

# Magdalene Odundo

(°1950, Nairobi, Kenya) Lives and works in Farnham, England, UK

## Biography

## Selected One-Person Exhibitions

2026

- *Grammar of Forms*, Musée Rodin, Paris, France

2025

- Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium

2024

- Houghton Hall, Norfolk, UK

2023

- *A Dialogue with Objects*, The Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada

2021

- *Magdalene Odundo in Cambridge*, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK

2019

- *Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things*, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK; Hepworth Wakefield Museum, Wakefield, UK

2017

- *Universal and Sublime: The Vessels of Magdalene Odundo*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, USA

2016

- *Transition II 2014*, James Hockey Gallery, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, UK

2014

- *Tri-Part-It-Us: An Exhibition in Three Parts.*, The National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, Sunderland, UK

2013

- *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramics*, Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium

2010

- *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramic Forms*, Longhouse Reserve, East Hampton, NY, USA

2009

- *Magdalene Odundo: New Work*, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool, UK

2008

- *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramics, Drawings and Mural Installation*, Jeffe-Friede Gallery, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

2007-2008

- *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH, USA

2006

- *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA

2005

- *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramic Vessels*, British Council, Nairobi, Kenya

2004

- *Magdalene Odundo: Time and Again*, Crafts Study Centre, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, UK

2002

- Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art Ltd, London, UK

# Magdalene Odundo

- *Pioneers to the Present*, Foyer Gallery, Surrey Institute of Art and Design, UK
  - *Acknowledged Sources*, Magdalene Odundo, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth, UK
- 2001
- *Magdalene Odundo: Clay Forms - A retrospective*, Blackwell House, Bowness, Cumbria, UK
- 1998
- *Magdalene Odundo: Clay Forms - A retrospective*, Blackwell House, Bowness, Cumbria, UK
  - *Magdalene Odundo*, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, USA
- 1997
- *New Work*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art Ltd, London, UK
  - *Magdalene Odundo: Current Work*, Pro-Art, St Louis, MO, USA
- 1995
- *Ceramic Gestures: New Vessels by Magdalene Odundo*, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, CA, USA; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, USA; The Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA; The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ, USA; The National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Inst., Washington, DC., USA; Indiana University Museum of Art, Bloomington, IN, USA; St Louis Museum of Art, St Louis, MO, USA
  - *Africa 95 - Magdalene Odundo*, Museum of Mankind (British Museum), London, UK
- 1994
- *Magdalene Odundo: African Beauty - A Retrospective*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Art Box, Waregem, Belgium
- 1993
- Sloss Institute for Metal Arts, at The Historical Landmark Museum, Birmingham, AL, USA
  - The Sloss Furnaces, National Historic Landmark, A Museum of the City of Birmingham, AL, USA
  - *New Ceramics*, Oxford Gallery, Oxford, UK
- 1992
- *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramics*, Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany; Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 1991
- *Magdalene Odundo*, Anthony Ralph Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1989
- Kunstformen, Jetzt, Salzburg, Austria
- 1988
- Beaux Arts, Bath, UK
- 1987
- *Magdalene Odundo*, Anne Berthoud Gallery, London, UK
  - *New Works - Magdalene Odundo*, The Glynn Vivian Museum & Art Gallery, Swansea, Wales; Carmarthen Museum, Dyfed, Wales; Ruthin Craft Centre, Clwyd, Wales; Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Wales; Dyfed Mostyn Art Gallery, Llandudno, Wales, UK
- 1986
- Crafts Council, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1983
- Crafts Council, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK
  - The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, UK

# Magdalene Odundo

## 1982-1984

- Rosenthal Studio-Haus, Hamburg, Germany
- Rosenthal Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
- Rosenthal Londo, London, UK

## 1979-1982

- Commonwealth Institute, London, UK

## 1977

- Africa Centre, London, UK

## Selected Group Exhibitions

### 2025

- *Body Vessel Clay: Black Women, Ceramics & Contemporary Art*, Ford Foundation, New York, NY, USA
- *Making Their Mark*, organised by Shah Garg Foundation, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St Louis, MO, USA

### 2024

- *Making Their Mark*, organised by Shah Garg Foundation, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, CA, USA

### 2023

- *Making Their Mark*, organised by Shah Garg Foundation, 548 West 22nd Street, New York, NY, USA

### 2022

- *Body Vessel Clay: Black Women, Ceramics & Contemporary Art*, Two Temple Place, London, UK

### 2021

- *Presence and Absence*, Craft Study Centre, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, UK
- *Embodying Anew*, Maximillion William Gallery, London, UK
- *British Studio Ceramics*, Messums Wiltshire, UK
- *Pioneering Women*, Oxford Ceramics Gallery, Oxford, UK

### 2020

- *Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA
- *African Arts—Global Conversations*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

### 2019-2020

- *A Different Perspective: African Ceramics from the collection of HRH Franz, Duke of Bavaria*, The Design Museum, Munich, Germany

### 2018

- *Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery*, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK

### 2017

- *Disobedient Bodies*, J W Anderson Curates at The Hepworth Wakefield Museum, Wakefield, UK
- *Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery*, Yale Center for British Art, Yale, CT, USA

### 2016

- *North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20*, Dovecot Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- *Pots and Identities: The Language of Clay*, Nairobi National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya
- *Material Sympthesis*, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham (UCA), UK

# Magdalene Odundo

2015

- *Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft and Design, Midcentury and today*,  
Museum and Arts and Design, New York, USA

2012

- *Kith & Kin: New Glass & Ceramics*, National Glass Center, Sunderland, UK
- *Tweak: Converts to Glass*, 'Metamorphosis and Transformation',  
Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, USA (NCECA Seattle)

2011

- *Hand-Made: Contemporary Craft in Ceramics, Glass and Wood*,  
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA
- *Hand Held: Personal Arts from Africa*, Baltimore Museum of Art, USA

2010

- *The Global Africa Project*, Museum of Art and Design, NY, USA;  
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA; Reginald F. Lewis Museum,  
Baltimore, MD, USA; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- *Circuits céramiques presse communiqué*, Helen Aziza, (IAC) Paris, France
- *Basins, Baskets and Bowls: Women Explore the Vessel*, Minneapolis  
Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA

2009

- *Unbounded: New Art for a New Century*, Newark Museum, Newark, NJ, USA

2008

- *Black Womanhood: Images, Icons and Ideologies of the African Body*, Hood Museum  
of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA; Davis Museum, Wellesley College,  
Wellesley, MA, USA; San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA, USA

2003-2004

- *Material Differences: Artists and Identity in Africa*, Museum of African Art, New York,  
NY, USA; Soeffker Gallery, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN, USA; Crocker Art  
Museum, Sacramento, CA, USA; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

2003

- *British Ceramics - Five Artists*, Frank Lloyd Wright Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2002

- *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle,  
WA, USA; Philadelphia Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA, USA; Wadsworth  
Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT, USA; Cincinnati Art Museum,  
Cincinnati, OH, USA; Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville TN, USA

2000

- *British Ceramics 2000*, Keramikmuseet Grimmerhus, Middelfart, Denmark
- *Color and Fire: Defining moments in Studio Ceramics, (1950-2000)*, Los Angeles County  
Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA; Kemper Museum of contemporary Art,  
Kansas City, MO, USA; The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block, Tucson,  
AZ, USA; Memorial Art Gallery of University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA
- *Contemporary African Art - Five Artists*, Diverse Trends,  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA
- *The Jugs Show Candover Gallery*, Arlesford, Hants, UK
- *The Millennium Mugs Besson Gallery*, London, UK

1999

- *A Dialogue in Clay*, Artizana, Prestbury, UK
- *Art IN Clay*, 'Contemporary Ceramics', The MET, New York, NY, USA

# Magdalene Odundo

1997

- *Old Africa - New Africa - Africa Observed* Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, Topeka, KS, USA

1996

- *New for the Nineties - The Crafts Council Collection* Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead, UK
- *Design of the Times - One Hundred Years of the Royal College of Art Royal College of Art*, London, UK
- 'het drink glas', Leerdam Glass Symposium, Leerdam, The Netherlands

1995

- Crafts Council, London
- *Africa 95 - African Metalwork*, curated by Magdalene Odundo, Crafts Council, London, UK; Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham, UK
- *Contained and Uncontained: Four Clay Artists*, African American Museum, Dallas, TX, USA

1994

- *101 Jugs*, Candover Gallery, Alresford, UK

1993

- *Ceramics of Europe '93*, Westwald Museum of Ceramics, Hohr-Grenzhausen, Germany

1992

- *Columbus Drowning*, Rochdale Art Gallery, Rochdale, UK
- *Faculty Invites*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, USA

1991-1994

- *Africa Explores - 20<sup>th</sup> Century African Arts*, USA tour: Museum for African Art, New York NY; New Museum, New York, NY; St Louis Art Museum, St Louis, MO; Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA; Miami Museum for Fine Arts, Miami, FL; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Centre for Fine Arts, Miami, FL; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA. Europe tour: Museum Ludwig, Aachen, Germany; Tapias Foundation, Barcelona, Spain; Contemporary Arts Museum, Lyon, France; Tate Gallery, Liverpool, UK

1991

- *Colours of the Earth-Twentieth Century British Ceramics*, British Council, London, UK; India and Malaysia.

1990

- *Kunst und Antiquitätenmesse*, Galerie L, Hamburg, Germany

1989

- Candover Gallery, Alresford, UK

1986

- Courcoux & Courcoux, Salisbury, UK

1985

- Bluecoat Art Centre, Liverpool, UK
- International Women's Decade, Africa Heritage, Nairobi, Kenya
- Modern British Ceramics, Queensberry Hunt Exhibition, Miro & Spizman Fine Art, London, UK

1984

- *Individual Eye*, Craftsmen Potters Association, London, UK
- Anne Berthoud Gallery, London, UK
- Katherine House Gallery, Marlborough, Wiltshire, UK
- Aldburgh Festival, Snape Maltings, Suffolk, UK

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- New Members, Craftsman Potters Shop, London UK
- 1983
- *Modern British Ceramics*, Queensberry Hunt, London, UK
- *Craftsmen Potters Association 25th Anniversary*, V&A Museum, London, UK
- *Fire and Smoke*, Midland Group Gallery, Nottingham, UK
- 1979
- *Four Artists*, Commonwealth Institute, London, UK
- 1978
- *Commonwealth Arts Festival*, Calgary & Edmonton, Canada
- 1977
- Africa Centre, Covent Garden, London UK

## Honours and Awards

- Appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for Services to the Arts and Arts Education, 2020
- Lifetime Achievement Award, International Ceramics Festival, Aberystwyth, 2019
- Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA, 2016
- Honorary doctorate from the University of the Arts, London, 2016
- Professor Emerita, University For the Creative Arts, 2014
- Visual Artist of the Year, The Journal Culture Awards, Sunderland, 2014
- Honorary doctorate from the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA, 2014
- 40 Years Anniversary Award, African Heritage, Nairobi, Kenya, 2012
- Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Honour's List for services to the arts, 2008
- The African Art Recognition Award by Detroit Art Institute's Friends of African and African-American Art, 2008

## Public Collections

- Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, UK
- Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, AR, USA
- The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK
- Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL, USA
- British Museum, London, UK
- Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, USA
- Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury, Buckingham, UK
- Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, USA
- Commonwealth Institute, London, UK
- Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, NY, USA
- Crafts Council, London, UK
- de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA
- Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, USA
- Die Neue Sammlung—The Design Museum, Munich, Germany
- Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA
- The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK

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- Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada
- Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA
- The Hepworth Wakefield Museum, Wakefield, UK
- High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, USA
- Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH, USA
- Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA
- Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
- The Middlesbrough Collection, mima, Middlesbrough, UK
- Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA
- Mulvane Art Museum, Topeka, KS, USA
- Murumbi African Heritage Collection, Nairobi Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya
- Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
- Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA
- National Museum Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales, UK
- National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya
- Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO, USA
- The Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ, USA
- Nottingham City Museums & Galleries, Nottingham, UK
- Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ, USA
- Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI, USA
- Rosenthal Collection, Germany
- Saint Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, MI, USA
- Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA
- Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, USA
- Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Tate, London, UK
- Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK