

Kudzanai Chiurai



Biography

Kudzanai Chiurai (b. 1981, Harare, Zimbabwe) is a multidisciplinary artist exploring notions and cycles of political, economic, and social strife present in post-colonial societies. His work interrogates urgent social issues, such as xenophobia, exile, displacement, the psychological experiences of urban spaces, as well as the Western imprint on Africa.

In 2024, Chiurai's film *We Live in Silence* (Chapters 1 – 7) was on view as part of the main exhibition at the 60th Venice Biennale *Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere*, curated by Adriano Pedrosa. In 2023, photographs from the artist's *We Live in Silence* series were part of *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography*, at TATE Modern curated by Osei Bonsu.

In 2013, Chiurai's *Conflict Resolution* series was exhibited at DOCUMENTA (13) (2012) in Kassel and the film *Iyeza* was one of the few African films to be included in the New Frontier shorts programme at the Sundance Film Festival.

Chiurai's project, *The Library of Things We Forgot to Remember*, is built around his collecting practice which focuses on preserving archives and memorialising social and cultural history from southern Africa. The project exists in the form of an archive of materials situated in Johannesburg including vinyls, posters, paintings and more, drawn from private African collections. Each time this archive is exhibited, Chiurai invites a different librarian to interrogate the archive and curate an exhibition.

Solo exhibitions include: *Genesis* [Je n'isi isi], *We Live in Silence*, IFA, Stuttgart (2019); *Madness and Civilization*, Kalmar Konstmuseum, Sweden (2018); *Now and Then: Guercino and Kudzanai Chiurai*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2018); and *Regarding the Ease of Others*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2017).

Group shows include: *FLIGHT*, Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (2023); *Ubuntu, a Lucid Dream*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020); *Art/Afrique*, Le nouvel atelier, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2017); *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory and Hell Revisited*, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2014) and travelled to the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2015); *Figures & Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2011); and *Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011).

Collections include: Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami; Pigozzi Collection, Geneva; Walther Collection, New York; and Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town.

Chiurai lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021** *We Live in Silence*, Lundgren Gallery, Illes Balears, Spain
- 2019** *Genesis* [Je n'isi isi], *We Live in Silence*, IFA, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2019** *Madness and Civilization*, Södertälje Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2018** *Madness and Civilization*, Kalmar Konstmuseum, Kalmar, Sweden
- 2018** *Now and Then: Guercino and Kudzanai Chiurai*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** *We Live in Silence*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 2018** *Madness and Civilization*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** *While the Harvest Rots*, Lundgren Gallery, Palma, Spain
- 2017** *We Need New Names*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2017** *Regarding the Ease of Others*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *We Live in Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017** *We Live in Silence*, Constitution Hill, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2015** *Kudzanai Chiurai: Iyeza*, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Rhode Island, USA
- 2015** *Selection from Revelations*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, New York, USA
- 2015** *REVELAÇÕES*, Kulungwana Gallery, Maputo, Mozambique
- 2014** *Defining the State of the Nation*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa Pavilion, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2013** *Front Page*, Mallorca Landings, Palma, Spain
- 2012** *The Harvest of Thorns*, The Assylem Atelje, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011** *State of the Nation*, Goodman Gallery Project Space, Arts on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Communists and Hot Chicken Wings: The Birth of a New Nation*, Goodman Gallery Project Space, Arts on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Dying To Be Men*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008** *Yellow Lines*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2007** *Graceland*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
2005 *Y Propaganda*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004 *Correction: The Revolution Will Be Televised*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
2003 *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*, Brixton Art Gallery, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2024** _'Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere'_., curated by Adriano Pedrosa, International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy
2024 *The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, The SCHIRN, Frankfurt, Germany
2024 *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, curated by Dr Zoe Whitley, The Institutuum, Singapore
2023 *A World In Common*, Tate Modern, London, UK
2023 *Deep Blue*, Porto Photography Biennial '23, Porto, Portugal
2023 *Common*, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
2023 *Trace – Formations of Likeness: Photography and Video from The Walther Collection*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
2023 *FLIGHT*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden
2022 *Subverted Resistance*, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany
2022 *UBUNTU: A Lucid Dream*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
2021 *Photographs in Our Mother Tongue: The New South Africa Under Scrutiny*, Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2021 *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)*, Summer Exhibition, The Royal Arts Academy, London, UK
2020 _Did ever think there would come a time?, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2020 *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA
2020 *Living Just Enough*, Goodman Gallery London, UK
2020 *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA
2020 *Uptown South*, Adler Beatty, New York, USA
2019 _I've grown roses in this garden of mine, Goodman Gallery London, UK
2019 *Acts of Reading*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town, SA
2019 *Inheritance: New Video Art by Kudzanai Chiurai, Zina Sara-Wiwa and Mikhael Subotzky*, Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
2018 *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)*, in collaboration with M.anifest, RE:Publica, Accra, Ghana
2018 *Women on Aeroplanes*, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
2018 *Beyond Borders: Global Africa*, UMMA, Michigan, USA
2018 *Dress Up, Speak Up: Costume and Confrontation*, 21c Hotel Museum, Louisville, USA
2018 *The Red Hour*, 13th Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, Senegal
2018 *In Their Own Form*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA
2018 *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA
2018 *Ex Africa*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2017 *Ex Africa*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
2017 *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, USA
2017 *Through the Lens-Platform for Photography_.*, Deweer Gallery, Otegem, Belgium.
2017 *Africa. Telling A World_.*, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
2017 *A Short History of South African Photography*, Fotografia Europea, Chiostrri di San Pietro, Reggio Emilia, Italy
2017 *Art/Afrique, Le nouvel atelier* , Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
2017 *New Acquisitions: Standard Bank Corporate Collection*, Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 *Summer Show*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *Sleight of Hand*, Zuckerberg Museum of Art, Kennesaw, USA
2016 *Regimes of Truth*, LagosPhoto Festival, Lagos, Nigeria
2016 *Tear my Bra*, Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50* , Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
2016 *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, Makerere Art Gallery, Kampala, Uganda
2016 *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, Germany
2016 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
2016 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
2015 *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
2015 *What remains is tomorrow*, South African Pavilion at the 56th La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy
2015 *Dis/Place*, MoCADA, New York, USA
2015 *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory Revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA
2014 *Nevralgies*, Galerie Maïa Muller, Paris, France
2014 *Daegue Biennale*, Daegue, South Korea
2014 *Arles Discovery Award Exhibition*, Arles, France
2014 *Surfacing*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2014 *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Part II: Art Rotterdam, Netherlands
2014 *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Part III: West den Haag, Netherlands
2014 *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory Revisited* by Contemporary African Artists, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
2014 *Staging Reality*, Lagos Photo Festival, Nigeria
2014 *Vision of Africa*, Addis Photo festival, Ethiopia
2014 *Luminós/C/ity.Ordinary Joy: From the Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection*, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery, Cambridge, UK
2013 *Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive*, Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany
2013 *Pop Goes the Revolution*, New Church, Cape Town, South Africa
2013 *LagosPhoto 2013: The Megacity and the Non-City* , Art21, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
2013 *My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2013 *!Kauru*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
2013 *eMerging: Visual Art and Music in a Post-Hip-Hop Era*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, (MoCADA), New York City borough of Brooklyn, USA
2013 *Making Way: Contemporary Art from South Africa and China*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *New Frontier*, Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah, USA
2013 *The Beautiful Ones*, Nolan Judin Gallery, Berlin, Germany
2012 *Video Artprojx*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA
2012 *DOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, Germany
2011 *Figures & Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography* , Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

2011 *über(W)unden – Art in troubled times*, Goethe- Institut, Johannesburg, South Africa
2011 *Impressions from South Africa*, 1965 to Now, Museum of Modern Art in New York, New York, USA
2011 *Contemporary African Art*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
2011 *Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now*, MoMA, New York, USA
2010 Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
2010 *Its greener on the other side*, Co-op, Johannesburg, South Africa
2010 *In other words*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2010 *Photo Ireland* festival, Dublin, Ireland
2010 *SPace*, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
2010 *For those that live in it*, MU, Netherlands
2009 *ParisPhoto* Exhibition, Paris, France
2009 *Us*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 *Armory Show*, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA
2009 *Joburg Art Fair*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 *Nation State*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *Melbourne Stencil Festival*, Melbourne, Australia
2008 *Africa Now*, Round Tower, Copenhagen, Denmark
2008 *Africa Now*, Northern Norway Art Centre, Lofoten, Norway
2008 *Africa Now*, Tampere Art Museum, Finland
2006 *Dak'art*, Dakar, Senegal
2006 *New Painting*, KZNSA, Durban, South Africa
2005 *Melrose Art*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
2005 *Reconciliation*, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

Curated Exhibitions

2021 *The Library of Things We Forgot to Remember*, Johannesburg, South Africa
 visit the website here – <https://kudzanaichiurai.com/>

Awards and Merits

2014 Shortlisted for Future generation Art Prize
2012 FNB Art Prize
2011 Top 200 Young South Africans, Mail & Guardian
2005 Top 100 Dazzlers and Doers in South Africa, Mail & Guardian, South Africa

Academic Record and Residencies

2006 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

Collections

21C Museums, Louisville, USA
 Barloworld, Johannesburg, South Africa
 BHP Billiton, London, UK
 Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany
 Click Media, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Danjuma Collection, London, UK
 Franks-Suss Collection, London, UK
 Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart, Germany
 Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
 Les Arts a la Giclais, Paris, France
 Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, USA
 Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
 Nandos, London, UK
 Patrice Motsepe Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA
 Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
 Sindika Dokolo Collection, Luanda, Angola
 Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
 The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
 Tiroche Deleon Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
 UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
 Walther Collection, New York, USA
 Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Selected Articles and Reviews

2013 Tim Leibbrandt, *Harvest of Thorns* Art South Africa, South Africa
2013 Simphiwe Mpye, *GQ & A With Kudzanai Chiura*, GQ Magazine, South Africa
2013 Katherine Jacobs, *Dying to be Men*, Artthrob, South Africa
2013 Laurice Taitz, *Kudzanai Chiurai Considers the Nature of Violence*, Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg
2012 Charl Blygnaut, *Jesus is a black woman*, City Press, 9 December
2012 Nkepile Mabuse, *Kudzanai Chiurai: The artist who stood up to Mugabe*, CNN online, July 12
2010 Camilla Peus, *Schwartz, Weiss, Und, Alle Farben* Art Magazine, June
2010 Jana Du Plessis, *Kudzanai Chiurai on the Black President*, One Small Seed, June
2011 Percy Zvomuya, *Pathology of Power* Mail & Guardian, November 11 – 17

- 2011** Sean O'Toole, *Starkest Africa*, Sunday Times Lifestyle, 16 October
- 2010** Percy Zvomuya, *Sense of time and Space*, Mail & Guardian, May 14
- 2008** Bongani Madondo, *He ain't yellow*, Sunday Times Lifestyle, 26 October
- 2007** Review by Catherine Green, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 06, Issue 02, Summer
- 2007** Review by Anthea Buys, Mail & Guardian, 31 August
- 2007** *Paranoia Comes Up Against Acclaim*, Business Day, 1 June
- 2007** Fred de Vries, "Urban Guerilla Of Afro Pop Art" *The Weekender*, 3 February
- 2005** Kwanele Sosibo, *Aluta Continua*, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 04, Issue 02, Summer
- 2005** Rebecca Kahn *Propagandist*, *SL Magazine*, June
- 2005** *Charcoal Revolution*, Mail & Guardian, 20 May
- 2005** Bongani Madondo, *Pop Goes The Easel*, Sunday Times, 01 May
- 2004** Review by Thuthu Lesuthu, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 03, Issue 01, Spring
- 2004** Robyn Sassen, *Calling a spade a spade: youth, audacity and bravery in the work of Zim painter Kudzanai Chiurai*, ARTTHROB, August
- 2004** *Child of the Zimbabwean Revolution*, This Day, August 3,
- 2004** Bunmi Akpata-Ohohe *Doing it his own way*, Africa Today, May

Publications

- 2012** _Lodi Matsetela (ed) *Lines Volume 3. STATE OF THE NATION*, Goodman Gallery
- 2011** _Lien Heidenreich-Seleme & Sean O'Toole (eds), *über(w)unden: Art in Troubled Times*, Jacana Media
- 2011** _Peter Anders and Matthew Krouse (eds), *Positions: Contemporary South African Artists*, Jacana Media
- 2010** _Mbali Soga (ed), *Lines Volume 2. THE BLACK PRESIDENT*, Goodman Gallery
- 2009** _Lauren Cornell, Massimiliano Gioni, and Laura Hoptman (eds), *Younger Than Jesus: The Reader*New Museum and Steidl
- 2008** *Lines Volume 1. YELLOW LINES*

Performances

- 2022** *We Still Insist* in collaboration with Tumi Mogorosi, Freedom Now Suite, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Joao Orecchia, I've grown roses in this garden of mine, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2018** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Manifest, RE:Publica, Accra, Ghana
- 2017** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Joao Orecchia, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa