

JOSEPH GERGEL

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EDUCATION

M.A. IN MODERN ART: CRITICAL AND CURATORIAL STUDIES **2010-2012**
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

Thesis: *Not A Picture Of, But An Object About Something: Robert Heinecken's Photo-Materiality*

B.A., PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF IMAGES **2005-2009**
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY
Honors: *Summa cum laude, Dean's List (2005-2009)*

CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY **2009**
SPEOS PHOTOGRAPHY INSTITUTE
PARIS, FRANCE
Award: *First Place, International Photography Award, Architectural Interior, 2011*

PROGRAM IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART (NYU STUDY ABROAD) **FALL 2008**
EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY
SHANGHAI, CHINA

CERTIFICATE IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CIVILIZATION **2004-2005**
SORBONNE
PARIS, FRANCE

WORK EXPERIENCE

CURATOR, AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION **JUNE 2012 - PRESENT**
LAGOS, NIGERIA
African Artists' Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of contemporary African art. As curator at African Artists' Foundation, I develop the annual gallery exhibition program, workshops, public programming initiatives, organize international exhibitions of Nigerian artists, and source funding and grants.

CO-CURATOR, LAGOSPHOTO **2012-2013**
LAGOS, NIGERIA
LagosPhoto is the first and only international arts festival of photography in Nigeria. During the annual month long festival in Lagos, events include exhibitions, master classes, artist presentations, screenings, and portfolio reviews by leading local and international photographers.

MANAGING EDITOR, ART BASE AFRICA **2012-PRESENT**
LAGOS, NIGERIA
Art Base Africa is an online database and quarterly journal for contemporary African art, launched in 2013 with major support from the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development. As Managing Editor, I conceived the project, successfully applied for grants, gathered content and contributions for issues, and wrote critical analysis of practicing African artists.

GRANT COORDINATOR, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CONTEMPORARY ART (YECA) **2013**
LAGOS, NIGERIA
YECA is a mentorship program targeting the youth population in communities in Lagos through art courses, mentorship, and exhibition opportunities. The aim of YECA is to provide vocational training, the acquisition of livelihood skills, and a solid extracurricular outlet for youths in secondary schools and to position art as a viable career path. As Grant Coordinator, I worked with a team to conceive the project and successfully obtained for funding through the Ford Foundation.

CO-COORDINATOR, NATIONAL ART COMPETITION (NAC)**2012-2013****LAGOS, NIGERIA**

The National Art Competition is an annual platform to advance the next generation of contemporary artists in Nigeria, promoting the conceptual development of contemporary art and the processes of artistic creation across mediums. As Co-Coordinator, I conceptualized annual themes, coordinated the artist selection committee for submissions led by Professor El Anatsui, organized the week-long artist retreat, and curatorial and event management for the final exhibition and judging ceremony.

CURATORIAL INTERN, DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY, MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**FALL 2011****NEW YORK, NY**

During my internship at MOMA's Department of Photography under curator Eva Respini, I assisted on the implementation of the Cindy Sherman retrospective and research for new acquisitions and future exhibitions, including Robert Heinecken's *Object Matter*.

CURATORIAL FELLOW, NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**2007-2009****NEW YORK, NY**

Through my Curatorial Fellowship at the New Museum of Contemporary Art under curator Richard Flood, I assisted on exhibitions including *Un-monumental: The Object in the 21st Century*, *Double Album: Daniel Guzman and Steven Shearer*, *Live Forever: Elizabeth Peyton*, and *Intersections Intersected: David Goldblatt*.

CURATORIAL INTERN, ZENDAI MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**FALL 2008****SHANGHAI, CHINA**

During my study abroad in Shanghai, China, I assisted the Zendai Museum of Modern Art with their *Intrude 366: Art and Life* project, which brought daily art performances to the streets of Shanghai for one year.

CURATORIAL INTERN, E-ARTS FESTIVAL**FALL 2008****SHANGHAI, CHINA**

As a Curatorial Intern for the E-Arts Festival in Shanghai under curator Dephne Ayas, I assisted primarily in orchestrating Christian Marclay's performance of *Screen Play*.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**CO-CURATOR, "EMERGENT NETIZENS: IKE FRANCIS"****JUNE 2014****AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Emergent Netizens, the first solo exhibition of Nigerian artist Ike Francis in over a decade, includes canvases, installations, and mixed media works that consider the effects of technology and global connectivity in Nigeria today through used electronic parts, circuit boards, and maps.

CO-CURATOR, "THE MEGACITY AND THE NON-CITY"**NOVEMBER 2013****OCEAN VIEW, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

The Megacity and the Non-City, during LagosPhoto 2013, explored how the development of urban centers in Africa and the technical advance of photography have transformed our sense of place in a globally connected world. The exhibition included over 50 photographers spanning 15 countries.

