

WURA-NATASHA OGUNJI

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EDUCATION

1998 **San Jose State University**, Master of Fine Arts, Photography.

1992 **Stanford University**, Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2012 **Fellowship Recipient**, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York.

2010 **Grant Recipient**, The Otis and Velma Davis Dozier Travel Grant, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX.

Grant Recipient, The Idea Fund, a project of the Warhol Foundation Initiative, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks and Project Row Houses, Houston, TX.

2009 **Artist-in-Residence**, National Performance Network, Visual Artist Network Residency at Diaspora Vibe Gallery, Miami, FL.

Grant Recipient, CORE Cultural Arts Grant, City of Austin, Austin, TX.

2008 **Grant Recipient**, Cultural Arts Grant, City of Austin, Austin, TX.

2007 **Artist-in-Residence**, Can Serrat Artist Residency, El Bruc, Spain.

2005 **Grant Recipient**, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York, NY.

Artist-in-Residence, Altos de Chavon Artist Residency, Dominican Republic.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2012 **Art Instructor**, KIPP Austin Collegiate, Austin, TX. As founding Art Instructor at public charter school, developed curriculum and taught core courses including Drawing, Painting and Mixed-Media as well as Electronic Media (including video, sound, photography). 2008-2012

2011 **Adjunct Professor**, University of Texas, Austin. Taught core performance course which introduced students to the fundamentals of performance art, drawing from historical precedents and contemporary practices. Students developed methods and aesthetic language for creating individual and collaborative works in private and public spaces. Creative practices were archived in the form of blogs, artists' books and journals. (*Transmedia: Performance Art I*, Fall Semester)

2007 **Performance Instructor**, Theater Action Project, Austin, TX. Taught courses which incorporated theatre and the visual arts. Lessons encouraged collaboration and incorporated movement exercises as well as visual arts instruction. 2006-1007

2002 **Photography Instructor**, Academic Study Associates, UC Berkeley, CA. Taught college-level *Beginning Photography* course for high school enrichment program. Instructed students in the fundamentals of black and white photography, including image composition, film developing and printing techniques, and presentation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

- 2002 **Adjunct Professor**, Photography Department, Modesto Junior College, Modesto, CA.
Taught students the fundamentals of black and white photography, including camera operation, image composition, film developing and printing techniques, alternative processes and matting and mounting. Instructed students in the History of Photography from its discovery up through contemporary photographic movements and digital technologies. (*History of Photography*, Spring Semester 2001 and *Beginning Photography*, Spring Semesters, 2001-2002)
- 1999 **Art Instructor**, Southern Exposure, SF, CA. Taught youth art course as part of GIRL (Giving and Instilling Responsibility in Life) art program which integrated photography and mixed-media for girls ages 13-17. Final portfolios were exhibited at the 'Zeum Gallery.
- 1998 **Photography Instructor** (instructor of record), San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.
Taught intermediate black and white photography course to undergraduates. Students further developed their technical and conceptual skills in photography. Students learned various alternative photographic processes as well as basic digital techniques. Students completed interdisciplinary projects which included writing, installation, sculpture and performance. (*Intermediate Photography*, Spring Semester)
- 1997 **Photography Instructor** (instructor of record), San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
Taught students the fundamentals of black and white photography, including camera operation, image composition, film developing and printing techniques, alternative processes and matting and mounting. (*Beginning Photography*, Fall Semester)

