El Anatsui

Visiting Artist Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists

Residencies in Printmaking

Brandywine Workshop and Archives

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Annual Application Deadline: April 1
El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists

Long acclaimed as one of the world’s leading contemporary artists, El Anatsui (b. 1944) was born in Ghana and has lived and worked for most of his adult life in Nigeria. In 2019, he retired from a 44-year tenure with the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. After receiving the Brandywine Workshop and Archives’ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017, Anatsui made a commitment to donate art to be sold by BWA to support a new, ongoing program providing residencies in printmaking for artists living and conducting their studio practice in Africa. This unprecedented and impactful initiative—named the El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists—honors and solidifies Anatsui’s legacy as a mentor, supporter, and advocate for underresourced artists while further realizing his commitment to sharing his success with the next generation.

In summer 2021, Wade in the Water—a major new sculpture by Anatsui—was fabricated remotely at BWA during the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon its completion, in spring 2022, Anatsui donated Wade in the Water to BWA to be sold at Sotheby’s in London. It sold for $1.26 million, with all revenues designated to help establish the El Anatsui Endowment Fund at BWA, which will underwrite travel and living expenses, provide an honorarium, and deliver all the creative and technical resources and opportunities of a month-long residency for two artists each year.

The annual, month-long El Anatsui Fellowships will be inaugurated in October 2023. Awardees will be selected each spring by a panel composed of artists and curators based in Africa and the United States. The annual deadline for applications is April 1.

Anatsui will continue his collaborative, creative relationship with BWA, producing innovative prints that can be sold to increase the endowment and the number of fellowship opportunities it supports annually going forward. For more information about the El Anatsui Fellowships, contact BWA at 267.831.2928 or email us at prints@brandywineworkshop.com.
The El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists will further the artistic, professional, and personal development of artists living and working in Africa who exhibit talent and are committed to a career as a visual artist. BWA and Anatsui are particularly focused on serving the needs of artists who are disadvantaged by socioeconomic factors and/or have limited access to the art market, gallery representation, and institutional support due to location. During the artists’ concurrent residencies, they will visit artist studios and art museums in Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington, DC.
El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists

What are the El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists?
The El Anatsui Fellowships are a newly established, annual opportunity for two artists living and conducting their studio practices in Africa to travel to the United States for a four-week residency in printmaking at the Brandywine Workshop and Archives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the month of October.

What do the Fellowships include?
Each artist will receive a grant totaling $25,000 (US) per artist to cover all travel and lodging expenses, daily food allowance, and all expenses associated with securing a work-permit. Upon completion of their residency, each artist will be awarded a $5,000 stipend to continue their artistic practice in Africa.

Each El Anatsui Fellow will be expected to produce a minimum of two editioned prints, which will be split 50/50 between the artist and BWA (artists will receive the odd-numbered prints). A few prints will be added for posterity to BWA’s Permanent Collection; all other prints retained by Brandywine will be made available for sale and distribution to art museums and other collecting institutions across the United States and abroad. Per their own preferences, artists may sell, otherwise distribute, or maintain their portions of the editions.

Artists will work with one or more of BWA’s master printers to produce their artwork. They will be offered travel opportunities to visit art museums and artists’ studios in Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington, DC, during their residencies.

Listen to El Anatsui talk about what inspired him to establish the Fellowship: https://youtu.be/szes0gIaufI
Application

Application deadline
The annual deadline to apply is April 1.

Application materials
Artists interested in applying should submit the following materials by email to prints@brandywineworkshop.com:

- Enter “El Anatsui Fellowship” in the email’s Subject line.
- Supply your full name, address, city, country, and country code as they will appear on your passport and visa.
- Tell us your age, where and/or with whom you may have studied or if you are self-taught.
- Should you have any physical or health disabilities, please share so we may properly plan for and accommodate your needs.
- Let us know the language(s) you speak.
- Tell us something about your focuses and interests in the visual arts and how a residency in printmaking at Brandywine will help to advance your practice and career. This information can be submitted as an attachment.
- Attach 8–10 digital files of images of your most recent artwork (jpg file or photo that is 300 dpi or higher). Include the medium, date, your name, and the title (if not titled, please write “untitled”). This information may be presented as a caption under the artwork or included in an attached checklist.

Upon receipt of your application, you will receive an acknowledgment by return email.

Notification of decisions
A Selection Panel including representatives from the US and Africa will review all applicants and render its decisions by the end of April. In coordination with BWA staff, Fellowship recipients will then immediately begin the visa process and schedule travel to the US.
Selection Committee

El Anatsui

Born in Anyako, Ghana, sculptor El Anatsui received a BA from the College of Art at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, where he taught from 1969 to 2011 as a professor of sculpture.

Anatsui’s work has been featured in exhibitions around the world including the Carnegie International in 2018; the Marrakech Biennale in 2016; Contemporary 2 at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan, in 2015; and the 56th Venice Biennale in both 1990 and 2007, which awarded Anatsui the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in 2015. In 2017, he was awarded Japan’s Praemium Imperiale, the first Ghanaian to win this international art prize.

Anatsui is well-known for his large-scale sculptures composed of thousands of folded and crumpled metal objects sourced from local alcohol recycling stations and bound together with copper wire. These intricate works, which can grow to be massive in scale, are both luminous and weighty, meticulously fabricated yet malleable.

Melvin Edwards

Sculptor and artist Melvin Edwards is a pioneer in the history of contemporary African American art. He earned his BFA from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Edwards taught at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, from 1972 to his retirement in 2002.

Edwards has exhibited at the Montclair Art Museum, NJ; Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN; National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN; The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City. He has received numerous awards and recognitions from organizations including the Studio Museum in Harlem, Fujisankei Biennale, National Endowment for the Arts, and a Fulbright Fellowship to Zimbabwe.
Julie McGee, PhD
Dr. McGee has been on the University of Delaware, Newark faculty since 2008 as an associate professor in the Department of Africana Studies and Art History. Dr. McGee earned her BA at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, and her MA and PhD in the history of art at Bryn Mawr College, PA. Her research areas are in African American art with a focus on modern and contemporary, African American and South African contemporary art and cultural heritage, and contemporary art of Africa and its diaspora, among others.

Chika Okeke-Agulu, PhD
An artist, critic, and art historian, Okeke-Agulu specializes in indigenous, modern, and contemporary African and African Diaspora art history and theory. Born in Umuahia, Nigeria, Okeke-Agulu earned an MFA in painting from the University of Nigeria, and a PhD in art history from Emory University. He previously taught at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He currently serves at Princeton University, NJ, as director of the program in African studies and director of the African World Initiative.

Professor Okeke-Agulu is also Slade Professor of Fine Art at the University of Oxford (2023) and was elected Fellow of The British Academy in 2022.

Nomusa Makhubu, PhD
South African born Nomusa Makhubu earned her BFA, MA, PhD, and PGDHE at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, and is an art historian and artist based at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Makhubu’s artistic practice explores the construction of identities through colonial histories and presents, using photographic self-portraiture, projection, and collage. Holding a PhD in art history and a rich publication record, Makhubu is also a leading pedagogical and curatorial presence in the African arts scene.
Brandywine Workshop and Archives

Mission
Brandywine Workshop and Archives (BWA) is a diversity-driven, nonprofit cultural institution that produces and shares art to connect, inspire, and build bridges among global communities. BWA’s creative expression is fostered through collaborations and processes that employ conventional as well as emerging technologies with a strong focus on the art of printmaking.

