

Emeka Okereke

Transdisciplinary Artist, Philosopher and Systems Designer

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EDUCATION

2005–2008	National Superior School of Fine Arts of Paris, France. Master's degree in multimedia, photography, video and sound.
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SELECTED ROLES AND PLATFORMS

2009–present	Founder and Artistic Director, Invisible Borders Trans-African Project
2019–present	Founder and Host, NKATA Podcast Station; initiated in 2019 and formally established in 2020
2025–present	Creator and Artistic Director, <i>Footprints — Parable of the Sojourner</i> , a living poetry anthology conceived as a mobile digital artwork
2025–present	Initiating Steward, SEAD — The School of Ethics & Aesthetics of Difference
2008–present	Founder, Writer and Editor, Borderbeing
2020–present	Founder, Kupesonic Sound Project
2022–present	Co-founder, Ala-Ila Collective, with Mathangi Krishnamurthy

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS

2024	<i>Nkata Podcast: Art & Processes — An Exhibition of Five Conversations</i> , within <i>A Home for Something Unknown</i> , Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Berlin
2023	<i>Tracing Presence(s)... of place, body and time</i> , photographic-performative intervention; sound design by David Felix Esser; within the special exhibition <i>Schlösser. Preußen. Kolonial. Biografien und Sammlungen im Fokus</i> , Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg (SPSG), Charlottenburg Palace — New Wing, Berlin, 4 July–31 October 2023
2020	<i>I Wonder as I Wander: On Akinbode Akinbiyi</i> , Gropius Bau, Berlin
2020	Trans-Bangladeshi Project, Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh
2019	12th Bamako Encounters, Mali
2019	13th Cairo Biennale, Egypt
2018	<i>Exploring a Void</i> , Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg — solo
2018	<i>Whose Land Have I Lit on Now?</i> , SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin
2017	<i>Collective Intelligence</i> , Centre Pompidou, Paris
2017	<i>A Trans-African Worldspace</i> , FOAM, Amsterdam

2015	<i>A Trans-African Worldspace</i> , 56th Venice Biennale — <i>All the World's Futures</i> , curated by Okwui Enwezor
2012	<i>The Ungovernables</i> , New Museum Triennial, New York
2008	<i>Bagamoyo — Photography and the Useful Space</i> , Catembe/Maputo — solo
2006	<i>Snap Judgments</i> , International Center of Photography, New York
2003	5th Bamako Encounters, Mali

SELECTED TEACHING AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2022–2024	Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Artistic Practice and Theory, Studium Generale, Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin); <i>Exploring a Void</i>
2022	Visiting Scholar, African Studies Program, Indiana University Bloomington
2017–2025	Guest lecturer and critic, Hartford Art School MFA in Photography, University of Hartford; engagements in Berlin, San Francisco and Hartford, and Guest Lecturer in June 2025
2019	MFA examiner, Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam
2019	Masterclass facilitator, 12th Bamako Encounters, Mali
2019	Masterclass facilitator, N'Gola Biennial of Arts, São Tomé and Príncipe
2018	Lecturer, Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts; <i>Eine Leere erforschen / Exploring a Void</i>

SELECTED LECTURES, CONVERSATIONS AND SCREENINGS

2025	<i>Transcending the Illusion of Borders and Separation</i> , TEDxPorto, Porto
2024	<i>A Glimpse of Process: an Exhibition of FiVE Conversations</i> , Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Berlin
2022	Presentation on artistic practice and Invisible Borders, African Studies Program, Indiana University Bloomington
2022	Artist talk, Eskenazi Museum of Art, Indiana University Bloomington
2020	<i>I Wonder as I Wander: On Akinbode Akinbiyi</i> , screenings and conversations at IL Kino, Lichtblick Kino and Living the City, Berlin
2019	<i>Light Writing — The Photographic Image Reloaded</i> , Chennai Photo Biennale, India
2018	<i>Cosmocides: Art(s), Violence, 21st Century</i> , KADIST, Paris
2017	<i>Biafra's Children</i> , documenta 14 public programme, Athens
2016	Lecture, <i>Promised Land</i> symposium, Central Saint Martins, London

SELECTED WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS

2026	"A Roadside Philosophy," words and artworks, in <i>Emisferi / Hemispheres</i> , no. 2/2026, <i>Rivista La Biennale di Venezia</i>
2024	"Photography and Trans-Africanism: A Story of Journeys," in <i>The Routledge Companion to Global Photographies</i> , edited by Lucy Soutter and Duncan Wooldridge, Routledge
2021	"A Volatile Negotiation Between the Past and Present: Invisible Borders Trans-African Project," <i>FIELD: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism</i> , Issue 17

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023	Visual Arts Work Stipend, Berlin Senate Department for Culture
2022	National Geographic Society Explorer
2020–2022	Jane Lombard Fellow, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, The New School — for Invisible Borders
2019	Visual Arts Research Grant, Berlin Senate Department for Culture
2018	Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, French Ministry of Culture
2017	Nominee, Prix Elysée (2016–2018 cycle)
2016	Long list nominee, Prix Pictet
2008	Visa pour la Création, for <i>Bagamoyo</i> , Maputo
2003	Best Young Photographer, Bamako Encounters, Mali

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

2023	Ala-Ila Collective residency, Tangier, Morocco
2021	Over Art, Barcelona, Spain
2018	KADIST, Paris, France
2017	<i>A Story of Distances</i> , Open Atelier Zuidoost, Amsterdam
2009	Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004–2005	Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France