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 **Guest Lecturer**, University of Texas, Austin. Facilitated performance workshop entitled *Performing the Afrofuturistic* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as part of João Costa Vargas' *The Theory and the Political Issues of the African Diaspora in the Americas* course.
- Guest Lecturer**, University of Texas, Austin, TX. Professor Moyo Okediji's *Africana Women's Art*.
- 2010 **Guest Artist**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Facilitated performance workshops which integrated writing, drawing and movement exercises and culminated in presentation of collaborative student performance works.
- Presenting Artist**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. *Run, Jump, Fly: If they tell us there are no pictures, will we see the stories when they come?* Presented video portfolio and lecture on the power and possibilities of the archive.
- Presenting Artist**, Blurring the Lines: Public Art Re-Examined, City of Austin's Art in Public Places Symposium, Austin, Texas. Creative participatory presentation of performance and video portfolio.
- 2009 **Presenting Artist**, Fire & Ink III, The Blanton Museum, Austin, TX. *Dash: Metaphor and Connection* curated by Torkwase Dyson, with Tisa Bryant, Carl Pope, Ronaldo V. Wilson, M. Asli Dukan and Nalo Hopkinson.
- 2008 **Presenting Artist**, *¿Y QUÉ?: Queer Art Made in Texas*, College Art Association, National Conference, Dallas, TX. Curated by Harmony Hammond, with Heyd Fontenot, Angela Piehl, Chuck Ramirez, Chris Sauter.
- 2007 **Presenting Artist**, *Yoruba Exhibition*, ISESE Gallery, Center for African and African American Studies, University of Texas, Austin.
- 2005 **Presenting Artist**, El Centro León, Santiago, Dominican Republic. Facilitated community performance presentation and workshop.

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2012 *A tortoise walks majestically on window ledges*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria. November 17.
- A tortoise walks majestically on window ledges*, Women and Their Work, Austin, Texas. June 14.
- 2011 *Oyibo!*, *Projects on Ashburn*, College Station, Texas. October 22.
- Sweep*, *Catch Takes Fusebox*, Fusebox Festival, Austin, Texas. April 25.
- Will I still carry water when I am a dead woman*, and *Okokojiya* (in collaboration with artist Jelili Atiku), Ejigbo, Lagos, Nigeria. March 19.
- There are drummers coming for me*, *The Ancestor and the Archive* performance panel, Women and Their Work, Austin, Texas. January 20.
- 2010 *one hundred black women, one hundred actions*, Fusebox Festival, Austin, Texas. April 24. Nominated for *Austin Critics Table Award 2010*.
- Incidents at the 22 Hotel*, The Off Center, Austin, Texas. Nominated for *Austin Critics Table Award 2011*. August 13, 14.
- 2009 *by a quiet sea*, Frontera Fest, Hyde Park Theater, Austin, Texas. February 6.
- T.A.G.*, Frontera Fest, Hyde Park Theater, Austin, Texas. Selected for *Best of Fest*. January 23.
- 2008 *Pecha Kucha Night*, performance with projection of stitched works, Austin, TX. May 29.
- 2006 *Serving Desire*, performance dinner, ISESE Gallery, University of Texas, Austin, TX. May 6, 7.

SCREENINGS

- 2012 *My father and I dance in outer space*, 5th Festival Les Instants Vidéo, Shams Theatre, Beyrouth, October 28
Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille, November 10.
- My father and I dance in outer space*, *Two* and *The epic crossings of an Ife head*, Body and Screen, Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, SHSU, Texas, October 1- 26.
- Two* and *My father and I dance in outer space*, Video Art Network Lagos, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany, August 31. Curated by Jude Anogwih and Emeka Ogboh.
- Two*, Moving Picture, PS122 Gallery, New York. March 24. Curated by Lisa Iglesias, Jeffrey Kurosaki and Tara Pelletier.
- 2011 *Two* and *The epic crossings of an Ife head*, Mobile Archive, The Israeli Center for Digital Art.
- Two*, Goethe-Institute in partnership with Video Art Network, Lagos, Nigeria, October 29.
- My father and I dance in outer space*, Australian Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide, South Australia. August 19-September 17.
- Two*, Video Art Festival /SI :N/ 2, Palestine (Ramallah, East Jerusalem, Naplouse). June 6-12.
- The epic crossings of an Ife Head*, SCREEN Projects, Arthouse, Austin, TX. June 13-August 28.
- My father and I dance in outer space*, Carousel Microcinema: GLOSSOLALIA 5.0, The Kitchen, NY. Curated by Cauleen Smith. February 28.

