

donna Kukama

donna Kukama born in Mahikeng (ZA) in 1981. She lives and works in Cologne, Germany

EDUCATION

2022 - current

PhD in Art and Media, University of Plymouth, UK

2020 - 2021

PhD in Creative Research - Transart Institute & Liverpool John Moores University, UK (discontinued)

2015

PhD in Fine Art, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (discontinued)

2005 -2008

Postgraduate Degree in MAPS (Masters of Arts in the Public Sphere), Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais, Sierre, Switzerland

2003 - 2004

B-Tech (Fine Arts), Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

1999 - 2003

National Diploma in Fine Arts, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

SOLO EXHIBITION

2025

I Breathe, You Breathe, Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Fire on the mountain, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

breath, wind and water, Salts, Birsfelden, Switzerland

2024

in living memory..., Galerie Tschudi, Zurich, Switzerland

2023

t r a n s c e n d e n c e, Galerie Tschudi, Zuoz, Switzerland

2022

Ways-of-Remembering-Existing, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

2020

For Time-Travellers in Search of Fresh Air, Turba Gallery, Hannover, Germany

2019

mooood, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

We the Not-Not People!, Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

2012

UNACCEPTABLE, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa

EXTRASPECTIVE, Parking Gallery, Johannesburg

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

2025

Counting, Galerie Tschudi, Zuoz, Switzerland

2023

Light Is Therefore Colour, Galerie Tschudi, Zuoz, Switzerland

Gordon Matta-Clark / Giorgio Andreotta Calò - donna Kukama, Hans Schabus,
Alfabeto Bianco, Piacenza, Italy

Monotypes, Edition VFO at Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

IO, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

The Orange River, SixtySix London, London, UK

2022

OCCUPATION, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

The 't' is silent, 8th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle,
Belgium

The Show is Over, South London Gallery, London, UK

The weight of a stone, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

BREATHLESS, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

GOGOGO Festival, Grutli Theatre, Geneva, Switzerland

2021

A Line Beyond, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Festival Horizons d'eau, les Abattoirs, Musée - Frac Occitanie Toulouse,
Toulouse, France

Territories Between Us, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South
Africa

House Arrest, Glasshouse ArtLifeLab, New York, USA

La Matière vivante, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy

Territories Under My Skin, Changing Room, Berlin, Germany

The Thing Itself Exists Everywhere, blank Gallery, Cape Town, Switzerland

2020

For Time-Travelers in Search of Fresh Air, TURBA Gallery, Hanover, Germany

The Cave & The Garden, Centre for Contemporary Art FUTURA, Prague, Czech
Republic

Performance/ Documentation/ Presentation, Lunds Konsthall, Lund, Sweden

*Blank. With a bet, on a long distance relationship, with time, slow thinking and
deep conversation*, Circuit Centre d'Art Contemporain, Lausanne, Switzerland

Tomorrow there will be More of Us, Stellenbosch Triennale, South Africa

2019

the head the hand, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

Blood and Soil: Dark Arts for Dark Times, Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius,
Lithuania

Highly Personal: South African Artists and Their HandPrint Portraits, Stephen

Daiter Gallery, Chicago, USA
Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance: Act Three, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
Highly Personal: South African Artists and Their HandPrint Portraits, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, USA
Shifts in Time, Over the Influence Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance: Act Two, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill On Sea, UK
CONDO London, hosted by Corvi-Mora and greengrassi, London, UK

2018

open agenda, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
The Marvellous Cacophony, 57th October Salon, Belgrade, Serbia
We the Not-Not People!, Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa
blank, Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin, Germany
Print Promises, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
The Collection for the Poor Collector, SPERLING, Munich, Germany
Tell Freedom: 15 South African Artists, Kunsthal KaDe, Amersfoort, Netherlands

2017

Inauguration of Kohta: Juha Pekka Matias Laakkonen and Donna Kukama, Kohta, Helsinki, Finland
Africa, Raccontare un Mondo, Padiglione de'Arte Contemporanea Milano, Milan, Italy
Urban Cadence: Street Scenes from Lagos and Johannesburg, Gund Gallery, Ohio, USA

2016

Jerusalem Show VIII: Before and After Origins, Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem
Incerteza Viva (Live Uncertainty), 32nd Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil
Nothing Gets Organised, CHR Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
Nothing is Impossible, CCA Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe; Cult Gallery, San Francisco; and Monte Vista Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Figure, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