Background
Founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1972, Brandywine has hosted many programs in the visual arts including afterschool instruction in computer graphics and video documentation; printmaking residencies; and exhibitions for young, emerging, and well-established local, national, and international artists, who have also presented lectures, seminars, video, and film screenings. Brandywine programs help bridge the gap between formal education and professional practice while encouraging multiculturalism in arts education and broader exposure for ethnically diverse contemporary artists.

Brandywine’s signature program has been its Visiting Artist Residencies, which have hosted more than 450 local, national, and international artists, creating over 2,000 different print images. These production workshops and arts management tasks at Brandywine have offered opportunities for mentoring by master printers and visiting artists. They have engaged hundreds of high school and university students in internships, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in the arts and other professions.

Over the course of its half-century-plus history, Brandywine has built a major collection of contemporary prints, which has been used to establish Satellite Collections of BWA Visiting Artist prints in 20 heritage centers, museums, and universities across the country in cities including Austin, TX; Providence, RI; Tempe, AZ; Washington, DC; Hampton, VA; Newark, DE; Santa Fe, NM; New York City; Los Angeles, CA; Detroit, MI; Reno, NV; and Cambridge, MA.

For more information, please:

• Visit brandywineworkshopandarchives.com
• Contact us at 730 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or
• Call 267.258.3558.
• To explore our free online, database visit Artura.org.
Vuyile Voyiya working on his print *Blissful Swing I* at Brandywine, 2007

Odili D. Odita signing his print *Cut* at Brandywine, 2016
Magdalene Odundo (Kenya), *Otumwa*, offset lithograph, 1992, 30" x 22"

Dumile Feni (South Africa), *Dedication for Ruth and Lilian*, offset lithograph, 1991, 30" x 22"

Vuyile Voyiya (South Africa), *Divergent Movement I*, linoleum print, 2007, 30" x 44"

Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum (Botswana), *Me As Me*, offset lithograph, 2011, 74" x 55"
Artist Muhsana Ali (left) and her husband, artist Amadou Kan-si (second from right) with supporters at the fundraiser at BWA in 2019 for Portes et Passages du Retour, an artist’s association founded by the couple in 2005 in Senegal that initiated a Center for Art and Holistic Development situated along the Petite Côte of Senegal near the town of Joal-Fadiouth.

Gustavo Garcia, Associate Director for Digital Media & Artist Residencies at BWA and artist Yelaine Rodriguez surveying her print during her residency in 2022.
More About El Anatsui

Internationally acclaimed artist, El Anatsui, has built a reputation globally for his monumental, mixed media sculptures and installations, which transform simple and often discarded resources such as liquor bottle caps into complex assemblages that explore themes regarding the environment, consumption, and colonialism. Anatsui’s work, however, does not belong to one generic form but moves across sculpture, painting, textile, craft, and design to encompass the use of water, wind, wood, clay, stone, metals, printing plates, aluminum, bottle tops, and other found materials.

He has divided his time between Ghana where he is from and Nigeria, where he taught for many years at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, (UNN). He is now Emeritus Professor of Sculpture and resides mainly in Accra, Ghana, although he still works through his other studio in Nigeria. As an artist, who has re-defined the global art world with Africa’s presence and thus raised Africa’s profile, Professor Anatsui has influenced and inspired a generation of artists and students within the continent through scholarship, studio practice, and mentoring.

Among his various honors, he was also awarded the Royal Society of Arts Charles Wollaston Prize. Professor Anatsui is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was elected into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also an Honorary Academician of Britain’s Royal Society of Arts, as well as a Fellow of both the Pan African Survey of Artists and the Forum of African Artists. Among his honorary doctorates are those of Harvard University, the University of Cape Town, and his alma mater, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Technology.

El Anatsui has held over 90 solo exhibitions and more than 220 group exhibitions on all continents. His sculptures are in the collections of more than 70 major international museums, globally recognized art institutions, as well as corporate and individual art collections. These include New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art (MoMA); the British Museum; the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; and the Vatican Museum, Rome. He is also the subject of a number of art books, films, theses, and biographies.