

## **Victor Ekpuk**

### **Short Bio/CV**

Nigerian-American artist, Victor Ekpuk is based in Washington, DC. Ekpuk obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University, Ife, Nigeria in 1989.

He is renowned for glyph-like paintings and drawings that are inspired by the aesthetic philosophies of indigenous African writing systems and graphic symbols from diverse cultures. His art explores the human condition, drawing upon a wide spectrum of meaning that is rooted in African and global contemporary art discourses.

#### Exhibitions:

Ekpuk, a Smithsonian Institution fellow, has works that have been featured in several international and national exhibitions; Aicon gallery, New York (2019),

[Get Up, Stand Up Now](#), Somerset House, London, UK (2019),

Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, France (2017),

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA (2017),

12th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2015)

Dakar Biennial, Dakar, Senegal (2014)

Auto-Graphics, Hood Museum, New Hampshire, USA (2015) and Krannert Art Museum, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois (2014),

Inscribing Meaning, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art Washington DC and Fowler Museum Los Angelis (1998)

Africa Now, Museum of Art and Design, New York (2011)

Black President: The Art and Legacy of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2010)

1st Johannesburg Biennial, Johannesburg (1995).

#### Works in Collections:

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India

Elizabeth Miller Sculpture Center, Kansas

Bank ABC International Headquarter, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Smithsonian National museum of African Art (NMAFA),

Smithsonian National museum of African American Culture & History (NMAACH),

The World Bank,

Newark Museum,

Hood Museum,

Krannert Art Museum,

United States Art in Embassies Art Collection.

#### Commissions:

Ekpuk has been awarded several commissions by museums in the United States.

In 2016, he was commissioned by The Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art to design trophies awarded to recipients of the museum's first African Art Awards. One of the recipients was Yinka Shonibare MBE.

In 2017, he completed a large-scale 30ft x 18ft. centerpiece mural at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

A commissioned 58ft mural “Essence of Memphis” currently at the Memphis Brooks Museum was a site of a scene in [Brian Banks the latest movie by Tom Shaydiac](#).

In 2019, he completed a 20 ft metal sculpture “Hope and Dream Under Glory” commissioned by District of Columbia Department of General Services at Boone Elementary School in SE Washington DC.

In 2019, he installed [The Face](#) a 17 feet landmark sculpture commissioned by Bank ABC (Arab Bank Corporation) at its world headquarters in The Kingdom of Bahrain.

He is currently commissioned by Penguin Random House Publishers to illustrate new covers of popular books by Africa’s most renowned author, Chinua Achebe. These volumes include, Things Fall Apart, No Longer at Ease, Arrow of God, A Man of The People and other well-loved Achebe novels.

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