CURATOR, "PHANTASMS OF THE NON-CITY"**SEPTEMBER 2013****FNB JOBURG ART FAIR, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

Phantasms of the Non-City included the work of five African photographers --- Uche Okpa-Iroha (Nigeria), Mouhamadou Sow (Senegal), Cyrus Kabiru (Kenya), Adeola Olagunju (Nigeria), and Karl Ohiri (Nigeria) --- who adopt conceptual and performative strategies that expand the boundaries of documentary photography.

CURATOR, "MEDIATIONS: RECENT WORKS ON PAPER BY UCHE UZORKA AND OBINNA MAKATA"**MAY 2013****GALERIE 23, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS**

Mediations presented recent works on paper by two Nigerian artists, Uche Uzorka and Obinna Makata, who explore the chaos and complexities of the city of Lagos through mapping and appropriating local materials.

CURATOR, "DESIGNING AFRICA: APPROPRIATING CULTURE, MEDIUMS, AND MEANINGS"**MARCH 2013****AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Designing Africa presented a survey of the emerging tendencies in contemporary design in Nigeria, examining the work of a diverse group of artists in the country who explore the multifarious avenues of the design field, including product design, furniture design, graphic design, typography, and constructed surfaces.

CURATOR, "LINE.SIGN.SYMBOL"**JANUARY 2013 AFRI-****CAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Line.Sign.Symbol, Nigerian artist Uche Uzorka's second solo exhibition, included his recent ink and charcoal drawings that incorporate abstract and overlapping patterns, bodies, and signs in a reflection of contemporary living in Nigeria today.

CURATOR, "NIGERIA NOW: EMERGING TRENDS OF CONTEMPORARY ART IN NIGERIA"**DECEMBER 2012****ART AFRICA MIAMI, MIAMI, FLORIDA**

Nigeria Now included the work of eleven Nigerian artists who work in a variety of mediums and conceptual practices and who explore the social and political concerns of the country in a global environment. This exhibition marked the first time that the artists were presented to an American audience.

CO-CURATOR, "SEVEN DAYS IN THE LIFE OF LAGOS"**NOVEMBER 2012****EKO HOTEL & SUITES, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Seven Days in the Life of Lagos, presented at LagosPhoto 2012, featured twenty-nine local and international photographers who captured the energy of the city of Lagos through its subcultures and hidden narratives.

CURATOR, "NIGERIAN NOSTALGIA PROJECT"**OCTOBER 2012****A WHITE SPACE, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

In the first installation of the Nigerian Nostalgia Project, this exhibition included photographs, video, and ephemera collected by the online Facebook group of the same name, which archives the history of Nigeria in the years 1960-1980 through user-driven contributions.

CURATOR, "UCHE UZORKA: THE ORGANIC"**OCTOBER 2012****GOETHE INSTITUT, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Nigerian artist Uche Uzorka's first solo exhibition examined his artistic practice that includes painting, collage, and appropriated materials, as he explores the contradictions of urban street culture in Nigeria today.

CURATOR, "METAHISTORIES: OBINNA MAKATA"**SEPTEMBER 2012****AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Metahistories, Nigerian artist Obinna Makata's first solo exhibition, presented his collages using discarded African fabrics that explore the history of textiles as a metaphor for cultural identity and evolving social paradigms.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES**"MAPPING CITIES, DECONSTRUCTING CULTURES: CONTEMPORARY NIGERIAN ART IN A GLOBAL LENS" JUNE 2014****OMENKA JOURNAL**

For Omenka Journal's Nigerian Centenary issue, I explore contemporary artists working in Nigeria today in varied practices including performance, photography, installation, and new media art.

"THE MEGACITY AND THE NON-CITY: PERFORMING PLACE"**FEBRUARY 2014****ART BASE AFRICA (WWW.ARTBASEAFRICA.ORG)**

This article, published in the first issue of the online platform Art Base Africa, critically analyzed artists exhibited in LagosPhoto 2013 and their consistent thematic thread of using performance and the body as the site of cultural critique in Africa today.

"THE REDUNDANCY OF APPROPRIATION: STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY AND ITS CONCEPTUAL LIMIT"**FEBRUARY 2013****DIS MAGAZINE**

This article explored contemporary artists who adopt strategies akin to stock photography to comment on the paradox between fine art and vernacular photography.

"WHEN LINES BECOME FORM"**JANUARY 2013****CATALOGUE ESSAY, "LINE.SIGN.SYMBOL" EXHIBITION**

This essay explored the work of Nigerian artist Uche Uzorka, focusing on his recent works on paper that explore mapping and chaos in Lagos.

"CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE: HANS WILSCHUT"**DECEMBER 2012****ART SOUTH AFRICA**

This article examined the work of Dutch photographer Hans Wilschut, who documents the development of megacities around the world and the contradictions left in its midst.

"METAHISTORIES"**SEPTEMBER 2012****CATALOGUE ESSAY, "METAHISTORIES" EXHIBITION**

This essay examined the work of Nigerian artist Obinna Makata, looking at his practice of appropriating used fabrics as a metaphor for cultural identity in Nigeria today.

"IMAGES OF DESOLATION"**JULY 2012****THISDAY NEWSPAPER, NIGERIA**

This article analyzed a project that brought a group of young photographers to the Makoko community in Lagos to document the ongoing destruction of their village by the local government, widely regarded as Lagos' most notorious slum.

"FROM HERE ON: NEO-APPROPRIATION STRATEGIES IN CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY"

JANUARY 2012

INTERVENTIONS JOURNAL, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ART HISTORY JOURNAL

For the "Framing the Internet" Issue, this article explored the exhibition *From Here On*, which surveyed artists commenting on photography in the digital age, exhibited at the Rencontres d'Arles Festival.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

MODERATOR, "NEW MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS"

FEBRUARY 2014

SOCIAL MEDIA WEEK LAGOS, BRITISH COUNCIL, LAGOS, NIGERIA

This panel discussion focused on the evolving status of arts journalism in the digital age, with particular attention to how embracing online platforms can benefit the arts community in Nigeria.

MODERATOR, "IN CONVERSATION: TIMOTHY PRUS AND CYRUS KABIRU"

JANUARY 2014

AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA

This public forum included Timothy Prus, curator and founder of the Archive of Modern Conflict, an arts publisher based in the UK, and Cyrus Kabiru, a Kenyan artist known for his work in design and performance, to discuss their projects while in residency in Lagos.

MODERATOR, "THE MEGACITY AND THE NON-CITY"

OCTOBER 2013

OCEAN VIEW, LAGOS, NIGERIA

This panel discussion explored the theme of LagosPhoto 2013, with artists including Jerome Delay, Uche Okpa-Iroha, Joe Penney, Hans Wilschut, Cristina de Middel, Ayana V. Jackson, Lindsay Sawyer, and THANKSTHANKSAFRICA.

MODERATOR, "INTERACTIONS: THE CONVERGENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTEMPORARY ART"

FEBRUARY 2013

SOCIAL MEDIA WEEK, AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION, LAGOS, NIGERIA

This panel discussion included a group of Nigerian artists and cultural producers whose work deals with the effects of technology, the internet, the digital revolution, and social media, and the ways that it creates new paradigms for individual and collective world view.

MODERATOR, "THE MANY FACES OF SAMUEL FOSSO"

OCTOBER 2013

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

This public event, including a film documentary screening and artist talk, featured legendary artist Samuel Fosso as he unveiled the World Premier of his newest photographic series, *The Emperor of Africa*, during LagosPhoto 2013.

MODERATOR, "CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES IN LAGOS"

OCTOBER 2013

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

This panel discussion brought together organizations in Lagos that are championing contemporary art and transforming the cultural landscape in Nigeria today.

CO-ORGANIZER, "WORKS IN PROGRESS: ARTISTS AND ART HISTORIANS PRESENT"

2011-2012

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK

Works in Progress is an ongoing series of events that brings together graduate students and faculty in Columbia University's Visual Arts Program and the Department of Art History to discuss critical and studio art practice.

PROFILES AND INTERVIEWS

"LAGOSPHOTO FESTIVAL: PUTTING MEGACITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT" (INTERVIEW)

NOVEMBER 2013

CNN.COM

Article by Teo Kermeliotis on the theme of LagosPhoto 2013.

"I'M HERE TO EXPOSE NIGERIAN ARTISTS" (INTERVIEW)

JUNE 2013

VANGUARD NEWSPAPER, NIGERIA

Interview with Morenike Taire about my work in Lagos, published June 20, 2013.

"AFRICAN ARTISTS' FOUNDATION: PROMOTING ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY" (PROFILE)

JUNE 2013

VANGUARD ALLURE MAGAZINE, NIGERIA

Profile with Remmy Diagbare about my work in Lagos, published June 30, 2013.

"WHAT LAGOSPHOTO FESTIVAL IS DOING FOR PHOTOGRAPHY IN NIGERIA" (INTERVIEW)

FEBRUARY 2013

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Interview with Olivier Laurent about LagosPhoto, published February 8, 2013.