennial 14: Leaving the Echo Chamber', Sharjah, UAE (2019); 'Cosmogonies, according to the elements', MAMAC, Nice, France (2018); 'General Rehearsal', Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia (2018); 'Documenta 14', Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany (2017); 'I am a native foreigner', Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2017); 'Take Me (I'm Yours)', Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy (2017); 'Dialogues, Manifesta – The European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2017); 'Life Itself, Moderna Museet', Stockholm, Sweden (2016); 'Museum on/off', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2016); '13th Biennale de Lyon, La vie moderne', Lyon, France (2015); 'Africa Remix', Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France, Hayward Gallery, London, UK, and Museum Kunstplust, Düsseldorf, Germany (2004-2007).

Nkanga was given the Special Mention Award at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy, 2019 and won the 2017 Belgium Art Prize. Other notable awards include the Peter-Weiss-Preis, Sharjah Biennial Prize, the Lise Wilhelmsen Art Award, the Flemish Cultural Award for Visual Arts - Ultima and the Yanghyun Prize.