

Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga
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Education

1992 University of California, Los Angeles
Master of Arts (Design)
1985 University of Nairobi, Kenya
Bachelor of Arts (Design)

Selected Exhibitions

2023 Between Yesterday & Tomorrow: Perspectives from Black Contemporary Artists
of San Antonio
Culture Commons Gallery, San Antonio, Texas

2022 NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Exhibition
Centro de Artes Gallery, San Antonio, Texas

2019-2020 Re/Devaluing Colorism
Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, Texas

Breaching Borders
16th International Triennial of Tapestry
Central Museum of Textiles, Łódź, Poland

2018 The 6th Riga International Textile and Fiber Art Triennial
Latvian National Museum of Art, Riga, Latvia

The Royal Academy of Arts
Summer Show 2018
London, UK

2017 *Solo*
Tushauriane - Let's talk about it
October Gallery, London, UK

Frieze New York
Randall's Island Park, New York, New York

2016 1:54 Contemporary Art Fair,
Somerset House
London, UK

FNB Joburg Contemporary Art Fair
Sandton Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa

2015 5th Riga International Textile and Fiber Triennial
Latvia National Museum of Art

Riga, Latvia
Museu Afro Brasil
Sao Paulo, Brazil

2014
Art London 14
Olympia Grand
London, UK

2013
Solo
Ituika-Transformation
October Gallery
London, UK

Rio Patchwork Design: Contemporary Art Exhibition
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Solo
A Tradition of Strings
Southwest School of Art
San Antonio, Texas

Art in the City
New Braunfels, Texas

2011
Women, Peace, and Security Challenge
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Confluence - Surface Design Show
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Softer Side of Things
Kerrville Arts Center
Kerrville, Texas

Fiber Artists of San Antonio, Annual Show
Gallery Nord, San Antonio, Texas

2010
Solo
The Art of Transformation
University of Texas,
San Antonio, Texas

Triennial Global Intrigue II
Museum of Decorative Arts and Design
Riga, Latvia

Texas Oklahoma Art Prize
Wichita Falls Museum of Art
Wichita Falls, Texas

Fiber Twenty Ten
Foundry Art Center
St Charles, Missouri

The Artful Table
Craft Alliance
St Louis, Missouri

Pushing the Limit@ Artspace
Richmond, Virginia

Inside Out-Fiber Art for the Human Form
Textile Center, Joan Mondale Gallery
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Assistance League of Houston Celebrates Texas Art
Houston, Texas

Interpretations
Visions Art Quilt Gallery
San Diego, California

2009

Foto-Fiber-Fabulous
Fiber Artspace
San Antonio, Texas

National Small Art Quilt Work Exhibition
Main Street Gallery
Groton, New York

Light Fantastic Exhibition
Main Street Gallery
Groton, New York

Nothing New-Fiber Art from Recycled Material
Textile Center, Joan Mondale Gallery
Minneapolis, Minnesota

2008

Stitches of Friendship
San Antonio, Texas

2007

Women of the World
Acadia Art Center, Lafayette, Louisiana
Geneva, Switzerland

2005

Real Beauty
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Imagining Ourselves
International Museum of Women
San Francisco, California

Scratching the Surface
Texas Federation of Fiber Artists
San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Celebrates Africa
Textures Gallery
San Antonio, Texas

Women of the African Diaspora
Woman Made Gallery
Chicago, Illinois

Women of the World
Contemporary Arts Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

Real Beauty
Contemporary Arts Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

2004

Women of the World
Tallinn Art Hall, Estonia
Akureyri Museum, Iceland
Gerdenburg Cultural Center Reykjavik, Iceland
Cultural Center, Athens, Greece
International Museum of Women, San Francisco, California
Mobile Museum, Alabama
Brenau University, Georgia

2003

Women of the World
Women's Art Gallery, Ohio

2002

Women of the World
Volvo Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

2001

University of New England, Maine
Tucson Museum, Arizona

2000

Women of the World
White Columns, New York
Flint Institute, Michigan

Faculty Show
Southwest School of Art and Craft
San Antonio, Texas

- 1998 Global Women's Project
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland
- 1996 Empact Show
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
- 1995 Holiday Art Show
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California
- 1994 The Ella Hill Hutch Art Exhibition
San Francisco, California
- 1993 Women's Alcoholic Center Art Show and Auction
San Francisco, California
- The Ella Hill Hutch Exhibition
San Francisco, California
- 1991 *Solo*
Graduate School Show
Wilshire/Sieroty Building
Los Angeles, California
- 1992 Graduate School Group Show
Wight Art Gallery, University of California
Los Angeles, California

Publications

Awards

- 2021 The Charles Wollaston Award, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2017 Emerging Voices Award (Finalist)
- 2015 Fiber Arts of San Antonio Innovative Award.
- 2012 Sustainable Arts Foundation Spring Award
- 2012 The 11th Quilt Nihon Honorable Mention Award
- 2010 San Antonio Artpace Travel Award
Fiber Arts of San Antonio, Innovative Use of Material Award
- 1991 The Hilton International Award
Art Council Award, University of California, Los Angeles
Penelope Rigby Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles

1990 Education Abroad Program Award, University of California, Los Angeles
1981-85 Kenya Government Scholarship, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Selected Works in Collections

San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, Texas
Vehbi Koç Foundation, Contemporary Art Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland
Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas
Tulsa Bank, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Riga, Latvia
International Museum of Women, San Francisco
Art House Lagos, Nigeria
The World Bank, Accra, Ghana
The Embassy of the USA, Nairobi, Kenya

Press

Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPzp_mAuRM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBhAY-vcWU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkX1llHuUg>

<https://video.klrn.org/video/klrn-arts-arts-may-3-2013/>

BBC London

<https://soundcloud.com/naomi-wanjiku-gakunga/naomi-at-bbc-world-service>

Features

<https://royal-academy-production-asset.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/0f5752b8-925d-423b-bad9-0194c71f04df/Royal%20Academy%20Wollaston%20Award%20Winner%202021.pdf>

<https://fadmagazine.com/2021/10/27/naomi-wanjiku-gakunga-wins-25000-charles-wollaston-award-for-their-work-wetereire-waiting/>

<https://octobergallery.co.uk/artists/gakunga>

mysanantonio.com/entertainment/visual_arts/article/African-artist-shows-her-metal

<https://www.sacurrent.com/arts/artist-on-artist-gary-sweeney-interviews-naomi-wanjiku-17870052>

<https://moderninsanantonio.com/kenya-san-antonio-artist-naomi-wanjiku-gakunga>

Selected Work Reviews

Unity and Variety: A Conversation with Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga
Sculpture Magazine: April 2018 37:3

Art Essay: Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga's Tushauriane – Let's Talk About It
Wasafiri: 92 Winter 2017

African Diaspora
Surface Design Journal: Summer 2010

Strings of Love: Inspiration from a Kenyan Tradition
Quilting Arts Magazine: April/May 2009

Imagining Ourselves: Global Voices from a New Generation of Women
Paula Goldman (ed.) International Museum of Women, San Francisco, 2006

Real Beauty
Claudia DeMonte (ed.) WWW.ClaudiaDeMonte.com 2005

Women of the World: A Global Collection of Art
Claudia DeMonte (ed.) Pomegranate Communications Inc., San Francisco, 2000

Global Women's Art Project
American Artist: July 2000

Computer Generated Patterns
Journal of the National Art Education Association: Sept. 1991