About a work #7, Galleria Zero, Milan, Italy
The Welfare State, MhKA, Antwerp, Belgium
The Film Will Always Be You: Points and Counterpoints, screenings at Tate Modern, London, UK
How to Gather?... 6th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
Surround Audience, New Museum Generational Triennial, New York, USA

2014

Biennale of Moving Images 2014, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
it's all video, video, video, curated by Rory Bester, BIOSCOPE, Johannesburg, South Africa
FAST FORWARD, In partnership with Afrikadaa and Zajia Lab, Zajia Lab, Beijing, China
Don't You Know Who I Am?: Kunst na Identiteitspolitiek / Art after Identity Politics / L'Art après la Politique de l'Identité, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium
Digging Our Own Graves 101, 8th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany
MINE, film screenings accompanying *The Divine Comedy*, Museum of Modern

Art, Frankfurt, Germany

Public Intimacy: Art and other Ordinary Acts in South Africa, SFMOMA, San Francisco, USA

2013

This is the thing, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

By Night Visual Arts Festival, Courant d'Arts, St Denis, France

blank projects in Johannesburg, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Imaginary Fact, South African Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Meanwhile ... Suddenly and Then, 12th Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France

Xenoglossia, the Exhibition, Goethe on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa

My Joburg, Maison Rouge, Paris, France

After-After Tears, New Museum, New York, USA

23 Kilograms, Galerie West, The Hague, Netherlands

2012

When Attitudes Become Form, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

The Visible Screening Program: "Sharing Transformation", Kunsthaus Graz, Germany

Machine Worries, Machine Hearts, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

Where Dreams Cross, Art:Screen Festival, Orebro, Sweden

Joburg, DONT/PANIC, Center For Historical Reenactments, Johannesburg, South Africa

Exuberance Project Exhibition, Mandela Rhodes Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

EXTRASPECTIVE, Parking Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dis/Play, Goethe On Main, Johannesburg, South Africa

MINE, UJ Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

MINE, DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE

DON'T/PANIC, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

2011

Xenoglossia, Biennale de Lyon, France

CONNECTIONS, Kunsthalle Luzern, Switzerland

MAP South Africa, University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Becoming-Animal, Goethe-Institut Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Mine: A selection of films by South African artists, Iwalewa-House, Afrikazentrum der Universität Bayreuth, Germany

2010

Featuring Simplicity as an Irrational Fear, Michael Stevenson Project Space, Cape Town, South Africa

Contemporary Artists from South Africa, Gallery 3,14, Bergen, Norway

US (part of the exhibition 1910-2010: FROM PIERNEEF TO GUGULECTIVE), South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Hearts & Minds (Part of the Third Biennial Art History Symposium, Africa on My

Mind: Contemporary Art, Home and Abroad), Hall Street Gallery, Savannah, USA

2009

Dada South? Exploring Dada legacies in South African Art 1960 to the present, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

6 Stories/6 Hours/6 Artists, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

US, Johannesburg Art Gallery & Goodman Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa

On Screen: Global Intimacy, Krannert Art Museum, Illinois, USA

Take Me to the River, DEPO, Istanbul

Multipistes Parties, Meneer de Wit, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2008

Pool of possibilities, Mapping Currents for the Third Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China

*I will never W**k Alone in Chile*, Traffixx gallery, Santiago, Chile

Gast/Spiel, a fringe project during ArtBasel, Hohstraum 11, Basel, Switzerland

Archives Projects, L'Arsenic, Lausanne Femme et l'Autorité, Villa Dutoit, Geneva, Switzerland

Scratching The Surface VOL 1, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2007

Positive:Pulse, Sun City, Rustenburg, South Africa

Devénir-Animal, L'Arsenic, Lausanne, Switzerland

M.A.P.S en Cuenca, Universidad De Castilla-La Mancha, Cuenca, Spain

2006

Age of Hope, United Nations Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland

Visions d'Artistes, Dak'Art off Biennalé, Yassine Art Center, Dakar, Senegal

2005

Take Me to the River, The Pretoria Art Museum, Tshwane, South Africa

2004

Young Vision: featuring 11 Most Promising South African Artists, L'Alliance Français, Johannesburg, South Africa

Negotiate, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Geslag, Aardklop Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa

Real Presence; Generation 4, Yugoslavian Museum of National History, Belgrade, Serbia

SELECTED PERFORMANCES AND SCREENINGS

2024

Sunshine for those of us who are reminded, in the most brutal way, that we are connected, Galerie Tschudi in collaboration with Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich, Switzerland

