

## Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum



### Biography

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum's (b. 1980, Mochudi, Botswana) multidisciplinary practice encompasses drawing, painting, installation and animation. Her work alludes to mythology, geology and theories on the nature of the universe. Sunstrum's drawings take the form of narrative landscapes that appear simultaneously futuristic and ancient, shifting between representational and fantastical depictions of volcanic, subterranean, cosmological and precipitous landscapes.

One of Sunstrum's most notable projects in London came in the form of a 2018 mural which wrapped around the exterior of The Showroom. The work was dedicated to South African Novelist Bessie Head and formed part of the exhibition titled *Women on Aeroplanes*, curated by The Otolith Group, Emily Pethick, and Elvira Dyangani Ose.

Key exhibitions and performances include: *All my seven faces* at Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA (2019); Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa; The Wiels, Brussels, Belgium (2019); Kunsthaus Zürich (2019); The Nest, The Hague (2019); Michaelis School for the Arts at the University of Cape Town (2018); Artpace, San Antonio, TX, USA (2018); The Phillips Museum of Arts, Lancaster (2018); Interlochen Centre for the Arts, Interlochen (2016); NMMU Bird Street Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth (2016); Tiwani Contemporary, London (2016); VANSAs, Johannesburg (2015); Brundyn Gallery, Cape Town (2014); FRAC Pays de Loire, France (2013); the Havana Biennial (2012); and MoCADA, New York (2011).

### Solo Exhibitions

2019 *All my seven faces*, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, USA

2019 *Diorama*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2018 *There are mechanisms in place*, curated by Nomusa Makhubu and Nkule Mabaso, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa

2018 *From No Fixed Place*, curated by Nontobeko Ntombela, ICTAF, Cape Town, South Africa

2016 *OMPHALOS*, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, MI, USA

2016 *POLYHEDRA*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2015 *BEACON*, Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSAs), Johannesburg, South Africa

2013 *ab initio*, Davidson College, Davidson, NC, USA

2010 *pamelaphatsimosunstrum*, Conduit Gallery, Dallas TX, USA

2009 *audax/viator*, Arlington Arts Centre, Arlington, VA, USA

2009 *see you again*, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA, USA

2009 *Soft Animal*, Minstallation Gallery, Baltimore, MD, USA

## Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Multiple Transmissions: Art in the Afropolitan Age*, curated by Sandrine Colard-de, Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *History is His Story*, curated by Heske ten Cat, Nest, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2019 *Fly me to the moon*, curated by Christina Penetsdorfer, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Kunsthaus Zürich
- 2018 *Women on Aeroplanes*, curated by The Otolith Group, Emily Pethick, and Elvira Dyangani Ose, The Showroom, London, UK
- 2018 *Earth and Everything* (contribution to the International Artist-in-Residence exhibition), curated by Jeffreen Hayes, Artpace, San Antonio, TX, USA
- 2018 *The World on Paper*, Deutsche Bank Collection, Palais Populaire, Berlin, Germany
- 2018 *Carry Over: New Voices from the Global African Diaspora*, curated by Kalia Brooks, Smack Mellon, New York, NY, USA
- 2018 *Drawing In / Drawing Out*, curated by Magnolia Laurie, Phillips Museum of Art, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, USA
- 2017 *A Continent Beyond*, Gallery Momo, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 *What do they call me*, Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 *Dedication to Freedom*, Nirox Winter Sculpture Fair, curated by Same Mdluli, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 *Afronaut(a) 4.0*, DVD Magazine, curated by Alisha Wormsley, premier at VIA at Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- 2016 *Cinamatek Brussels, 'Seeing in the dark'*, curated by Anouk De Clercq, Art Brussels 2016, Belgium
- 2016 1:54 Film Programme, 1:54 Art Fair, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2016 *Surface/Subtext*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 *Territories*, with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Commune 1 Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 *Fantastic*, curated by Nomusa Makhubu and Nkule Mabaso, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town
- 2015 *Post African Futures*, curated by Tegan Bristow, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 *Mythopoeia*, Tiwani Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Venturing Out of the Heart of Darkness*, curated by Rehema Barber, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture, USA
- 2014 *Survey*, with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Brundyn+Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 *de-con-structure*, with Leanne Shakenovsky, In Toto Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2014 *Double Feature*, with Kim Anno, curated by Joshua Goode, Tarrant County College, Texas, USA
- 2013 *Before being asked by the machine*, with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Room Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 *Space Station All-Stars*, with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Ithuba Art Gallery, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 *Spectacular/Spectaculaire*, curated by Nontobeko Ntombela, FRAC De Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France
- 2013 *Kauru Africa Day Exhibition 2*, curated by Melissa Goba and Euridice Kala, Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa
- 2013 *Youth Day Exhibition*, curated by Murray Turpin and Matthew Dean, Constitution Hill Women's Prison Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 *Kauru Africa Day Exhibition 1*, curated by Nontobeko, Sandton Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 Havana Biennial, exhibition curated by Andrea Barnwell-Brownlee and Valerie Cassel-Oliver, Cuba, Havana
- 2011 *Feed your head: The African Origins of the Scientific Aesthetic*, curated by Kalia Brooks, Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art (MoCADA), Brooklyn, NY, USA
- 2011 *Paperwork*, curated by Nina Chanel Abney, Kravets-Wehby Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2011 *I know you're looking*, curated by Lowery Stokes-Sims, School 33 Gallery, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2011 *Once upon a time*, curated by Laura Amussen, Silber Gallery, Goucher University, Towson, MD, USA
- 2011 *Glossolalia 5.0*, curated by Cauleen Smith, The Kitchen, New York, NY, USA
- 2010 *DeLineate: Invitational Drawing Exhibition*, University of South Carolina, SC, USA
- 2010 *Emva Kwe Sporo (Over the Railway)*, Becomo Arts Centre, Soweto, South Africa
- 2010 *Glassheart*, Point Blank Gallery, Drill Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 *Tactics of Desire*, Bag Factory Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 *First Person*, curated by Kalia Brooks, Sarah Lawrence College Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY, USA
- 2009 *astro\_nautic*, with Torkwase Dyson, curated by Jed Dodds, Creative Alliance, Baltimore MD, USA
- 2009 *Losing Yourself*, curated by Cathy Byrd and Jillian Hernandez, Georgia State University, Atlanta GA, and Maryland Art Place, Baltimore MD, USA
- 2009 *Summer Guest House*, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2009 *If I didn't Care*, curated by Rick Delaney, Park School of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2009 *To the teeth*, Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 2008 *Cinema Remixed and Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image since 1970*, curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver and Andrea Barnwell-Brownlee, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, and Spelman College

## Goodman Gallery

Museum of Art (2007), Atlanta, GA, USA  
2008 *Never has she ever*, curated by Latoya Frazier, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ, USA  
2008 *Peekskill Project*, Hudson Valley Centre for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY, USA  
2008 *Off Color*, curated by Kalia Brooks and Hank Willis Thomas, Rush Arts Gallery, New York, NY, and Diaspora Vibe Gallery (2007), Miami, FL, USA  
2008 Sondheim Prize Semi-finalist Show, Meyerhoff Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD, USA  
2008 *Solid Gold*, Vox Populi Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
2007 *Time-based media invitational*, curated by Lia Newman, ArtSpace, Raleigh, NC, USA  
2007 *Hyphenation*, curated by Jackie Milad Union Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA  
2007 *New InSight*, curated by Suzanne Ghez, Art Chicago 2007, Chicago, IL, USA  
2007 *\_a spectacle and nothing strange*, Fox3 Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD, USA 2006 *pulp*, Fox4 Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD, USA  
2006 *"(which is kind of interesting)"*, Fox3 Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD, USA

## Curated Exhibitions

2014 *COMPENDIUM*, co-curated with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2010 *Emva kwe sporo (Over the railway)*, Becomo Art Centre, Soweto, South Africa  
2008 *PepperPot: Multi-media Installation, Meaning and the Medium in Contemporary African Diaspora Art*, Brown Gallery Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Centre for Black Culture and History, USA  
2007 *Fantastic*, Spin Alternative Art Space, Elkridge, MD, USA

## Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2019 *'To consent not to be a single being,'* Great Texts/Big Questions Lecture Series, Institute for Creative Arts, University of Cape Town, South Africa  
2018 *An evening exploring African futurism, migration, images and words*, in collaboration with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, moderated by Marietta Kesting, Hopscotch Reading Room, Berlin, Germany  
2018 *THE DISRUPTER X PROJECT*, with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, PALA Lab, Berlin, Germany  
2015 *Leaping Out: Landscape, Becoming-Revolutionary and the Yet-To-Be*, presentation at African Futures Conference, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg  
2014 *Imagining the Future is Radical: Activating the future in contemporary African performance and new media art*, presented at the VAD Future Africa Conference, Bayreuth, Germany  
2013 *Contemporary Art Practices in South Africa*, Public Lecture Series, Wits Art Museum University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2013 *Afro Sci Fi and Mythology in Studio Research*, Refiguring Women Series, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2013 *Afro-mythology, African Futurism and the Politics of Imagining the Future*, Centre for the Creative Arts of Africa Seminar Series, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2012 *"State of the Arts: Contemporary Arts Practices in Botswana and the African Diaspora"*, presented at the Office of the President, Gaborone, Botswana  
2011 *"Feed Your Head: African Origins of the Scientific Aesthetic,"* panellist, Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Artists, New York, USA  
2011 *"Intersecting Arts"*, panellist, JHU Film Fest, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA  
2010 *"Art and Reflection: New Narratives and Reinterpretations"*, panellist, Brandywine Workshop Arts Lecture Series, Philadelphia, USA  
2010 *"Losing Yourself in the 21st Century,"* panellist, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, USA  
2007 *"Race, Representation and the Moving Image,"* panellist, "Cinema Remixed and Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image Since 1970" Exhibition, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, USA

## Awards and Merits

2018 Canada Council for the Arts, International Residency Grant  
2018 SSHRC Research Opportunity Grant, York University, Toronto, Canada  
2018 SSHRC Minor Research Grant, York University, Toronto, Canada  
2018 York University YUFA Travel Grant  
2010 Brandywine Prints Workshop Young Artist Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
2010 Creative Alliance Multi Media Resources Project Grant, Baltimore, MD, USA  
2010 Brenner Faculty Grant for Professional Development, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, USA

## Goodman Gallery

2009 Full Fellowship Recipient, Vermont Studio Centre, VT, USA

2007 Full Fellowship Recipient, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, ME, USA

## Academic Record and Residencies

2007 Master of Fine Arts, Mount Royal School of Multidisciplinary Art,  
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore MD, USA

2004 BA International Studies with Highest Honours (concentration in Transnational Cultures), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC, USA

2019 Gallery Momo Artist Residency, Johannesburg, South Africa

2018 PALA Lab, Berlin, Germany

2018 ArtPace International Artist Residency, San Antonio, TX, USA

2016 Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, MI, USA

2014 Iwalewahaus, Mashup The Archive Artist Residency, Bayreuth, Germany

2013 FRAC International Residency, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

2012 Main Street Life Artist Exchange, Johannesburg, South Africa

2010 Brandywine Prints Workshop Residency, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2010 Becomo Arts Centre, Soweto, South Africa

2010 Bag Factory Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009 Vermont Studio Centre, Johnson, VT, USA

2008 Creative Alliance (3-year live/work residency), Baltimore, MD, USA

2007 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME, USA

2003 Taller Portobelo Artist's Colony, Portobelo, Panama

## Collections

Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt, Germany

FRAC des Pays de la Loire Contemporary Collection, Carquefou, France

University of South Africa (UNISA) Art Collection, Pretoria, South Africa

12 Decades Hotel Main Street Life Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Publications

2016 *Leaping Out: Landscape, Becoming-Revolutionary, and the Yet-to-Be: in AFRICAN FUTURES*, ed. Sean O'Toole, published by Goethe Institute Johannesburg and Kerber

2014 'Disrupters, This is Disrupter X: Mashing up the archive,' with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi in *Technoetic Arts*, Volume 12, Numbers 2-3, December 2014, pp. 293-307(15)

2013 *Afro-mythology and African Futurism: The politics of imagining the future and methodologies for contemporary creative research practices*. In *Paradoxa Journal*. Volume 24. 2013.

2008 *PepperPot: Multi-media Installation, Meaning and the Medium in Contemporary African Diasporic Art*, Contributor and Editor, exhibition catalogue; The Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Centre for Black Culture and History; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2005 *Como se cuenta el cuento: How the Story is Told*; Editor, exhibition catalogue; The Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Centre for Black Culture and History; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2005 *Letters from Home: The Work of Michael D. Harris*, Contributor and Editor, exhibition catalogue; The Brown Gallery and Museum at the Sonja Haynes Stone Centre for Black Culture and History; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## Performances

2015 *NOTES FROM THE ANCIENTS: THE DISRUPTER X PROJECT*, in collaboration with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014 *DISRUPTERS, THIS IS DISRUPTER X*, in collaboration with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Iwalewahaus Archive, University of Bayreuth, Germany

2013 *IF YOU DO IT RIGHT*, in collaboration with Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, L'etage Honolulu, Nantes, France

2010 *A Small(ish) Opera*, a solo performance at Creative Alliance, Baltimore MD, USA