

EL ANATSUI CURRICULUM VITAE

Born 1944, Anyako, Ghana
Lives and works in Nigeria

EDUCATION

- 1969 Postgraduate Diploma, Art Education, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana
1965-1968 B.A. College of Art, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana

TEACHING

- 1996-2011 Professor of Sculpture, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
Head of Department, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1982-1996 Senior Lecturer, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
1969-1975 Lecturer, Art Education Department, Specialist Training College (now University of Education), Winneba, Ghana

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2024 Visionary Artist Degree of Doctor - *honoris causa*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Bard College, New York, USA
2023 TIME100: The Most Influential People of 2023, Time Magazine, USA
2020 Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, USA
2017 Praemium Imperiale Award for Sculpture, The Japan Art Association, Tokyo, Japan
Lorenzo il Magnifico Lifetime Achievement Award, XIth Florence Biennale, Florence, Italy
Brandywine Workshop and Archives Lifetime Achievement Award, Philadelphia, USA
Rees Visionary Award, AMREF Health Africa ArtBall, New York City, USA
2016 Honorary Doctor of Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, South Africa
2015 Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement Award, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
2014 Elected Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA, USA
Elected Honorary Academician, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2013 Charles Wollaston Award, 245th Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2009 30th Anniversary Award, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
Prince Claus Award, Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development, Lagos, Nigeria
2008 Visionaries Award, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA
1999 Public Prize, 7th Small-Scale Sculpture Triennial, Stuttgart, Germany
1998 Bronze Prize, 9th Sculpture Triennial, Osaka, Japan
1995 Kansai Telecasting Corporation Prize, 3rd Sculpture Triennial, Osaka, Japan
1990 Honorable Mention, 44th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 El Anatsui: MivEvi, White Cube, Hong Kong
El Anatsui: LuwVor, White Cube, Seoul, South Korea
2025-2026 Safety Curtain, Vienna State Opera, Austria
2025 El Anatsui | Go Back and Pick, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui | Go Back and Pick, October Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui, Patio Gallery, Kanaal, Antwerp, Belgium
2024 Music, Fluidity and Reinvention: El Anatsui's Record Collection, Efie Gallery, Dubai, UAE
El Anatsui / Scottish Mission Book Depot Keta, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
El Anatsui: After the Red Moon, Museum of Art Pudong, Shanghai, China
2023-2024 TimeSpace, October Gallery, London, UK
Hyundai Commission: El Anatsui, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London, UK
2022-2023 El Anatsui: Day After Night, Barakat Contemporary, Seoul, South Korea
2022 Shard Song, Efie Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Freedom, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Stairway Exhibits: El Anatsui, The Arts Club, Dubai, UAE
2021 El Anatsui: En quête de liberté, La Conciergerie, Paris, France
El Anatsui: The Ancestors Are Converging Again, Everard Read Gallery, Franschhoek, South Africa
2020 Focus on El Anatsui, October Gallery, London, UK
El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland
2019 El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
El Anatsui: Material Wonder, October Gallery, London, UK
2018 El Anatsui: Meyina, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2017-2018 El Anatsui: Benchmarks, Royal Academy of Arts, Mayfair, London, UK
2016 El Anatsui: New Works, October Gallery, London, UK

- El Anatsui: Five Decades, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia*
- 2015 *El Anatsui: Five Decades, The School, Kinderhook, NY, USA*
- 2014 *El Anatsui: Trains of Thought, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, NY, USA*
El Anatsui: Metas, Mnuchin Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2013 *TSIATSIA - Searching for Connection, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK*
- 2012-2015 *Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH, USA; traveled to Brooklyn Museum, Des Moines Art Center, Bass Museum of Art and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego*
- 2012-2013 *Broken Bridge II, High Line, New York, NY, USA*
- 2010-2012 *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You About Africa, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; traveled to Davis Museum, Blanton Museum of Art, North Carolina Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum and University of Michigan Museum of Art*
- 2003-2008 *El Anatsui: Gawu, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales, UK; traveled internationally*
- 1998 *El Anatsui: A Sculpted History of Africa, October Gallery, London, UK*
- 1991 *Old and New: An Exhibition of Sculpture in Assorted Wood, National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria*
- 1979 *Broken Pots: Sculpture by El Anatsui, British Council, Enugu, Nigeria; Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria*
- 1976 *Wooden Wall Plaques, Asele Art Gallery, Nsukka, Nigeria*

