

Magdalene Odundo DBE OBE

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1950, Nairobi, Kenya

1973-1976 West Surrey College of Art & Design, Farnham, BA (Hons)
1976-1979 Teaching at the Commonwealth Institute, London
1979-1982 Royal College of Art, London, MA Ceramics

Magdalene Odundo DBE OBE is an eminent Kenyan-born British ceramicist. Her work is highly sought-after and can be found in some of the world's greatest public and private collections.

Her terracotta ceramics are hand-built (coiled with strips of clay), burnished twice and double-fired. Through this process, she is able to achieve her wonderful, signature orange and black colouring.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things*, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield and the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich
- 2017 *Universal and Sublime: The Vessels of Magdalene Odundo*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, USA
- 2016 *Transition II: A Glass Installation by Magdalene Odundo*, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham
- 2014-6 *Tri-Part-It-Us*, The National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland
- 2010 *Magdalene Odundo - Ceramic Forms*, LongHouse Reserve, East Hampton, New York, USA
- 2009 Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool
- 2008 *Magdalene Odundo - Ceramic Work and Drawings*. An exhibition at the Jeffe-Friede Gallery, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College
- 2007 *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA
- 2006 *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, USA
- 2005 *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramic Vessels*, British Council, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2004 *Magdalene Odundo: Time and Again*, Crafts Study Centre, The Surrey Institute of Art & Design, University College, Farnham
- 2002 *Acknowledged Sources - Magdalene Odundo*, Russell-Cotes Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth
- 2001 *Magdalene Odundo, Clay Forms*, Blackwell, Bowness-on-Windemere
- 1998 *New Work*, Michael Hue-Williams Gallery, London
- 1997 *Magdalene Odundo: Current Work*, Pro-Art, St. Louis, Missouri, USA
Indiana University of Art, Bloomington, Indiana, USA
The National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA
- 1996 The Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey, USA
The Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- 1995 Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Ceramic Gestures: New Vessels by Magdalene Odundo, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, USA & tour
- 1994 *Magdalene Odundo: African Beauty - A Retrospective*, Stedelijk Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, s'-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands & tour
- 1993 The Sloss Furnaces, National Historic Landmark, A Museum of the City of Birmingham, Alabama, USA
- 1992 *New Ceramics*, The Oxford Gallery, Oxford
Magdalene Odundo - Ceramics, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. Hamburg, Germany & tour
- 1991 Anthony Ralph Gallery, New York, USA
- 1989 Kunstformen, Jetzt, Salzburg, Austria
- 1988 Beaux Arts, Bath
- 1987 Anne Berthoud Gallery, London
New Works: Magdalene Odundo, The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea & tour
- 1986 Crafts Council Shop at the V&A, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- 1984 Rosenthal Studio, Haus, Germany and London
- 1983 Rosenthal Studio, Haus, Germany and London
Crafts Council, ICA, London

Selected Solo Exhibitions (continued)

- 1983 Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester
 1982 Rosenthal Studio, Haus, Germany and London
 1979 Commonwealth Institute, London
 1977 Africa Centre, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery*, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
 2017 *Disobedient Bodies: J.W. Anderson Curates*, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield
Things of Beauty Growing: British Studio Pottery, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT, USA
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
 2016 *North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20*, Dovecot Gallery, Edinburgh
Pots and Identities: The Language of Clay, Nairobi National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya
Material Symphysis, Foyer Gallery, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Pierre Marie Giraud, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
 2015 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art&Design New York, New York, USA
Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft and Design, Midcentury and Today, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
Pierre Marie Giraud, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
 2014 *Pierre Marie Giraud*, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
 2013 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA
Adrian Sassoon, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Pierre Marie Giraud, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
The Global Africa Project, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, USA
 2012 *Kith & Kin: New Glass and Ceramics*, National Glass Centre, Sunderland
Tweak: Converts to Glass, 'Metamorphosis and Transformation', Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, USA
Pierre Marie Giraud, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
 2011 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art&Design New York, New York, USA
The Global Africa Project, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
The Global Africa Project, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Hand Held: Personal Arts from Africa, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
Hand Made: Contemporary Craft in Ceramics, Glass and Wood, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Pierre Marie Giraud, Design Miami / Basel, Basel, Switzerland
 2010 *The Global Africa Project*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
Basins, Baskets and Bowls: Women Explore the Vessel, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
 2009 *Unbounded: New Art for a New Century*, Newark Museum, NJ, USA
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
 2008 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands
 2005 *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2004 *Material Differences: Artists and Identity in Africa*, The Museum for African Art, New York, USA & tour
- 2003 *British Ceramics: Five Artists*, Frank Lloyd Gallery: Los Angeles International Biennial Art Invitational, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 2002 *Pioneers to the Present*, Foyer Gallery, The Surrey Institute of Art and Design, Farnham
- 2000 *Colour and Fire Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1995 -2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, USA & tour
Millennium Mugs, Galerie Besson, London
The Jug Show, Candover Gallery, Alresford, Hampshire
Contemporary African Art: Five Artists, Diverse Trends, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis
British Ceramics 2000, Keramikmuseet Grimmerhus, Denmark
- 1999 *A Dialogue in Clay*, Artizana Gallery, Prestbury
- 1998 *Contemporary Ceramics - Selections from the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Magdalene Odundo, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1997 *Old Africa - New Africa - Africa Observed*, Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, USA
- 1996 *New for the Nineties - The Crafts Council Collection*, Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead
Design of the Times - One Hundred Years of the Royal College of Art, The Royal College of Art, London
Drinking Glasses, Leerdam Glass Symposium, Leerdam, The Netherlands
- 1995 *Africa 95*, British Museum Exhibition, Museum of Mankind, London
Contained and Uncontained: Four Clay Artists, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
- 1994 *Art Contemporain*, Lyon, France
Tate Gallery, Liverpool

Selected Awards

- 2018 Chancellor, University for the Creative Arts, UK
- 2016 Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA
Honorary Doctorate, University of the Arts, London
- 2014 Professor Emerita, University for the Creative Arts, UK
Visual Artist of the Year, The Journal Culture Awards, Sunderland
Honorary Doctorate, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
- 2012 African Heritage Outstanding Achievement in the Arts
- 2008 Officer of the Order of the British Empire – for services to the Arts
African Art Recognition Award, Detroit Art Institute's friends of African and African-American Art

Selected Public Collections

Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth, Wales
The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham
The British Museum, London
Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
Cleveland Crafts Centre, Middlesborough
Commonwealth Institute, London
Crafts Council, London
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Nottingham
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Wakefield Museum, Wakefield, West Yorkshire
Art Box, Waregem, Belgium
Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany
Museum für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, Germany
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
Rosenthal Collection, Hamburg, Germany
Stedelijk Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, s'-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands
The Africa Center, New York, USA
Arkansas Arts Centre, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA
The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, USA
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York, USA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan, USA
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young Museum, San Francisco, USA
Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA
Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, Indiana, USA
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, USA
Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, New York, USA
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
The Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
Saint Louis Museum of Art, Missouri, USA
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida, USA
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington DC, USA
African Heritage, Nairobi, Kenya
Murumbi Africana Collection, Nairobi, Kenya

Selected Bibliography: Catalogues and Books

- 2015 *Tri-Part-It-Us*, National Glass Centre, Art Editions North, University of Sunderland
- 2006 *Resonance and Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*, The Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL, USA
- 2001 *Magdalene Odundo, Clay Forms*, Marina Vaizey, Blackwell the Arts and Crafts House, Bowness-on-Windemere
- 2000 *Ten Thousand Years of Pottery*, Emmanuel Cooper, British Museum Press, London
Contemporary Ceramics, Susan Peterson, Laurence King, London
Women and Ceramics - Gendered Vessels, Moira Vincentelli, Manchester University Press
- 1999 *Contemporary Cultures of Display*, Emma Baker, Yale University Press in association with the Open University, New Haven
Design Sourcebook: Ceramics, Edmund de Waal, New Holland Publishers, London
Ceramics for the Home, Annabel Freyberg, Laurence King, London
Raku, David Jones, The Crowood Press, Ramsbury
- 1994 *Smashing Pots*, Nigel Barry, British Museum Press, London
- 1991 *International Crafts*, edited by Martina Margetts, Thames & Hudson, London
Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art, edited by Susan Vogel, The Center for African Art, New York
- 1990 *The Encyclopedia of Pottery Techniques*, Peter Cosentino, Running Press, Philadelphia
Clay & Glazes in Studio Ceramics, David Scott, The Crowood Press, Ramsbury
British Studio Potters in the Victoria and Albert Collection, Oliver Watson, Phaidon/Christie's, London