

## ruby onyinyechi amanze



### Biography

ruby onyinyechi amanze (b. 1982, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria) is a Brooklyn-based artist of Nigerian descent and British upbringing whose creative practices and processes focus on producing mixed media, paper-based drawings and works. Her art draws inspiration from photography, textiles, architecture and print-making.

amanze's practice builds around questions of how to create drawings that maintain paper's essence of weightlessness. The large-scaled and multi-dimensional drawings are part of an ongoing, yet non-linear narrative that employ the malleability of space as the primary antagonist.

A nameless, self-imagined, chimeric universe has simultaneously been positioned between nowhere and everywhere. Using a limited palette of visual elements, including the Alien, windows and birds, amanze's drawings create a non-narrative and expansive world. The construction of this world is largely centered around an interest in the spatial negotiations found in the three dimensional practices of dance, architecture and design.

Most recently, amanze completed two-year long residencies at the Queens Museum and as part of the Drawing Center's Open Sessions Program, both in New York. She has exhibited her work internationally in Lagos, London, Johannesburg and Paris, and nationally at the California African American Museum, the Drawing Center and the Studio Museum of Harlem.

amanze earned her B.F.A., Summa Cum Laude, from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and her M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 2012-2013, amanze was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Today she resides between Philadelphia and Brooklyn, but calls multiple places home.

### Artist Statement

amanze's large-scaled and multi-dimensional drawings are part of an ongoing, yet non-linear narrative that employ the malleability of space as the primary antagonist. A nameless, self-imagined, chimeric universe has simultaneously been positioned between nowhere and everywhere.

Taking roots in architecture, design, migration histories and non-nationalist politics, the manipulation of space functions as a poetic alternative to fixed identities and geographies. Navigating fictional and conflating worlds, a cohort of aliens, hybrids and ghosts play effortlessly and access magic as their mundane, yet expansive norm.

## Solo Exhibitions

2022 *DUETS*, Goodman Gallery, London  
2021 *Thinghood*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
2021 *How To Be Enough*, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy  
2020 *the ones that stayed*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK  
2019 *Deutsche Bank featured artist*, Frieze Art Fair, New York, USA  
2018 *there are even moonbeams we can unfold*, Goodman Gallery, Capetown, South Africa  
2017 *STAR FISH*, Smack Mellon Foundation, New York, USA  
2016 *The Divers*, The Armory Show with Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, New York, USA  
2015 *SALT WATER*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2015 *astroturf rooftop picnics*, Morgan Lehman Gallery, NY, USA  
2015 *a story. in parts.*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK  
2015 *Magic*, Omenka Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria  
2014 *Telling Truths, Speaking Secrets*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA  
2014 *merge*, Nomad Gallery, Washington D.C., USA  
2012 *Waiting for the Queen*, Dyker Gallery, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, USA  
2006 *All the Things I Never Said*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, USA

