

## 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

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

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 Matiere 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"*, Kunsthau 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 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- Musée 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