

CATHaRSIS ARTS FOUNDATION





*Statues Also Breathe*, collaborative exhibition at Art Twenty One, Lagos, Nigeria  
© Victor Adewale

## Foreword

"Art is my way of telling stories: stories of the women I have encountered, those I may never meet, and the women and communities whose narratives remain untold.

I fervently believe that art has the power to articulate the unspoken, to bear witness.

As an artist, I've been fortunate to collaborate with talented individuals globally, crafting collective artworks that embody their experiences. However, the conclusion of an art exhibition prompts questions: What follows for the community and its local artisans? How can we persist in telling these stories? What measures can be taken to perpetuate a virtuous circle?

Through the emotions it evokes, art can challenge injustice. It doesn't stop at giving a voice to underrepresented communities; art is a vehicle to impact the communities that contribute to, and inspire, its creation. It possesses the potential to heal, alleviate trauma, and foster cohesion.

The Catharsis Arts Foundation aspires to employ art as a catalyst for a virtuous circle, particularly benefiting communities that have been discriminated against and women, with the aim of mitigating injustice on a global scale."

Prune Nourry

# Catharsis Arts Foundation

Catharsis Arts Foundation supports collaborative artwork initiated by the sculptor Prune Nourry, and enables art to have a long-term, positive impact on the communities, women, artists and artisans who contribute to and inspire the artwork's creation.

The foundation encourages the making of artworks with and by underrepresented communities, enabling them to tell their stories. The collective art installations then tour around the world to raise awareness before returning to their country of origin and funding their preservation, as well as educational and artistic programs for the local communities.

The foundation is inspired by Prune Nourry's profound belief that art and sculpture can be a tool to recreate balance in a deeply unbalanced world.



*Strand For Women*, global art project to support the Woman Life Freedom movement  
© Laurent Edeline





*Statues Also Breathe*, workshop with 108 students at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
© Atelier Prune Nourry

## The first project: *Statues Also Breathe* world tour

*Statues Also Breathe* is a collaboration between the students of the Department of Fine Arts of the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife (Nigeria) and Prune Nourry.

Inspired by the ancient Ife terracotta heads, the project highlights the global struggle for girls' education, embodied here by the figures of the still missing Chibok girls– who were kidnapped in 2014 by Boko Haram in the north of the country.

*Statues Also Breathe* installation is comprised of:

- 108 unique fired clay heads on tripods, made and signed by each student who participated in 2022 to the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) workshop in Ile-Ife.
- 8 fired clay heads on tripods, artist's proofs made and signed by Prune Nourry and donated to the project.
- A short movie about the collaborative process (private link on demand).



# Catharsis Arts Foundation's programs

## **1. Building awareness: the *Statues Also Breathe* world tour**

The nonprofit organizes the promotion of and travel for collaborative art installations featuring fragile and/or underrepresented communities, made up of the artist and local artisans.

The *Statues Also Breathe* exhibition featuring 108 heads will travel from Nigeria to different parts of Africa and around the world, to increase awareness of what they stand for, share the Nigerian culture and speak about the beautiful 15th century Yoruba heads they are inspired by.

Main representatives of the project (Chibok girl or mother; the president of the Chibok Families Association; OAU lecturers and art students) will be invited to each exhibition.

During each exhibition, performances, conferences and sculpture workshops will be organized to shed light on these communities.

## **2. Promoting art and education of the Chibok girls in Nigeria**

To ensure a durable impact, the nonprofit will also:

- Offer grants to arts students of the Department of Fine Arts OAU and to students from other institutions who partook in the project.
- Organize and finance annual workshop classes at the Department of Fine Arts OAU and finance art materials and tools.
- Offer financial assistance towards the education for the Chibok girls and their children through a dedicated academic and vocational scholarship program.

## **3. Ensuring the preservation of the artworks: donation to an African museum**

The sculptures will return to an African museum for a permanent exhibition. Donations will be made to the museum to ensure:

- the maintenance of artworks on a regular basis
- their free access
- the creation of educational programs

## Prune Nourry

Born in 1985 in Paris, Prune Nourry lives and works between New York and Paris. A graduate of the École Boulle in woodcarving, she is represented by Galerie Templon (Paris and Brussels) and Simon Studer Art (Geneva). In 2018, she was knighted by the French government at the highest level in the order of Arts and Letters.

In her projects, Nourry raises questions related to the notion of balance in the broadest sense: the body and healing, demographic imbalance due to gender preference and scientific selection, the ecosystem and interdependence between living species. Her projects are quite often embedded in a particular context and culture, and link actual events to more ancient philosophies or myths.

Her practice often combines sculpture, installation, performance, and video. She collaborates with scientists to highlight social issues, and with artisans to constantly explore new techniques and materials. Over the last few years, Nourry has gained recognition for her long-term international projects, such as the *Terracotta Daughters* army, inspired by the Xi'an terracotta warriors. The piece was exhibited around the world, from Shanghai to Paris, Zurich, New York, Mexico City, before being buried in a secret place in China until 2030.



Prune's portrait with her Amazon sculpture's glass eyes, Brooklyn, New York  
© Franklin Burger



# Support Catharsis Arts Foundation's programs

Your contribution is critical to support our artistic projects, educational initiatives, and programmatic needs.

- Building awareness through the *Statues Also Breathe* world tour
- Grantmaking and workshops to provide assistance and education to the Chibok girls in Nigeria
- Endowment to ensure the public presentation and preservation of the artworks in perpetuity

Become a part of Catharsis Arts Foundation and help us sustain meaningful, collaborative and vital arts programs that give a voice to underrepresented communities.

For more information about our Support Program and how to get involved, please reach out to: [contact@catharsisartsfoundation.org](mailto:contact@catharsisartsfoundation.org)

# How to Make a Donation

U.S.-based donors can make tax-deductible contributions to the Friends of Catharsis: Empowering Communities Through Art at Myriad USA. Because Myriad USA is a public charity, within the meaning of Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the IRC, donors may claim the maximum tax benefits allowed by U.S. tax law for their contributions.

## Gifts by check:

Address your check to Myriad USA, write Friends of Catharsis: Empowering Communities Through Art in the memo section of the check, and send it to Myriad USA at 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2400, New York, NY 10176

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[www.every.org/catharsis-arts-foundation](http://www.every.org/catharsis-arts-foundation)

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