Sunshine for those of us who still breathe, ICA Live Art Festival 2024, Cape Town, South Africa

2022

Chapter J: For those of us who speak Wind, 7 Winds, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Chapter V: Even when we are all no longer visible, I will continue to breathe for us, Volt, Bergen, Norway

Chapter O:, Breathless, Powerplant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Chapter T: The loudest absence has a language too, Crossing The Mangrove (Pa pot kou en kaz ban mwen), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

GOGOGO 2022, Le Grütli, Geneva, Switzerland

2021

Chapter R: When the trees, oceans, and lands recovered forgotten spells from their blood, Grasping Things at the Root: Red Wedding and the Green Revolt,

Coculture Berlin, Germany

The Lit-Rear View: Window, Mirror, Basement, Shed, Time, House Arrest,

Glasshouse Art Lab, New Paltz, NY, USA

Chapter S: Memories that were Hugged by Watta, Festival Horizons d'Eaux, Les
abattoirs- Musee et Fnac, Toulouse, France

Chapter N: Every Grain and Bone has a Name Too ..., *Territories Under My Skin*,
Chanigng Room, Berlin, Germany

Chapter H: When Hundreds times Thousands met Multiples, and More,
Performance now v.8: Were are we now? - University of Western Macedonia,
Kozani, Greece (online)

2020

Chapter Z: When Everything and Everyone Returned, Stellenbosch Triennale,
Stellenbosch, South Africa

2018

*The Ways We Sing And Move to Become Ocean, The Ways we remember To be
Ocean*, TBA21 Academy: The Current II-The Waves of the Oh!s and the Ah!s,
Chiesa San Lorenzo, Venice, curated by Chus Martinez

Chapter D: When our doors got up and left, The Marvellous Cacophony, 57th
October Salon, Belgrade, Serbia

We the Not-Not People! -Things done, not told. Inscribed, not written. ICA Live Art
Festival, Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

Chapter Q: Dem Short-Short Falls, Bijlmeramp Monument, Amsterdam,
Netherlands

Introduction Here...WE THE PEOPLE!, Various locations, South Africa

The Garden of Excuses, Frieze London, Regent's Park, London, UK

Chapter P: The Not-Not Educational Spirits, E.O.T.O. Library, Berlin, Germany

Chapter U: Me, looking at You, Looking at Me, Looking at You, PAC Museum, Milan,
Italy

Chapter Y: Is Survival Not Archival?, South African National Gallery, Cape Town,
South Africa

Chapter L: When Rain Clouds Gathered..., Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South
Africa

2016

Chapter X: A mouthful of Hot Air (When we re-blackened our faces and turned),
New Gate, Jerusalem

Chapter F: The Free School for Art and all 'Fings Necessary (Until Fees Fall), South
Africa

Chapter B: I, Too, Sao Paulo Biennale Pavilion, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Chapter A: The Anatomy of History, Museo Afro Brasil, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Chapter C: The Genealogy of Pain, Cemitério da Consolação, Sao Paulo, Brazil
TO BE ANNOUNCED..., *Nothing Gets Organised*, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015

TO BE ANNOUNCED, nGbK, Berlin, Germany

The Cemetery for Bad Behaviour, VDNKh, Moscow, Russia

The Monument of Apologies, Matonge, Brussels, Belgium

What we caught we threw away, what we didn't catch we kept, Antwerp

2014

The Museum of Non-Permanence, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South
Africa

2013

The Very Last Announcement, South African Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

The Air-Space Urgency, Frac Des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

A Catalogue Without Pages (Vol1 & Vol 2), La Musée d'art Contemporaine & Sucrière, Biennale de Lyon, France

The Air-State Urgency (Shop), L'Agence Creative, Bordeaux, France

The Air-State Urgency (Launch), St Denis, Reunion Island

Conceptual Recitals, Lausanne, Switzerland

If the past were to be postponed to the future, would this moment be a memory?, New Museum, New York, USA

I Had A Dream, FundBuro, Mirages Festival, Lyon

To Chop-Shop, Mirages Festival, Lyon, France

The Fyootchar Kourt of Traded Justices, The Hague, Netherlands

2012

Trade Re-Routed, in collaboration with Anthea Moys, Joburg Art Fair & Joburg Fringe, Johannesburg, South Africa

Fr(a)gile, Alf Khumalo Museum, Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa

What Happened in 2081? Center For Historical Reenactments, Johannesburg, South Africa

To U-turn or to One-Way?, part of *Shoe-Shop project*, Johannesburg, South Africa

Black and White Flags, going up-and-down, Not No Place, Goethe Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Chop-Shoppers, Jeppe str, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Investment Bank of Elsewhere, Center For Historical Reenactments, Johannesburg, South Africa

Cafe Exchange, Substation, WITS University, Johannesburg, South Africa

2011

1998-2008 (and I), in collaboration with Katrin Grögel, Archiv Performativ: Ein Modell, Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Basel, Sitzerland

Room 207, Hillbrow, Johannesburg, South Africa

Becoming-Animal, in collaboration with Motel Mari, Goethe-Institut, Johannesburg, South Africa

It's not business, It's strictly personal, BLICK-WECHSEL-AUF-AUS-STELLUNG, Museum der Culturen, Basel, Switzerland

Performing Nowhere, during the FOCUS11 Symposium on Live Art, Basel, Switzerland

2010

Black Money Market, during University of Basel's 550th Anniversary, Switzerland

Like a Blind Man Looking for a Black Cat That Isn't There, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa

The Unknowing Grammar of Inhabiting a Text, performance with Kemang Wa Lehulere, Center for Historical Re-Enactments, Johannesburg – Strasbourg

1000 Ways of Being, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2009

The Swing (After After Fragonard), Mai-Mai Market, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Great South African Art Queue, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Mass Action Strike!, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Heart of Darkness: Vol 1.1, Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

2008

Does a Snowball Have to be White?, Chateau Mercier, Sierre, Switzerland
The Red Suitcase, 9th Elia Biennial Conference, Ghent, Belgium
Not Yet (and nobody knows why not), Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi, Namibia
Silang Mabele III, Hohlraum 11, Basel, Switzerland

2007

Let Go II, L'Arsenic, Lausanne, Switzerland
Treason 2, in collaboration with Joubert Park Projects, Sierre, Switzerland

2006

Unity & Duality, performance with Katherine Oggier, Férme Asile, Sion, Switzerland
Silang Mabele II, The Container (FAC-ECAV), Sierre, Switzerland

2005

Dieledi, The Pretoria Art Museum, Tshwane, South Africa

2004

Curio, L'Alliance Française, Johannesburg, South Africa
Breath, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Silang Mabele, Yugoslavian Museum of National History, Belgrade, Serbia

2003

Diketo, Potchefstroom National Arts Festival, South Africa

COLLECTIVES

2011-2012

NON_NON Collective

2010

Center for Historical Reenactments – CHR

AWARDS / SHORTLISTS

2019

DAAD Scholarship, Germany

2014

Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Performance Art, South Africa

2011

Visible Award, Italy, (shortlisted)
Ernst Schering Art Award, Germany, (finalist)

2010

MTN New Contemporaries Award, South Africa, (finalist)

2005 - 2008

Wyss Scholarship, Sierre, Switzerland

RESIDENCIES

2018

Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

CBK Residency, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2015

AIR Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium

2013

FRAC de Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

2011

Pro-Helvetia Studio Residency, FOCUS, Basel, Switzerland

EMPLOYMENT

2022 - present

KHM Academy of Media Arts - Professor of Contemporary Art with a focus on the Global South, Cologne, Germany

2021 - present

Haute école d'art et de design (HEAD) Genève - Guest Artist, Switzerland

2011 - 2021

University of Witwatersrand, Wits School of Arts - Lecturer, South Africa

2019 - 2020

HBK Braunschweig - Guest Professor, Germany

2008

Ecole Cantonale D'Art du Valais - Student Assistant (Performance Art & Cultural Studies), Switzerland

2005

Tshwane University of Technology, Fine Art Department -Lecturer, South Africa

SABC Art Collection - Curator's Assistant, South Africa

2004

Telkom Art Collection - Curator's Assistant , South Africa

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

FRAC des pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

Jack Ginsberg Artists' Book Collection, Ampersand Foundation, USA

JAG (Johannesburg Art Gallery), Johannesburg, South Africa

MAP (Modern Art Projects), Graskop & Richmond, South Africa

M HKA (Museum of Modern Art) Antwerp, Belgium

Telkom Art Collection, Tshwane, South Africa

WAM (Wits Art Museum), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
SANG (South African National Gallery), Cape Town, South Africa
Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
X Museum, Beijing, China