

Pélagie Gbaguidi



Biography

Pélagie Gbaguidi (b. 1965, Dakar, Senegal), describes herself as a contemporary 'griot' – a West African storyteller – which she defines as someone who functions as an intermediary between individual memory and ancestral past. Her work is an anthology of the signs and traces of trauma and is centred on colonial and postcolonial history. She recontextualises archives and official histories to reveal processes of forgetting. The materially embodied images created by Gbaguidi through painting, drawing, performance and installation seek to break out of binary thinking, archetypes and simplifications.

Biennales and major international exhibitions include: Berlin Biennale (2020), Lubumbashi Biennale (2019), Dakar Biennale (2004, 2006, 2008, 2014 and 2018) and documenta 14 (2017). Her work has featured in group shows at Centre Pompidou-Metz, WIELS (Brussels), Musée Rochechouart, Middelheimmuseum (Antwerp), Stadtmuseum (Munich), MMK (Frankfurt), and the National Museum of African Art – Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C.).

Collections include: Artothèque, Saint-Denis, Réunion, France; Casa África, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; CNAP Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris, France; Holocaust Memorial Foundation, Chicago, United States of America; KANAL-Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium; Kunstmuseum Basel, Kupferstichkabinett, permanent loan from the Hüni-Michel-Stiftung, Basel, Switzerland; M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art / City of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium; Memorial ACTe, Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, France; and the Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium
S.M.A.K. Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, Ghent, Belgium

Gbaguidi lives and works in Brussels.

Solo Exhibitions

2024 Murmurations [upcoming] Musée d'Art Contemporain de la Haute-Vienne, Rochechouart, Switzerland

2024 Pélagie Gbaguidi: sortie de résidence [in the context of the research project TRAMé(e)S (Tissages, Représentations, Arts et Métissages)], RU – Le Repaire Urbain, Angers, France

2023 De-Fossilization of the Look Mimosa House, London, United Kingdom

2022 Le jour se lève Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp (Borgerhout), Belgium

2018 Pélagie Gbaguidi: Disclosed Traces and Triadic Apparitions, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2016 El Mundo sans le corps Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Group Exhibitions

2024 Extrême collection – Kaléidoscope : un work-in-progress FRAC Grand Large – Hauts-de-France, Dunkerque, France

2023 On-Trade-Off: Charging Myths, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2023 Fais que ton rêve soit plus long que la nuit, Musée d'Art Contemporain de la Haute-Vienne Rochechouart, France

2023 Motel Corona. Resilience Acquisitions by the Flemish Community, S.M.A.K. Ghent, Belgium

2023 Chaleur Humaine – Triennale Art & Industrie FRAC Grand Large, Dunkirk, France

2023 Christiaan Bastiaans, Club Solo, Breda, The Netherlands

2023 Shōkakkō, The Merode, Brussels, Belgium

2023 Affective Resistance, UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts, Irvine, California U.S.A.

2022 Traces de l'invisible, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, France

2022 Rêver l'Obscur Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France

2022 Hibernus #1, Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee, Belgium

2022 Detour 2.0: A Journey through creative catalysts, Ground Effect, Palais de Tokyo, Bon Marché, Paris, France

2022 Charging Myths by On-Trade-Off, Z33, Hasselt, Belgium

2022 Exiting the Vampire Castle, Lichtekooi, Artspace Antwerp, Belgium

2022 Sugar for the Pill, De Studio Antwerp, Belgium

2022 Parable of Progress, SESC Pompéia, São Paulo, Brazil

2022 FINIS TERRAE, Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp, Belgium

2022 40 Years Zeno X Gallery – the two-thousands, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp South Antwerp, Belgium

2021 Congoville, Middelheimmuseum, Antwerp, Belgium

2021 BXL Universel II: Multipli.City, CENTRALE for contemporary art, Brussels, Belgium
2021 10e Triennale d'Art Contemporain d'Ottignies-Louvain-La-Neuve, Musée Universitaire de Louvain, Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
2021 Retour: À la rencontre de l'Afrique contemporaine, l'Atelier Nantes, France
2021 Ecrire, c'est dessiner, Centre Pompidou Metz, Metz, France
2020 Berlin Biennale: The Crack Begins Within, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
2019 6th Biennale De Lubumbashi: Future Genealogies, Tales From The Equatorial Line Museum Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi, Republic of the Congo
2019 Somewhere in the World: Afrikanisch-niederösterreichische Begegnungen Forum Frohner, Krems an der Donau Austria
2019 Multiple Transmissions: Art in the Afropolitan Age, WIELS, Brussels, Belgium
2019 Festival Désir... Désirs: Décoloniser les corps Eternal Network, Tours, France
2019 "I had a dream", Africa Center, New York, United States of America
2018 Dak'Art 2018: La Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal
2018 I am what I am, Ici Gallery, Paris, France
2017 Documenta 14 Athens, Conservatoire (Odeion), Athens, Greece
2017 Documenta 14 Neue Galerie, Kassel, Germany
2017 El Iris de Lucy. Artistas africanas contemporáneas, CAAM – Atlantic Center of Modern Art Las Palmas de Gran, Canaria, Spain
2017 Afriques Capitales, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France
2017 "HERstory" – Des Archives Féministes (Feminist Archives), Maison des Arts de Malakoff, Malakoff, France
2016 l'Iris de Lucy: Artistes Africaines Contemporaines, Musée de Rochechouart Rochechouart France
2016 The Lucy's iris. African Contemporary women artists, MUSAC – Contemporary Art Museum of Castille-et-León, Castille-et-León Spain
2016 Dakar-Martigny: Hommage à la Biennale d'art contemporain, Le Manoir de la Ville de Martigny, Martigny, Switzerland
2015 The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory revisited by Contemporary African Artists, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C. United States of America
2014 The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory revisited by Contemporary African Artists, MMK, Frankfurt, Germany
2013 Asyl Stadtmuseum. Afrikanische Theaterfiguren in einer künstlerischen Installation von Pélagie Gbaguidi und Stefanie Oberhoff, Münchner Stadtmuseum, Munich, Germany
2013 Serial Attempts: Berti, Ferreira, Gbaguidi, "News of the World Gallery", London, United Kingdom
2013 Traces de Femmes, ici & demain, Villa des Arts de Casablanca, Casablanca Morocco
2012 1ere Biennale Internationale de Casablanca 2012, Various locations, Casablanca, Morocco
2011 As it is! Ancestral Space: Translated Identities, The Mojo Gallery, Dubai, United Arab, Emirates
2008 Dak'Art 2008: La Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal
2008 Écouter et entendre, Galerie Kevin Conru, Brussels, Belgium
2007 Africa plural 3+3, Casa Africa Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
2007 Dockanema: 2e édition du, Festival du film documentaire de Maputo, Maputo, Mozambique
2006 Dak'Art 2006: La Biennale, de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal
2006 L'homme est un mystère : Exposition Art contemporain d'Afrique, Musée d'art et d'histoire de Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Brieuc, France
2004 Dak'Art 2004: La Biennale, de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal