

# ruby onyinyechi amanze



## Biography

ruby onyinyechi amanze (b.1982, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria) is a Brooklyn-based artist of Nigerian descent and British upbringing whose creative practices and processes focus on producing mixed media, paper-based drawings and works. Her art draws inspiration from photography, textiles, architecture and printmaking.

amanze earned her B.F.A., Summa Cum Laude, from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and her M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 2012-2013, amanze was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

amanze's practice builds around questions of how to create drawings that maintain paper's essence of weightlessness. The large-scaled and multidimensional drawings are part of an ongoing, yet non-linear narrative that employ the malleability of space as the primary antagonist.

A nameless, self-imagined, chimeric universe has simultaneously been positioned between nowhere and everywhere. Using a limited palette of visual elements, including ada the Alien, windows and birds, amanze's drawings create a non-narrative and expansive world. The construction of this world is largely centered around an interest in the spatial negotiations found in the three-dimensional practices of dance, architecture, and design.

Most recently, amanze completed two-year long residencies at the Queens Museum and as part of the Drawing Center's Open Sessions Program, both in New York. She has exhibited her work internationally in Lagos, London, Johannesburg and Paris, and nationally at the California African American Museum, the Drawing Center and the Studio Museum of Harlem. In October 2024, she presented a solo exhibition titled 'Light Blue Violet' at Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg. Continuing her research on inventing and manipulating spaces, her playful configurations occur both within the two-dimensional drawing plane and into a three-dimensional presentation and experience.

Selected group exhibitions: 'Follow the North Star: Freedom in the Age of Mobility', International African American Museum, Charleston, SC (2024); 'A Superlative Palette: Contemporary Black Women Artists,' Curated by Dexter Wimberly, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, Charlotte, NC (2024); 'A Slice through the World: Contemporary Artists' Drawing,' The Drawing Room and Modern Art Oxford, London, United Kingdom (2018); 'Affective Affinities,' 33rd Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil (2018); 'Regarding the Figure,' Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY; 'The Ease of Fiction,' Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA (2017); 'the silences between,' Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (2017); 'Drawing Biennial,' The Drawing Room, London, United Kingdom (2017); 'Where Do We Stand?: Two Years of Drawing with Open Sessions,' The Drawing Center, New York, NY (2017).

Collections include: CSS Bard College Hessel Museum; Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt, Germany; National Museum of African Art Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; The Jewish Museum, New York, NY; The Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, Washington; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY.

amanze lives and works between Philadelphia and Brooklyn, but calls multiple places home.

## Artist Statement

amanze's large-scaled and multidimensional drawings are part of an ongoing, yet non-linear narrative that employ the malleability of space as the primary antagonist. A nameless, self-imagined, chimeric universe has simultaneously been positioned between nowhere and everywhere.

Taking roots in architecture, design, migration histories and non-nationalist politics, the manipulation of space functions as a poetic alternative to fixed identities and geographies. Navigating fictional and conflating worlds, a cohort of aliens, hybrids and ghosts play effortlessly and access magic as their mundane, yet expansive norm.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2022** *DUETS*, Goodman Gallery, London
- 2021** *Thinghood*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 2021** *How To Be Enough*, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- 2020** *the ones that stayed*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2019** *Deutsche Bank featured artist*, Frieze Art Fair, New York, USA
- 2018** *there are even moonbeams we can unfold*, Goodman Gallery, Capetown, South Africa
- 2017** *STAR FISH*, Smack Mellon Foundation, New York, USA
- 2016** *The Divers*, The Armory Show with Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, New York, USA
- 2015** *SALT WATER*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2015** *astroturf rooftop picnics*, Morgan Lehman Gallery, NY, USA  
**2015** *a story. in parts.*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK  
**2015** *Magic*, Omenka Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2014** *Telling Truths, Speaking Secrets*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA  
**2014** *merge*, Nomad Gallery, Washington D.C., USA  
**2012** *Waiting for the Queen*, Dyker Gallery, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, USA  
**2006** *All the Things I Never Said*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, USA