## Group Exhibitions

2022 *J'Al Deux Amours*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Paris, France  
2019 *you are so loved and lovely*, Fridman Gallery, New York  
2018 *A Slice through the World: Contemporary Artists' Drawing*, The Drawing Room and Modern Art Oxford, London, UK  
2018 *Affective Affinities*, 33rd Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil  
2017 *Regarding the Figure*, Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, USA  
2017 *The Ease of Fiction*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA  
2017 *the silences between*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
2017 *Drawing Biennial*, The Drawing Room, London, UK  
2017 *When the Heavens Meet the Earth*, Heong Gallery, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK  
2017 *into the midst of things*, DiverseWorks, Houston, USA  
2017 *Where Do We Stand?: Two Years of Drawing with Open Sessions*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
2017 *Nine: Studio Program Exhibition*, Queens Museum, Queens, USA  
2017 *The Day Comes*, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France  
2017 *Dialogues in Drawing*, Jenkins-Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
2017 *In media res*, Diverse Works, Houston, Texas  
2017 *The Day Comes*, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France  
2017 *Nine: Studio Program Exhibition*, Queens Museum, Queens, NY  
2017 *Dialogues in Drawing*, Jenkins-Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2016 *Un-becoming*, Fridman Gallery, New York, USA  
2016 *The Ease of Fiction*, California African American Museum, Los Angeles, USA  
2016 *Planes and Corridors*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
2016 *In Context: Africans In America*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2016 *Prix Canson*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
2016 *The Other Hemisphere, Artists, Women, Africans*, Natural History Museum of Le Havre, France  
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2016 *The Ease of Fiction*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC, USA  
2016 *KIN*, Hanger, Lisbon, Portugal  
2015 *Speaking Back*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
2015 *No Such Place*, Edward Tyler Nahem Gallery, NY, USA  
2015 *Magic*, Omenka Gallery, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria  
2015 *A Constellation*, Studio Museum of Harlem, NY, NY  
2015 *Remember to Come Back*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2014 *In Sheep's Clothing*, Gallery 220, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2014 *BRIC Biennial, Volume I*, Bric Arts Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2014 *Mutations*, Tiwani Contemporary Gallery, London, UK  
2014 *I See You; The Politics of Being*, Harvey B. Gantt Center, Charlotte, NC, USA

## Goodman Gallery

2014 *Drawn Truly*, Corridor Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2014 *Telling Truths, Speaking Secrets*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio  
(e)merge, Nomad Gallery, Belgium, Washington D.C.  
2013 *Select Fair – Art Basel*, Rush Arts Gallery [New York], Miami, FL, USA  
2013 *Six Draughtsmen*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2013 *no one belongs here more than you*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria  
2013 *Crossing The Line; Contemporary Drawing*, Mixed Greens Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
2013 Department of Fine and Applied Arts Faculty Exhibition, UNN, Nigeria  
2012 *Neither Here, Nor There*, Brooklyn Public Library Flatbush, Brooklyn, USA  
2012 *Waiting for the Queen*, Dyker Gallery, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY  
2011 *Part II*, Causey Contemporary Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2011 *The Salon*, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA  
2010 *Paint&Print; a Portfolio Project*, Amsterdams Grafisch Atelier, The Netherlands  
2010 *Exchange VI: Contemporary Prints*, West Gallery, Purdue University, IN, USA  
2010 *Multiplicities of Syntax*, Cora Stafford Gallery, University of North Texas, USA  
2010 *Transforming Technology*, SGC Philagrafika Print Conference, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
2009 *One Night Stand*, Main Line Art Center, Haverford, PA, USA  
2008 *From Taboo to Icon*, Ice Box Gallery; Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
2008 *Works on Paper*, Philadelphia Sketch Club, Philadelphia, USA  
2007 *Works on Paper*, Muse Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA  
2007 *Works on Paper*, South Shore Art Center, Cohasset, MA, USA  
2006 *M.F.A. Graduate Thesis Exhibition*, Cranbrook Art Museum, MI, USA  
2006 *All About Me*, Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA  
2006 *All the Things I Never Said*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI  
2005 *Self Location, Third Generation*, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Academy, USA  
2004 Cranbrook /Wayne State Graduate Exchange, Community Arts Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA

## Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2015 Present Assistant Professor of Drawing, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, USA  
2012-2013 Fulbright Lecturer for Drawing, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria  
2011-2014 Adjunct Faculty, Essex County College Art Department, Newark, USA  
2011-2013 Drawing Instructor, Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY  
2009 Visiting Lecturer of Photography, Ursinus College, Collegeville, USA  
2008-2010 Teaching Artist, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, USA  
2008-2009 Teaching Artist, Berman Art Museum, Ursinus College, Collegeville, USA  
2008-2008 Instructor, Art in Continuing Education, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, USA  
2007-2009 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Art and Art History, Drexel University Philadelphia, USA  
2007-2008 Drawing Instructor, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA

## Professional Appointments and Consultation

2011-2013 Founder and Program Coordinator, MAP, Long Island University, Brooklyn, USA  
2009-2013 Director of Education, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, Brooklyn, USA  
2006-2008 Studio and Teaching Assistant, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA  
2005-2006 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Blooming Hills, USA  
2004-2006 Museum Gallery Assistant, Cranbrook Museum of Art, Blooming Hills, USA  
2004-2005 Assistant to the Education Curator, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Blooming Hills, USA  
2004-2005 Forum Gallery Director, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Blooming Hills, USA

## Conference and Workshop Participation

2018 *Multiple Black Realities: Akwaeke Emezi + Arthur Jafa + ruby onyinyechi amanze on Freshwater*, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, New York, USA  
2017 Visiting Artist Lecture, Brown University, Providence, Providence, USA  
2016 Faculty Lecture, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
2016 *Drawing: A conversation with Amanda Hunt*, The Drawing Center, New York, USA  
2016 *The Politics and Privilege of Play: A conversation with Dexter Wimberly*, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair,

## Goodman Gallery

New York, USA

2016 *Spatial Politics: A conversation with Torkwase Dyson and Kimberli Gant*, Studio Museum of Harlem, Brooklyn, USA

2015 *The Commoditization of Art*, Columbia University, New York, USA

2015 *Africa Salon*, Contemporary African Arts & Culture Festival, Yale University, New Haven, USA

2014 Artist Lecture, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2013 *Process and Practice*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, USA

2013 Artist's Professional Development Workshop, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, Nigeria

2013 *Contemporary Directions in Drawing*, Centre for Contemporary Art and Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

2012 Fine Arts Faculty Lecture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

2011 *Making Art Relevant*, New York Alliance of Black School Educators, New York, USA

2010 *Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora*, Development and the Education of Students of African Descent, Adelaide L. Sanford Institute for Research, Brooklyn, USA

## Awards and Merits

2018 Artist Commission Program, Montblanc Cultural Foundation, Hamburg, Germany

2016 Shortlisted for Prix Canson Drawing Prize, The Drawing Centre, New York, USA

2012 – 2013 Faculty Fulbright Scholar, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

## Academic Record and Residencies

### Education

2004-2006 Master of Arts (Fine Arts), Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, USA

2000-2004 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art), Summa Cum Laude, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA

### Awards and Residencies

2017 Artist-in-Residence, Spring Workshop, Hong-Kong, China

2016-2017 Open Sessions, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

2015-2017 Artist-in-Residence, Queens Museum, Flushing, USA

2015 Fountainhead Residency, Miami, USA

2014 Workspace Artist-in-Residence, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, USA

2014 Artist-in-Residence, Bric Visual Arts Residency, Brooklyn, USA

2012 Artist-in-Residence, Gallery Aferro, Newark, USA

2011 Artist-in-Residence, Cooper Union, New York, USA

2011 Artist-in-Residence, Better Arts Residency, Redwood, New York, USA

## Collections

CSS Bard College Hessel Museum, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, US

National Museum of African Art Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, US

Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt, USA

The Jewish Museum, New York, USA

The Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, USA

The Studio Museum of Harlem, Brooklyn, USA

## Selected Articles and Reviews

2019 Lux Magazine

2019 Frieze Magazine

2019 Nataal

2019 BOMB Magazine

2017 Artist Interview Feature; Mask Magazine

2017 Transition Magazine

2017 Moon Man Magazine

2017 Artist Text for The Anatomy of an Image, Backroom Caracas

2016 Emerging Artist mention: Financial Times, South Africa

2016 Featured artist interview: Art South Africa

## Goodman Gallery

2014 BRIC Biennial Volume I, exhibition catalogue

2013 Short story: I charge you to leave this body, Manifesta Journal 17: Etude

2013 Article: The Forgotten Art of Drawing, Africa.com

2013 Article: 'The Underdog; an Ode to Drawing', HYCIDE journal

2013 Featured artist interview: African Style Daily

2009 Featured artist interview: 'Visions Fine Art: Spring Edition'

2008 Featured artist interview: Art Journal, University of the Arts, Philadelphia

## Performances

2021 *Tell me a way you pretend to be strong* performed with Emilee Lord & Mor Mendel, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy