

NNENA KALU

Born in Glasgow, 1966

Lives and works in London

Nnena Kalu has developed her artistic practice at ActionSpace's studio in Studio Voltaire since 1999 and is an important member of both Studio Voltaire and ActionSpace's artistic communities.

Over the past 24 years Nnena has created a significant body of work, both sculptural and 2d, and has exhibited nationally and internationally. This includes three major solo exhibitions; an acclaimed presentation for Glasgow International 2018, a celebrated exhibition at Humber Street Gallery, Hull in 2019 and her first major London commission for *Elsewhere* Studio Voltaire's offsite programme in 2020. Nnena worked live in situ for all three exhibitions, with sculptural forms in continuous production, being made and remade throughout the live installs.

In 2021 Nnena was invited by Yinka Shonibare to create a collection of new sculptural works for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and featured in the accompanying BBC documentary.

In 2022 Nnena exhibited sculptural and 2d pieces in the group exhibition, *To all the Kings who have no Crowns* at Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate. Nnena created two new large-scale drawing directly in the gallery during a live public event. She also worked with Shade Podcast and multi award winning sound artist Axel Kacoutié as part of the *Interludes* series.

Nnena exhibited drawing as sculpture for the acclaimed *Trickster Figures: Sculpture and the Body* exhibition at MK Gallery, in 2023, curated by Jes Fernie.

In September 2023, Nnena created seven towering sculptures in situ for *Tageldimde/Middlegate* Expo, Geel, Belgium curated by Philippe Van Cauteren, Artistic Director of S.M.A.K and Pierre Muylle

Nnena has received three significant awards to develop her professional arts practice; the Paul Hamlyn Awards for Artists, the Mark Tanner Sculpture Development Grant and the LOEWE FOUNDATION/ Studio Voltaire Award which provided Nnena with her own studio at Studio Voltaire between 2021 - 2023.

Process is pivotal to Nnena, and her performative live installations provide a unique insight into her practice. The energy and passion Nnena emits through creating, her methodology and the complex and beautiful work she creates are fascinating.

Nnena Kalu is a Resident Artist at ActionSpace
www.actionspace.org/artists/nnena-kalu