

LISSON

OTOBONG NKANGA

BIOGRAPHY



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 have taken place at Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland (2026); Musée d'art Moderne de Paris, France (2025); Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, USA (2025); MoMA, New York, USA (2024); 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).

She has participated in international group exhibitions at Baltic Center for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK (2025); New Art Gallery of Walsall, UK (2024); Baltimore Museum of Art, USA (2024); Bourse de Commerce Pinault Collection, Paris, France (2024); Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2023); Fondation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland (2023); Museum of Contemporary Art, Busan, South Korea (2022); Scuola di San Pasquale, Venice, Italy (2022); Hessel Museum of Art, New York, USA (2022); 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany (2022); Somerset House, London, UK (2021); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA (2021); Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2020); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2020); Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh (2020); 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2019); Sharjah Biennial 14, Sharjah, UAE (2019); MAMAC, Nice, France (2018); Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia (2018); Documenta 14, Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany (2017); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2017); Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy (2017); Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2016); 13th Biennale de Lyon, France (2015); 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 Kunstplast, 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 Nasher Prize for Sculpture, The Finkenwerder Art Prize, the Peter-Weiss-Preis, Sharjah Biennial Prize, the Lise Wilhelmsen Art Award, the Flemish Cultural Award for Visual Arts - Ultima and the Yanghyun Prize.