



Residencies in Printmaking

El Anatsui Visiting Artist Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists

Brandywine Workshop and Archives
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA



Introducing the El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists



Pictured: El Anatsui at work signing prints for Brandywine Workshop and Archives

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 Africa-based artists each year.

From top to bottom:
Our Workshop in Philadelphia, PA
New York City, NY
Washington D.C.
Alexandre Kyungu Mwilambwe
(Democratic Republic of Congo)
and Vitjitua Ndjiharine (Namibia) in
Baltimore, MD

The annual, month-long El Anatsui Fellowships take place every October (the inaugural El Anatsui Fellowship began in 2023). Awardees will be selected each spring by a panel composed of artists and curators based in Africa and the United States. 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.

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, PA, New York City, NY, Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC.





What are the El Anatsui Fellowships for Africa-Based Artists?

The El Anatsui Fellowships are a recently 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 does the Fellowship include?

Each artist receives 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 is 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 are offered travel opportunities to visit art museums and artists' studios in Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, during their residencies.

How to Apply for the Fellowship

Application deadline: March 15, 2024.

Application materials

Artists interested in applying should submit the following 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.

Fellowship Selection Committee Members

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, 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 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.

José Ortiz-Pagán

José Ortiz-Pagán is a visual artist and cultural administrator born in Puerto Rico and living in Philadelphia. He earned an MFA from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University, Philadelphia. Ortiz-Pagán has received awards and developed projects with organizations including Second State Press, Taller Puertorriqueño, and Science History Institute (formerly the Chemical Heritage Museum), Philadelphia; and the Museum of History, Anthropology and Art at the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan. His work has been featured in exhibitions including the 2015 San Juan Poly/Graphic Triennial, Puerto Rico; and the International Biennial Print Exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan.

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-Africa 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.

About 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. At BWA, 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 over 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
- Call 267.258.3558
- To explore our online, database visit Artura.org.



Top Left to Bottom right:

Allan Edmunds (BWA Founder President Emeritus), Vitjitua Ndjiharine (Namibia), Michele A. Parchment (BWA Executive Director), Alexandre Kyungu Mwilambwe (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Gustavo Garcia (BWA Associate Director for Artist Residencies & Media Projects); Chika Okeke-Agulu MFA, PhD (Director, Africa World Initiative, Director, Program in African Studies, Princeton University), Vitjitua Ndjiharine (Namibia), El Anatsui (Internationally renowned artist) and Alexandre Kyungu Mwilambwe (Democratic Republic of Congo) meeting with one another on October 23, 2023; Allan Edmunds, El Anatsui, Michele A. Parchment and Chika Okeke-Agulu MFA, PhD; El Anatsui signing prints; Alexandre Kyungu Mwilambwe meeting with John Dowell and Allan Edmunds at the Free Library opening celebration of Dowell's work.





If you'd like to learn more about artist El Anatsui, visit his page on [Artura.org](https://www.artura.org), Brandywine's free online database of artists and printmakers

For more fellowship information:

Visit [brandywineworkshopandarchives.com](https://www.brandywineworkshopandarchives.com)

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Email prints@brandywineworkshop.com