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Modus Operandi, The School - Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA*
Group Presentation: Goodman Gallery x Pierre Yovanovitch Mobilier, Pierre Yovanovitch Mobilier, Paris, France
Human Traces: Presence, Absence, and Material Memory, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa
Art Basel Qatar, M7 - Msheireb Cultural Forum, Doha, Qatar
Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2025-2026 *Winter 2025/2026 Exhibition, Galerie Maximillan, Aspen, CO, USA*
The Shape of Things To Come, Efie Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Nigerian Modernism, Tate Modern, London, UK
Fabricated Imaginaries: Crafting Art, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA
- 2025 *Art Basel Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France*
More Than Meets the Eye: Modern and Contemporary Art from Africa, Musée Rath, Geneva, Switzerland
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
General Conditions, The School - Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA
Kings and Queens of Africa: Forms and Figures of Power, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2024-Ongoing *New on View, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA*
- 2024-2025 *Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA, USA*
Gathering Fragments, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2024 *Abu Dhabi Art, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE*
Vital Force, October Gallery, London, UK
Art Basel Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
Art Dubai, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
After Rain: Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, Jax District, Diriyah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Entangled Pasts, 1768-now: Art, Colonialism and Change, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2023-2026 *SALA, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cape Town, South Africa*
- 2023-2024 *HARD/SOFT: Textiles and Ceramics in Contemporary Art, MAK - Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria*
Accra! The Rise of a Global Art Community, Columbus Museum of Art, OH, USA
- 2023 *Ever-Present, Efie Gallery, Dubai, UAE*
Tossed: Art from Discarded, Found, and Repurposed Materials, Middlebury College Museum of Art, VT, USA
- 2022 *Stressed World, The School - Jack Shainman Gallery, Kinderhook, NY, USA*
Revival: Materials and Monumental Forms, ICA Watershed, Boston, MA, USA
- 2021-2022 *EFIE: The Museum as Home. Kunst aus Ghana, Museum Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany*
- 2021 *Debut Exhibition, Efie Gallery, Burj Plaza by Emaar, Dubai, UAE*
The Slipstream: Reflection, Resilience, and Resistance in the Art of Our Time, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, USA
- 2020 *Global(e) Resistance, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France*
- 2019 *Ghana Freedom, Ghana Pavilion, 58th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy*
- 2015 *All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy*
- 2007 *Artempo: Where Time Becomes Art, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italy*
52nd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 1995 *Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK*
- 1994 *5th Havana Biennale: Arte/Sociedad/Reflexion, Havana, Cuba*

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS & PROJECTS

- 2025-2026 *Safety Curtain, Vienna State Opera, Austria*
- 2023-2024 *Hyundai Commission: El Anatsui, Behind the Red Moon, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London, UK*

2012-2013 *Broken Bridge II, High Line, New York, NY, USA*
2013 *TSIATSIA - Searching for Connection, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK*

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH, USA
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA
British Museum, London, UK
Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, USA
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
De Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, USA
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, USA
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, USA
Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC, USA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, USA
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ, USA
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada
Rubell Museum, Miami, FL, USA
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO, USA
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA
Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Tate Modern, London, UK
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA
World Bank Art Collection, Washington, DC, USA
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, USA

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY & PRESS

2025 *El Anatsui | Go Back and Pick, Goodman Gallery, London, exhibition materials*
2024 *Scottish Mission Book Depot Keta, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, exhibition materials*
2023 *Hyundai Commission: El Anatsui: Behind the Red Moon, Tate Modern, London, exhibition materials*
TIME100: The Most Influential People of 2023, Time Magazine, USA
2022 *El Anatsui: Shard Song, Efie Gallery, Dubai, UAE, exhibition materials*
2021 *How El Anatsui Broke the Seal on Contemporary Art, The New Yorker*
2019 *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Haus der Kunst / Mathaf / Kunstmuseum Bern exhibition catalogue*
2012 *El Anatsui: Gravity and Grace, Akron Art Museum / Brooklyn Museum exhibition catalogue*
2010 *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You About Africa, Museum for African Art, New York, exhibition catalogue*