



VICTOR EKPUK

(Washington, DC b. Nigeria)

EDUCATION:

1989 Bachelor of Fine & Applied Art, Obatemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2015 *Hip Sistas in Flux: The Visual –Lingual Braid*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 2015 *Auto Graphics*, Hood Museum, Hanover, NH
- 2014 *Auto Graphics*, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL
- 2013 *Reminiscences & Current Musings*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC, USA
- 2013 *Drawing Memories*, Turchin Center for Art, Appalachian State University, NC
- 2011 *Drawing Metaphors*, Sawhill gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA
- 2009 *Of Lines and Life*, The Richard F. Brush Gallery, University of St. Lawrence, Canton, New York, USA
- 2009 *Victor Ekpuk*, Long View Gallery, Washington DC, USA
- 2008 *Open Studio*, Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2006 *Manuscript Series (Ancient Symbols/Contemporary Forms)*, Parish Gallery, Washington D.C., USA
- 2006 *Drawing From Within*, Galerie 23, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2005 *Storylines: Drawings of Victor Ekpuk*, Montgomery College, College Park, Maryland, USA
- 2004 *Trans/Script: The Art of Victor Ekpuk*, Brandeis University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 1998 *Songs*, 18th Street Arts Complex, Santa Monica, California, USA (Sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle)
- 1995 *Windsongs*, French Cultural Center, Lagos, Nigeria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2015 12TH HAVANA BIENNIAL, HAVANA, CUBA
- 2015 AQUA ART MIAMI, MORTON FINE ART, MIAMI, FL
- 2015 AFRICA NOW-POLITICAL PATTERNS, SEOUL MUSEUM OF ART, KOREA
- 2014 DAK' ART BIENNIAL, DAKAR, SENEGAL
- 2014 AQUA ART MIAMI, MORTON FINE ART, MIAMI, FL
- 2013 TOTEM, FOUNDATION JP BLACHERE, APT, FRANCE
- 2013 DIASPORA DIALOGUE, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, MD
- 2013 AQUA ART MIAMI, MORTON FINE ART, MIAMI, FL
- 2013 ART HAMPTONS, MORTON FINE ART, BRIDGEHAMPTON, NY
- 2012 FAIR FOCUS, MORTON FINE ART, BETHESDA, MD
- 2012 AQUA Art Miami with Morton Fine Art, Miami, FL
- 2012 Houston Fine Art Fair with Morton Fine Art, Houston, TX



- 2010 Global Africa Project, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA
2010 International Poster and Graphic Art Festival of Chaumont, France
2010 Them-and-Us, Hudiksvallsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden
2009 Unbounded: New Art for a New Century, Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA
2008 Africa Now! The World Bank, Washington DC, USA
2008 Beyond Boundaries – mapping currents for the 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China
2007 Inscribing Meanings, National Museum for African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington (DC), USA. Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA
2006 Inspired by Spinoza, Vrije Akademie, The Hague, The Netherlands
2007 Art In Red Light, Oude Kirk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2003-05 Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo Kuti,
Traveling exhibition: New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA, The Barbican Galleries, London, UK
Yerba Buena Center for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, California, USA
Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
2001 Arttexts, Jamaica Center for Art and Learning, Jamaica, New York, USA
2001 Kunst Rai, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1995 Africus, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa

WORKS IN SELECTED PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art, Washington DC
The Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Newark Museum, New Jersey
The World Bank, Washington DC
University of Maryland University College Art Collection

GRANTS, RESIDENCIES & ARTIST LECTURES

- 2013 Artist in Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, NM
2013 Artist in Residence, Fondation JP Blachere, Apt, France
2012 Artist Lecture, Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
2011 Cross-cultural Artist-in-Residence for the 2011-2012, James Madison University
2010 Falk Visiting Artist: University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
2010 Artist Lecture: University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
2009 Artist Lecture: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum for African Art, Washington DC, USA
1998 Artist Residency: 18th Street Arts Complex, Santa Monica, California, USA (Sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, UNESCO-ASCHBERG Bursaries for Artists and 18th Street Arts Complex International Circle)
1998 Artist Lecture: Pasadena College of Art and Design, Pasadena, California, USA
2007 Artist Residency: Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2007 Artist Lecture: Africa Day, The Hague, The Netherlands
2004 Artist Residency: Brandies University, Waltham Massachusetts, USA.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Books

- 2013 Artists of Nigeria, by Onyema Ofeodu-Okeke
- 2010 Contemporary African Art Since 1980, by Okwui Enwezor, Chika Okeke
- 2007 Inscribing Meaning: Writing and Graphic Systems in African Art, by Christine Mullen Kreamer (Author), Mary Nooter Roberts (Author), Elizabeth Harney (Author), Allyson Purpura (Author)
- 2005 Black President, The Art & Legacy of Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Trevo Schoonmaker
- 2005 Contemporary Art In Nigeria & Ghana, Ester Adeyemi (ed.), Friedrich Reinhardt Verlag publication
- 2004 African Alphabets, Saki Mafindikwa, Mark Batty Publishers
- 2002 The Nsukka Artists and Nigeria Contemporary Art, Simon Ottenberg (ed.), (A publication of National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution)

B. Journals/Internet publications

- 2010 ARTNews, November 10, 2010 edition
- 2005 Storylines/Drawings of Victor Ekpuk, by Francine Farr
- 2004 "Black President: The Legacy of Fela Anikulapo Kuti" by Sarah Adams, African Arts, (Los Angeles), spring, 2004
- 2004 Trans/Scripts: The Art of Victor Ekpuk by Mark Auslander
- 2000 Manuscript Series: Ancient Symbols/Contemporary Forms-Ijele: Art ejournal of the African World. (ed.) Prof. Nkiru Nzeogwu
- 1999 Review-NKA Journal of African Contemporary Art, No. 10. New York
- 1998 Disparate Artistic Vision, dART International, Vol.2 No. 1, Los Angeles
- 1995 My Sources, Glendora Review, a journal of Contemporary African Art, Volume 1 No. 2

C. Newspapers

- 2007 Power Behind The Written Word by Michael O'Sullivan Washington Post, (Washington DC), May 18, 2007
- 2006 Text: Reading Between the Lines by Michael O'Sullivan, Washington Post, (Washington DC), April 7, 2006

BIO

The central theme of my work is the exploration of the relationships, challenges and responses to changes that characterize the human condition. Of particular interest to my project is Nsibidi, an indigenous African system of writing that employs graphic signs, and codes to convey concepts. Inspired by this ancient writings, forms in my works are reduced to basic essence resulting in new symbols or codes in script-like drawings that are used to express contemporary experiences. When combined with Nsibidi signs, these "scripts" also provide the background narrative to my compositions. Most often these narratives are better perceived when they are felt rather than read literally.

-Victor Ekpuk