

Thandiwe Muriu

Born in 1990, Nairobi, Kenya.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2023 *"You thought you could throw me away"*, 193 Gallery, Paris, France
- 2022 Art Monte Carlo, Monte Carlo, Monaco
Colors of Thandiwe, 193 Gallery & Maison Kitsuné Gallery, New-York, USA 1-54
Fair Solo Show, New-York, USA
- 2021 *In The Eyes of Thandiwe*, 193 Gallery, Paris, France

GROUP SHOWS

- 2023 *Femme Noir*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Photofairs Shanghai, Shanghai, China
1-54 Marrakech, Marrakech, Morocco
Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2022 *Still I Rise*, Google, Paris, France
Human Stories: The Satirists, NOW Gallery, London, UK
WOMEN- Art In Times of Chaos, de PURY, Miami, USA
Art Monte Carlo, Monte Carlo, Monaco
Unseen Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
AKAA (Also Known As Africa), Paris, France
The Colors of Dreams, 193 Gallery, Venice, Italy

Photo London, Somerset House, London, UK

Art Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

Female in Focus, The British Journal of Photography, London, UK

2021 *Imaging Blackness*, Unit London, Platform, UK

Photo Basel International Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland

Unseen Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Photo London, Somerset House, London, UK

2020 AKA (Also Known As Africa), Paris, France

Photo London, Somerset House, London, UK

Colours of Africa, 193 Gallery, Paris, France

COLLECTIONS

Pigozzi Collection, France/Switzerland

Uhoda Collection, Belgium

Allure Collection, Switzerland

Hood Museum of Art, New Hampshire, USA

Utadumu Collection, Paris, France

Joy Simmons Collection, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Thandiwe Muriu's work showcases Africa's unique mix of vibrant textiles, cultural practices, and beauty ideologies. Creating surreal illusions that are not digital manipulations but rather pure photography, she confronts issues surrounding identity as well as redefining female empowerment through her application of fabric and common household items.

She reimagines objects associated with daily life in Kenya into bold accessories donned by her subjects. Working with the *ankara* fabric, she designs custom-made garments for her subjects, merging them into their surroundings. Each proverb gives voice to the collected wisdom of generations recorded through African oral history. She completes the visual illusion by printing on special paper with a matte finish, making her work appear more like paintings than photographs.

Born and raised in Nairobi, Thandiwe discovered photography at age 14, experimenting with an old Nikon camera from her father. She is self-taught, as Kenya did not have any formal photography schools.

Thandiwe takes you on a colourful, reflective journey as she reinterprets contemporary African portraiture, presenting a bold new vision of a woman and her autonomy.