## Group Exhibitions

**2022** *J'Al Deux Amours*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Paris, France  
**2019** *you are so loved and lovely*, Fridman Gallery, New York  
**2018** *A Slice through the World: Contemporary Artists' Drawing*, The Drawing Room and Modern Art Oxford, London, UK  
**2018** *Affective Affinities*, 33rd Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil  
**2017** *Regarding the Figure*, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, USA  
**2017** *The Ease of Fiction*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA  
**2017** *the silences between*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2017** *Drawing Biennial*, The Drawing Room, London, UK  
**2017** *When the Heavens Meet the Earth*, Heong Gallery, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK  
**2017** *into the midst of things*, DiverseWorks, Houston, USA  
**2017** *Where Do We Stand?: Two Years of Drawing with Open Sessions*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
**2017** *Nine: Studio Program Exhibition*, Queens Museum, Queens, USA  
**2017** *The Day Comes*, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France  
**2017** *Dialogues in Drawing*, Jenkins-Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
**2017** *In media res*, Diverse Works, Houston, Texas  
**2017** *The Day Comes*, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France  
**2017** *Nine: Studio Program Exhibition*, Queens Museum, Queens, NY  
**2017** *Dialogues in Drawing*, Jenkins-Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
**2016** *Un-becoming*, Fridman Gallery, New York, USA  
**2016** *The Ease of Fiction*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, USA  
**2016** *Planes and Corridors*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
**2016** *In Context: Africans In America*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2016** *Prix Canson*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
**2016** *The Other Hemisphere, Artists, Women, Africans*, Natural History Museum of Le Havre, France  
**2016** *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2016** *The Ease of Fiction*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC, USA  
**2016** *KIN*, Hanger, Lisbon, Portugal  
**2015** *Speaking Back*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2015** *No Such Place*, Edward Tyler Nahem Gallery, NY, USA  
**2015** *Magic*, Omenka Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2015** *A Constellation*, Studio Museum of Harlem, NY, NY  
**2015** *Remember to Come Back*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, WA  
**2014** *In Sheep's Clothing*, Gallery 220, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2014** *BRIC Biennial, Volume I*, Bric Arts Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2014** *Mutations*, Tiwani Contemporary Gallery, London, UK  
**2014** *I See You; The Politics of Being*, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC, USA  
**2014** *Drawn Truly*, Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2014** *Telling Truths, Speaking Secrets*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio  
**(e)merge**, Nomad Gallery, Belgium, Washington D.C.  
**2013** *Select Fair – Art Basel*, Rush Arts Gallery [New York], Miami, FL, USA  
**2013** *Six Draughtsmen*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2013** *no one belongs here more than you*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2013** *Crossing The Line; Contemporary Drawing*, Mixed Greens Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
**2013** Department of Fine and Applied Arts Faculty Exhibition, UNN, Nigeria  
**2012** *Neither Here, Nor There*, Brooklyn Public Library Flatbush, Brooklyn, USA  
**2012** *Waiting for the Queen*, Dyker Gallery, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY  
**2011** *Part II*, Causey Contemporary Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2011** *The Salon*, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
**2010** *Paint&Print; a Portfolio Project*, Amsterdams Grafisch Atelier, The Netherlands  
**2010** *Exchange VI: Contemporary Prints*, West Gallery, Purdue University, IN, USA  
**2010** *Multiplicities of Syntax*, Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, USA  
**2010** *Transforming Technology*, SGC Philagrafika Print Conference, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
**2009** *One Night Stand*, Main Line Art Center, Haverford, PA, USA  
**2008** *From Taboo to Icon*, Ice Box Gallery; Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
**2008** *Works on Paper*, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Philadelphia, USA  
**2007** *Works on Paper*, Muse Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
**2007** *Works on Paper*, South Shore Art Center, Cohasset, MA, USA  
**2006** *M.F.A. Graduate Thesis Exhibition*, Cranbrook Art Museum, MI, USA  
**2006** *All About Me*, Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA  
**2006** *All the Things I Never Said*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI  
**2005** *Self Location, Third Generation*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy, USA  
**2004** Cranbrook /Wayne State Graduate Exchange, Community Arts Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA

## Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

**2015 Present** Assistant Professor of Drawing, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, USA  
**2012-2013** Fulbright Lecturer for Drawing, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria  
**2011-2014** Adjunct Faculty, Essex County College Art Department, Newark, USA  
**2011-2013** Drawing Instructor, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY

**2009** Visiting Lecturer of Photography, Ursinus College, Collegeville, USA  
**2008-2010** Teaching Artist, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, USA  
**2008-2009** Teaching Artist, Berman Art Museum, Ursinus College, Collegeville, USA  
**2008-2008** Instructor, Art in Continuing Education, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, USA  
**2007-2009** Adjunct Faculty, Department of Art and Art History, Drexel University Philadelphia, USA  
**2007-2008** Drawing Instructor, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA

## Professional Appointments and Consultation

**2011-2013** Founder and Program Coordinator, MAP, Long Island University, Brooklyn, USA  
**2009-2013** Director of Education, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, USA  
**2006-2008** Studio and Teaching Assistant, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA  
**2005-2006** Graduate Teaching Assistant, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomington Hills, USA  
**2004-2006** Museum Gallery Assistant, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Bloomington Hills, USA  
**2004-2005** Assistant to the Education Curator, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomington Hills, USA  
**2004-2005** Forum Gallery Director, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomington Hills, USA

## Conference and Workshop Participation

**2018** *Multiple Black Realities: Akwaeke Emezi + Arthur Jafa + ruby onyinyechi amanze on Freshwater*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, New York, USA  
**2017** Visiting Artist Lecture, Brown University, Providence, Providence, USA  
**2016** Faculty Lecture, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
**2016** *Drawing: A conversation with Amanda Hunt*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
**2016** *The Politics and Privilege of Play: A conversation with Dexter Wimberly*, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, New York, USA  
**2016** *Spatial Politics: A conversation with Torkwase Dyson and Kimberli Gant*, Studio Museum of Harlem, Brooklyn, USA  
**2015** *The Commoditization of Art*, Columbia University, New York, USA  
**2015** *Africa Salon*, Contemporary African Arts & Culture Festival, Yale University, New Haven, USA  
**2014** Artist Lecture, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK  
**2013** *Process and Practice*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, USA  
**2013** Artist's Professional Development Workshop, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2013** *Contemporary Directions in Drawing*, Centre for Contemporary Art and Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2012** Fine Arts Faculty Lecture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria  
**2011** *Making Art Relevant*, New York Alliance of Black School Educators, New York, USA  
**2010** *Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora*, Development and the Education of Students of African Descent, Adelaide L. Sanford Institute for Research, Brooklyn, USA

## Awards and Merits

**2018** Artist Commission Program, Montblanc Cultural Foundation, Hamburg, Germany  
**2016** Shortlisted for Prix Canson Drawing Prize, The Drawing Centre, New York, USA  
**2012 – 2013** Faculty Fulbright Scholar, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

## Academic Record and Residencies

### Education

**2004-2006** Master of Arts (Fine Arts), Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, USA  
**2000-2004** Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art), Summa Cum Laude, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA

### Awards and Residencies

**2017** Artist-in-Residence, Spring Workshop, Hong-Kong, China  
**2016-2017** Open Sessions, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
**2015-2017** Artist-in-Residence, Queens Museum, Flushing, USA  
**2015** Fountainhead Residency, Miami, USA  
**2014** Workspace Artist-in-Residence, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, USA  
**2014** Artist-in-Residence, Bric Visual Arts Residency, Brooklyn, USA  
**2012** Artist-in-Residence, Gallery Aferro, Newark, USA  
**2011** Artist-in-Residence, Cooper Union, New York, USA  
**2011** Artist-in-Residence, Better Arts Residency, Redwood, New York, USA

## Collections

CSS Bard College Hessel Museum, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, US  
National Museum of African Art Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US  
Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt, USA  
The Jewish Museum, New York, USA  
The Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, USA  
The Studio Museum of Harlem, Brooklyn, USA

## Selected Articles and Reviews

**2019** Lux Magazine  
**2019** Frieze Magazine  
**2019** Nataal  
**2019** BOMB Magazine  
**2017** Artist Interview Feature; Mask Magazine  
**2017** Transition Magazine  
**2017** Moon Man Magazine  
**2017** Artist Text for The Anatomy of an Image, Backroom Caracas

**2016** Emerging Artist mention: Financial Times, South Africa  
**2016** Featured artist interview: Art South Africa  
**2014** BRIC Biennial Volume I, exhibition catalogue  
**2013** Short story: I charge you to leave this body, Manifesta Journal 17: Etude  
**2013** Article: The Forgotten Art of Drawing, Africa.com  
**2013** Article: 'The Underdog; an Ode to Drawing', HYCIDE journal  
**2013** Featured artist interview: African Style Daily  
**2009** Featured artist interview: 'Visions Fine Art: Spring Edition'  
**2008** Featured artist interview: Art Journal, University of the Arts, Philadelphia

## Performances

**2021** *Tell me a way you pretend to be strong*, performed with Emilee Lord & Mor Mendel, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy