# Nengi Omuku

BORN IN WARRI, NIGERIA, 1987
LIVES AND WORKS IN LAGOS, NIGERIA AND LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

## Education

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|---|---|
| 2012 | MA, Slade School of Art, University College London, United Kingdom |
| 2010 | BA, Slade School of Art, University College London, United Kingdom |

## Solo Exhibitions

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| 2026 | “Nengi Omuku: The Gathering,” Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, California |
| | “There We Sat Down,” SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia |
| | “Nengi Omuku: We Were Like Those Who Dreamed,” Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2024 | “Nengi Omuku: Wild Things and Perennials,” Kasmin, New York, NY |
| 2023-24 | “Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World,” Hastings Contemporary, United Kingdom and Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom |
| | “Nengi Omuku: As Water Never Touched,” Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Palm Beach, FL |
| 2022 | “Parables of Joy,” Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2021 | “Chorus,” Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Berlin, Germany |
| 2020 | “Gathering,” Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2017 | “Stages of Collapse,” September Gray, Atlanta, GA |
| 2015 | “A State of Mind,” Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria |
| 2011 | “To Figure an Encounter,” Open The Gate, London, United Kingdom |

## Selected Group Exhibitions

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| 2026-28 | "British Art Show 10: A Chorus of Strangers," Hayward Gallery Touring: Coventry, Swansea, Bristol, Sheffield, Newcastle Gateshead, United Kingdom |
| 2026 | "Made In Tension," The Soloviev Foundation, New York, NY |
| 2025 | "An Uncommon Thread," Hauser & Wirth, Somerset, United Kingdom |
| 2024-25 | “Sing Along! On Raising Our Voices,” Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz, Austria |
| 2024 | "As She Is," Soho Revue Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| | "The Poetics of Dimensions," curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah, ICA San Francisco, CA |
| | “DAK’ART, Biennale of Contemporary African Art,” Dakar, Senegal |
| | ‘Digital Art School,” Hospital Rooms and Hauser & Wirth, London, United Kingdom |
| | "Soulscapes," Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| | "REFUGE: Lagos Biennial 2024," Lagos, Nigeria |
| 2023-2024 | "Exchanges," Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom |
| 2023 | “Where the Wild Roses Grow,” Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Schloss Görne, Germany |
| | “Aso oke: Prestige Cloth,” Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, MO |
| | “Rites of Passage,” Gagosian, London, United Kingdom |
| 2022 | “CHAOS: CALM,” Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB), Bangkok, Thailand |
| | “Dissolving Realms,” curated by Katy Hessel, Kasmin, New York, NY |
| | “Uprising,” Schloss Görne, Germany |
| | “The Company She Keeps,” Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos, Nigeria |
| | “What Lies Beneath: Women, Politics, Textiles,” Women’s Art Collection, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, United Kingdom |
| 2021 | “Self-Addressed,” Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA |

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| | "Ubuntu," World Trade Organisation Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland |
| | "Dancing in Dark Times," Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| | "À Corps Défendant," La Galerie, Contemporary art Center, Noisy-le-Sec, France |
| 2020 | "All the Days and Nights," Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2018 | "Hospital Rooms," Griffin Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| | "At work," Arthouse, Lagos, Nigeria |
| 2015 | "Mapping Histories," Constructing Realities, ART15, London, United Kingdom |
| 2014 | "The Next 50 Years," Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria |
| 2012 | "Jerwood Drawing Prize Exhibition," Jerwood Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2011 | "Deep Cuts Last Measures," Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| | "Surplus to Requirements," Slade Research Centre, London, United Kingdom |
| 2010 | "The Future of Contemporary Art," Lloyd Gill Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom |
| | "Group Exhibition," Swiss Cottage Gallery, London, United Kingdom |
| 2009 | "Group Exhibition," Camden Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom |

## Grants & Awards

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| 2025 | Artist Council, Museum of West African Art, Benin City |
| 2024 | ACBMT and Arnolfini International Artist Residency Award |
| | Civitella Raneiri Residency, Italy |
| 2022-23 | Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal |
| 2021 | World Trade Organisation Residency, African Art Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland |
| 2012 | Prankerd-Jones Memorial Prize, awarded by University College London, United Kingdom |
| 2011 | Nancy Balfour MA Scholarship, awarded by University College London, United Kingdom |
| 2003 | British Council CHOGM Art Competition |

## Exhibition Catalogues

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|---|---|
| 2024 | Azu Nwagbogu. *Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World.* Hastings: Hastings Contemporary, 2024. (exh. cat.) |
| 2022 | Charlotte Jansen. *Nengi Omuku: Parables of Joy*. London: Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, 2022 (exh. cat.) |

## Articles & Reviews

| | |
|---|---|
| 2026 | White, Katie, "Rising Painter Nengi Omuku Dreams of Utopia Through Painting" *Artsy* (Aug 21, 2026). |
| | Onyewuchi, Erinma Adaeze, "Lagos: Studio by Studio," *MoMA Magazine* (May 15, 2026). |
| | Salomé Gómez-Upegui, "Nengi Omuku: Ethereal Landscapes, Collective Dreams," *Plus Magazine* 10 (May 2026). |
| 2024 | Adesina, Precious. "For Nigerian artist Nengi Omuku every painting has two sides," *CNN Style* (October 30, 2024). |
| | Sanni, Azeeza. "ANA Talks with Nengi Omuku on Latest Exhibition," *Art Network Africa* (October 26, 2024). |
| | Redston, Chloe. "Reimagining Relationships to the Natural World: Nengi Omuku at Frieze London," *New Wave Magazine* (October 2024). |
| | Laster, Paul. "The Buzziest Artworks and Booths at Frieze London 2024," *Galerie*, October 15, 2024. |
| | "The essential guide to Frieze Week 2024," *Luxury London*, October 10, 2024. |

Adesina, Precious. “With help from Lubaina Himid, Glenn Ligon and more, Frieze's Artist-to-Artist initiative is supporting new talent,” *The Art Newspaper*, October 10, 2024.
Forshaw, Irenie. “What to see in London during Frieze Week,” *The Week*, October 10, 2024.
Jessop, Vicky. “London Frieze 2024: Our picks of what to see from London's rising stars to inflatable penguins,” *The Standard*, October 10, 2024.
Lesser, Casey. “The 15 Best Booths at Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2024,” *Artsy*, October 10, 2024.
Teles, Ana. “Frieze London and Frieze Masters,” *London Art Walk*, October 10, 2024.
Abrams, Amah-Rose. “Frieze London 2024: everything to see and do,” *Wallpaper*, October 9, 2024.
Dada, Oyinkansola. “Oyinkansola Dada’s Guide To Frieze London,” *British Vogue,* October 9, 2024.
Durrant, Nancy. “Ten pieces to buy at Frieze London 2024,” *The Times*, October 8, 2024.
Hessel, Kathy. “The ultimate guide to Frieze London 2024,” *Harper’s Bazaar*, October, 8, 2024.
Davies, Lucy. "The ‘Mona Lisa of the Middle East’ that inspired Oscar Wilde," *The Times*, London, October 5, 2024.
Carrigan, Margaret. “Frieze London’s Director: There Are ‘Reasons for Optimism’ Ahead of This Year’s Fair,” *Artnet*, October 4, 2024.
Nayeri, Farah. "Three Leading British Artists Reflect on Frieze, and London," *The New York Times International Edition* October 4, 2024: S1.
Weis, Natalie. "15 NYC Art Shows to See in October," *Hyperallergic*, October 2, 2024.
Levere, Jane. "Two African Artists Show Their Works At Chelsea Galleries In New York City," *Forbes*, September 30, 2024.
Wu, Jenny. "Notes from New York: Makeshift Machines," *ArtReview*, September 30, 2024.
Mohammed, Hikmat. “Eva Langret Is Giving Frieze London a Makeover,” *WWD*, September 26, 2024.
Vincler, John. “Artist Nengi Omuku Works the Crowd in a Suite of Fresh Paintings,” *Cultured*, September 11, 2024.
Rabb, Maxwell. "11 Artists Having a Breakout Moment This Fall," *Artsy*, August 26, 2024.
Steer, Emily. "Nengi Omuku's Paintings Traverse Physical and Psychological Realms," *Frieze*, August 6, 2024.
Oshin, Péjú. "Code thread – the new language of art," *How to Spend It*, May, 2024.
Gray, Susan. “Art review: Hurvin Anderson: Salon Paintings and Nengi Omuku: The Dance of People and the Natural World at Hastings Contemporary,” *Church Times*, February 2, 2024.

2023

Steer, Emily. “Meet 8 Artists Who Broke Big in 2023—From Sculptor Mire Lee to Abstract Painter Rachel Jones,” *Art News*, December 22, 2023.
McGivern, Hannah. “How Moving Back to Her Home Country of Nigeria Changed the Course of Artist Nengi Omuku’s Career,” *Cultured Magazine*, December 8, 2023, pp. 128-129.
Shurvell, Joanne. “Experience A Top Cultural Weekend Getaway In Seaside Gem, Hastings,” *Forbes*, November 1, 2023.

Rees, Lucy. "This Nigerian-Born Artist Is Quickly Making Waves with Her Distinctive Style," *Galerie*, October 31, 2023.
Anand, Keshav. "What To See At Frieze London 2023," *Something Curated*, October 11, 2023.
"The Unbound Potential of Thread: Textile Works at Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2023," *Frieze*, October 14, 2023.
Hastings, "First UK solo exhibition comes to Hastings by rising Nigerian Artist," *ITVxNews*, October 8 2023.
Oluwatobiloba, Ajayi. *Dada Magazine*, Issue 2, October 2023 (cover).
Olsen, Annikka. "Get a Closer Look at Lagos-Based Artist Nengi Omuku's Intricate Textile Paintings—Made on Traditional Nigerian Cloth," *Artnet News*, September 29, 2023.
"New Artist Spotlight: Nengi Omuku at Kasmin," *Artsy*, June 19, 2023.
Tovey, Russell and Diament, Robert. *Talk Art*, season 15, episode 10, January 27, 2023.

2022 Rotinwa, Ayodeji. "Against the Odds: The Quiet Triumph of Lagos's Art Scene." *Art Basel*, December 8, 2022.
Akinkugbe, Alayo. "'People Seem to be Trying to Reconnect with Nature', in Conversation With Nengi Omuku." *The Republic*, October 31, 2022.
Tabish, Kahn. "The Top 6 Art Exhibitions to See in London in July" *FAD Magazine*, July 3, 2022.
Black, Holly. "Nengi Omuku: 'It's the Only Irreplaceable Thing in my Studio." *ELEPHANT*, June 27, 2022.
Rea, Naomi. "Artist Nengi Omuku Paints Portraits on Traditional Nigerian Textiles. See Inside Her Lagos Studio Here." *Artnet*, June 7, 2022.
"Nengi Omuku: Parables of Joy." *Contemporary And (C&)*, June 2, 2022.
"The Rise of Amazons – African Female Artists." *Business Day*, March 12, 2022.
Onabolu, Tobi. "As the Art World's Gaze Returns to Nigeria, Meet the Local Players Who Are Working to Ensure the Sustainability of its Market." *Artnews*, February 8, 2022.

2021 Olatunbosun, Yinka. "Art x Lagos Launches Short Film Series." *This Day*, September 12, 2021.
Onuzo, Chibundu. "'If You Are of the Camp That Wants to Keep the Art World An Exclusive Club, Then Look Away Now'." *The Art Newspaper,* July 17, 2021.
Sarpong, June. "June Sarpong on the Power of Black Art and Visual Storytelling." *Vanity Fair,* May 25, 2021.
McDonald, Maya Asha. "Elebate Your Collection with the Social Set's 10 Favourite Female Artists." *Tatler*, March 4, 2021.

2020 Okoro, Enuma. "Processing an Impossible Year Through Art." *Harper's Bazaar*, D ecember 28, 2020.
Walton, Mille. "Painting The Collective: An Interview with Nengi Omuku." *Trebuchet Magazine*, December 4,2020.
Amendah, Hanou. "Nengi Omuku Paints a Cartography of Collective Strife and Solidarity." *The Sole Adventurer*, November 14, 2020.

2018 "Last Chance Traces: Contemporary Africa." *Magpie*, November 10, 2018.

## Public Collections

Azman Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection

Easton Capital Collection, New York, NY
Government Art Collection, London, United Kingdom
HSBC Art Collection, London, United Kingdom
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Miami, FL
Loewe Art Collection, Madrid, Spain
Monsoon Art Collection, London, United Kingdom
Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Women's Art Collection, Edwards Murray College, Cambridge, United Kingdom