

El Anatsui



El Anatsui

Born 1944 in Anyako, Ghana.
Lives and works in Tema, Ghana.

1969

Postgraduate Diploma, Art Education, University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

1965–1969

BA (Art) College of Art, University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

1969–1975

Lecturer, Art Education Department, Specialist Training College (now University of Education), Winneba, Ghana

1975–1982

Lecturer, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

1982–1996

Senior Lecturer, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

1991

Fellow, Pan-African Circle of Artists (PACA)

1998–2000

Head of Department, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

1996–2011

Professor of Sculpture, Fine and Applied Arts Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Selected solo exhibitions

2025

El Anatsui, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Kanaal
Safety Curtian, Vienna State Opera, Austria

2024

Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA), USA; site specific commission
Museum of Art Pudong (MAP), Shanghai, China
Scottish Mission Book Depot Keta

2023

Behind the Red Moon, Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, London, UK

2021

El Anatsui: En quête de liberté, La Conciergerie, Paris, France

2020

Focus on El Anatsui, October Gallery, London, UK

2019

El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, travelling exhibition until 2020 (Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany; Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; Kunstmuseum, Bern, Switzerland; Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain).

2018

Ofrendas, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, USA.
The Beginning and the End, Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium.

2017

El Anatsui - Proximately, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium.
El Anatsui - Topology of Generosity, Bakarar Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.
El Anatsui - Meyina, travelling exhibition until 2018 (The Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa; Prince Claus Fund Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa).
El Anatsui: Benchmarks, Royal Academy of Arts, Mayfair, London, UK; October Gallery, Bloomsbury, London, UK.

2016

Afrikas stjerne - Monumentale værker af El Anatsui (Star of Africa - Monumental works by El Anatsui), Trapholt Museum for Moderne Kunst, South Jutland, Denmark.

El Anatsui: New Works, October Gallery, London, UK.

2015

El Anatsui - Selected Works, October Gallery, London, UK.

El Anatsui: Five Decades, travelling exhibition until 2016 (Jack Shainman Gallery - The School, Kinderhook, New York, USA; Carriageworks, Sydney Festival 2016, Sydney, Australia).

El Anatsui OfDzi, Kunstbanken Hedmark, Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway.

2014

El Anatsui: New Worlds, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, USA.

El Anatsui: Trains of Thoughts, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA.

El Anatsui: Playing with Chance, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria.

El Anatsui - Theory of Se, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong.

Metas, Mnuchin Gallery, New York, USA.

2012

Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui, travelling exhibition until 2015 (Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio, USA; Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, USA; Bass Museum of Art, Miami, USA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, USA).

Broken Bridge II, High Line, New York, USA.

El Anatsui: Pot of Wisdom, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA.

Stitch in Time, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium.

2011

El Anatsui, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, USA.

2010

When I Last Wrote To You About Africa, travelling exhibition until 2012 (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada; Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, USA; Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin, USA; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA; Denver Art Museum, Colorado,

USA; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, USA; Museum for African Art, New York, USA).

A Fateful Journey: Africa in the Works of El Anatsui, travelling exhibition until 2011 (National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan; The Museum of Modern Art, Hayama, Japan; Tsuruoka Art Forum, Japan; The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan).

El Anatsui, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA.

El Anatsui: Gli, Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, USA.

2009

El Anatsui, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, USA.

El Anatsui: Process and Project, BRIC Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, USA.

2008

Earth Growing Roots, San Diego State University Art Gallery, San Diego, USA.

Zebra Crossing, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, USA.

2006

El Anatsui: Asi, David Krut Projects, New York, USA.

El Anatsui: Nyekor, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Milan, Italy.

2005

Danudo: Recent Sculptures of El Anatsui, Skoto Gallery, New York, USA.

2003

El Anatsui: Gawu, travelling exhibition until 2008 (a.o. Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales, UK; October Gallery, London, UK; Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, USA; Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA).

2002

El Anatsui: Recent Works, October Gallery, London, UK.

1998

El Anatsui: A Sculpted History of Africa, October Gallery, London, UK.

1997

Hakpa, French Cultural Center, Lagos, Nigeria.

1995

El Anatsui: Sculptures and Reliefs, October Gallery, London, UK.

1993

So Far: Drawings, Paintings, Prints 1963-1993, Italian Cultural Institute, Lagos, Nigeria.

1991

Old and New: An Exhibition of Sculptures in Assorted Wood, National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.

1987

Venovize: Ceramic Sculpture by El Anatsui, Cornwall College, Redruth, UK.
Pieces of Wood: An Exhibition of Mural Sculpture, The Franco-German Auditorium, Lagos, Nigeria.

1982

Sculptures, Photographs, Drawings, Goethe-Institut, Lagos, Nigeria.

1980

Wood Carvings, Cummington Community of Arts, Cummington, USA.

1979

Broken Pots: Sculpture by El Anatsui, travelling exhibition (British Council, Enugu, Nigeria; Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria).

1976

Wooden Wall Plaques by El Anatsui, Asele Art Gallery, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Selected Public Collections

Tate Modern, London, UK
The British Museum, London, UK
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Denver Art Museum, Denver, USA
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany
The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, USA
National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
Osaka Foundation of Culture, Osaka, Japan
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, USA
Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Setagaya Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The Art Institute Chicago, USA
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
The Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA
Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Jordan National Gallery of Arts, Amman, Jordan
UNAIDS, Geneva, Switzerland

Honors and Awards (selection)

2024

Visionary Artist Degree of Doctor honoris causa by the University of
Edinburgh, Scotland

Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Bard College, NY, USA

2018

Member, American Academy of Arts and Letters, NY, USA

2017

Praemium Imperiale Award for Sculpture, Tokyo, Japan

Lorenzo II Magnifico Lifetime Achievement Award, Florence, ITA

2016

Honorary Doctor of Arts degree from Harvard University, USA

2015

Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2013

Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

Charles Wollaston Award, London, UK

2009

Prince Claus Award, Lagos, Nigeria

2000

Founding Member and Fellow, Forum for African Arts

Member, International Selection Committee, Dakar Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

1999

The Public's Prize, 7. Triennale der Kleinplastik, Stuttgart, Germany

1990

Honourable Mention (Joint), 44th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

1969

Best Student of the Year, College of Art, University of Science and Technology,
Kumasi, Ghana

1968

Honourable Mention, First Ghana National Art Competition, Accra, Ghana