SCREENINGS (continued)

- 2011 *Two*, Ybor Festival of the Moving Image, Curated by Parallel Studios, Tampa, FL. March 23-27.
- 2010 *The epic crossings of an Ife head* and *Two*, The Twenty-Third Annual Instants Vidéo Numériques et Poétiques, France (Marseille and Martigues), Italy (Milan) and Syria (Damascus).
- The epic crossings of an Ife head* and *Two*, Carousel Microcinema, threewalls gallery, Chicago, IL. Curated by Cauleen Smith.
- 2009 *Ife head arrives*, performance with video, National Performance Network, Knoxville, TN.
- 2007 *infinite return (bird on the sun)*, Resistencia Bookstore, Austin, TX.
- belongings*, Can Serrat, El Bruc, Spain.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *The Progress of Love*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, October 13, 2012-January 27, 2013. The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis, November 16, 2012-April 20, 2013. The Menil Collection, Houston, December 2-March 17, 2013.
- Lettering*, Medialia...Rack and Hamper Gallery, New York. Curated by Nicole Vlado and Tara Donahue, September 8-29.
- Solo Exhibition*, Cliff Gallery, Mountain View College, Dallas, TX. August 27-September 14.
- 2011 *Queer State(s)*, Visual Arts Center, UT Austin, TX. Curated by Noah Simblist and David Wilburn. September 9-November 4.
- Selfless. Selfish. Selfiness*, brand 10 art space, Fort Worth, TX. September 9-October 15.
- Video Program 006*, Champion Gallery, Austin, TX. June 2-July 16.
- Somewhere/Nowhere: You can live in paradise forever*, Queen's Park Gallery, Barbados. May 4-9.
- Nowhere Near Here*, Fotofest and Houston Center for Photography, Houston, TX. Curated by Toby Kamps and Michelle White. March 10-April 23.
- The epic crossings of an Ife Head*, Women and Their Work, Austin, TX. January 13-February 17.
- 2010 *Currents 2010*, El Museo Cultural, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Curated by Parallel Studios. June 17- 27.
- As Far As the Eye Can See*, Galería Universidad del SC, Santurce, Puerto Rico. March 11-15.
- ves·sel*, The Brennan Gallery, New Jersey. Curated by Kenya Robinson. February 2-26.
- 2009 *Screwed Anthologies*, labotanica, Houston, Texas. Curated by Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud. November 27-December 31.
- Soundings*, Diaspora Vibe Gallery, Miami, FL. July 31-August 5.
- Négritude*, Exit Art, NY. Co-curated by Papo Colo, Tania Cypriano, Rose Réjouis, Franklin Sirmans and Greg Tate. May 20-July 25.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alec de León, "Catching up with Wura-Natasha Ogunji," *National Performance Network*, interview, July 2012.

Ana-Maurine Lara, "Of Unexplained Presences, Flying Ife Heads, Vampires, Sweat, Zombies, and Legbas: A Meditation on Black Queer Aesthetics," *Black Queer Diaspora: a special issue of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, edited by Jafari S. Allen, Volume 18, Issue 2/3, 2012.

Moyo Okediji, "Daughters of Daedalus: Wura Ogunji's Anti-Gravity Art," *The Nation*, Nigeria, 2011.

Carla McDonald, "An Audience with Wura-Natasha Ogunji," *Tribeza*, April 2011.

Kimberli Gant, "The epic crossings of an Ife Head," *Art Lies*, issue 67, 2011.

Tisa Bryant et al, editors, *Encyclopedia, Volume 2: F-K*, Encyclomedia, 2010.

Rose Réjouis, Curator, *Négritude*, exhibition catalogue, Exit Art, NY, 2009.

Lorenzo Herrera y Lozano, editor, *Rooted! Codex*, allgo and Evelyn Street Press, 2008.

Anne Ellegood, curator, *New American Talent: The Twenty-Second Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Arthouse at the Jones Center, Texas. June 16-August 19, 2007.

Harmony Hammond, curator, *¿Y QUÉ? –Queer Art Made in Texas*, exhibition catalogue, Texas Tech University, October 5-November 18, 2007.

Tisa Bryant et al, editors, *Encyclopedia, Volume 1: A-E*, Encyclomedia, 2006.

Amanda Johnston, editor, *Torch Poetry*, online journal, Fall 2006.

Ana M. Lara, "Spirit and the Ancestors: The Photographic Works of Albert Chong and Wura-Natasha Ogunji," *Canadian Women Studies Journal*, Winter 2004.

Berin Golonu, "Viewpoint," *Artweek*, December 2002/January 2003, 4.