



Nasher Sculpture Center Announces an Exhibition by 2025 Nasher Prize Laureate Otobong Nkanga

The Nigeria-born, Belgium-based artist will exhibit new work and reimagined installations on the occasion of receiving the most prestigious prize dedicated to sculpture.

Dallas, TX (December 16, 2025) – The Nasher Sculpture Center unveils details for its first Nasher Prize exhibition since shifting to the biennial program format, showcasing new and re-envisioned work from the 2025 Nasher Prize laureate, Otobong Nkanga. The exhibition will open on April 5, 2025, in conjunction with a gala celebration to honor the artist along with a \$100,000 cash prize and an award designed by architect Renzo Piano. Nkanga's exhibition will be on view through August 17, 2025.

The work of Otobong Nkanga (b. 1974) reconsiders our relationship with the land and the materials extracted from it, engaging a dynamic and deeply considered range of materials within an equally diverse practice. Among the many notable and celebrated aspects of her work is her tendency to adapt artworks and projects each time they are exhibited or performed in a new location, allowing the concept to anchor itself to the local ecosystem, resources, and complex histories of that particular place. At the Nasher, Nkanga will continue this thread, presenting newly conceived iterations of major recurring projects, including *Carved to Flow* (2017-), along with a new work, each responding to the North Texas region.

For *Carved to Flow*, created for Documenta 14 in 2017, Nkanga directed the creation of an ecosystem of exchange that resulted in bars of soap resembling blocks of marble from ingredients gathered from sites in Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. These soaps were processed in public workshop sessions in Athens, Greece—one of the sites of that year's Documenta—then shipped to the main exhibition site in Kassel, Germany to be displayed, discussed, and sold by performers. The project has continued with The Carved to Flow Foundation, established in Akwa Ibom, Nigeria, which funds two distinct initiatives: an organic farm outside of Akwa Ibom, and Akwa Ibom Athens, a nonprofit exhibition space. This complex "flow" of production and commerce echoed the properties of the soap itself—its mutability through changes of temperature and other environmental shifts.

Other seminal iterative works will be presented on occasion of Nkanga's Nasher Prize exhibition, continuing the evolution of these site-responsive projects in a new region. Working in collaboration with local artisans to embed her works with traditions, materials, and techniques that are resonant to Dallas, Nkanga will explore new formal and conceptual presentations of ongoing series in the Nasher's galleries.

Nkanga will engage with Texan history, material culture, ecology, and community through a process of deep research and an exchange of knowledge. The artist will, in particular, navigate histories and

patterns of migration across North Texas, considering the area as a nexus of movements connecting disparate lands and cultures. Additionally, Nkanga will debut new works relating to her practice as a poet.

“Otobong Nkanga demonstrates profound reverence to the material matter of the land and our relationship to it,” says Interim Director and Chief Curator Jed Morse. “Her penetrating works stem from enormous compassion and curiosity and we are honored to have her consider North Texas in her exhibition at the Nasher, just as we honor her for the tremendous impact she had made on sculpture.”

As an additional part of the new Nasher Prize program, a publication focused on Otobong Nkanga’s recurring projects will be published in late Summer 2025, including documentation of her work at the Nasher and new scholarship on the artist and her practice.

The Nasher Sculpture Center announced Otobong Nkanga as the recipient of the 2025 Nasher Prize in the fall of 2023 under a new biennial format. Since its inauguration in 2015, the prize has been given annually to recognize a living artist whose work has made a profound impact on the field of sculpture. The change in format gives the museum and the laureate time to plan an exhibition at the Nasher, produce a printed monograph, and better communicate their important contribution to sculpture.

Nkanga is the eighth artist to receive the Nasher Prize and the first to be celebrated on the biennial cycle; previous winners are Senga Nengudi (2023), Nairy Baghramian (2022), Michael Rakowitz (2020-21), Isa Genzken (2019), Theaster Gates (2018), Pierre Huyghe (2017) and Doris Salcedo (2016). The 2025 Nasher Prize jury that selected Nengudi is comprised of Nairy Baghramian, artist; Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Director of Castello di Rivoli, Italy; Lynne Cooke, Senior Curator, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Briony Fer, Professor, History of Art, University College London; Hou Hanru, Artistic Director, MAXXI, Rome; Yuko Hasegawa, Director of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Japan; Rashid Johnson, artist; Pablo León de la Barra, Curator at Large, Latin America, Guggenheim Museum; and Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England.

In conjunction with the Nasher Prize, the Nasher Sculpture Center presents a series of public programs exploring the climate of contemporary sculpture. Called Nasher Prize Dialogues, the talks gather interdisciplinary luminaries to discuss the most compelling topics regarding contemporary sculpture. By galvanizing international discourse, Nasher Prize Dialogues are an apt extension of the Nasher Prize’s mission to advocate for and advance a vital contemporary art form. Recent talks have taken place in Copenhagen, Denmark in partnership with CHART; Reykjavik, Iceland in partnership with the Reykjavik Art Museum; and in Glasgow, UK in partnership with The Common Guild and Glasgow International 2018; Mexico City in partnership with Museo Jumex; San Juan, Puerto Rico in partnership with Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico; and in Ghent, Belgium in partnership with S.M.A.K.

The exhibition is made possible, in part, by awards from the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture.

For high resolution images and the 2023 announcement of Otobong Nkanga as the 2025 Nasher Prize laureate, please follow this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ftqft35mgsn1atznt2q7/h?rlkey=at3yqzxzppj7c3yyn6nglu1n1&st=dpamizyl&dl=0>

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About Otobong Nkanga

Nkanga (born. 1974, Kano, Nigeria) lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. She studied at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife-Ife, Nigeria; the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and did her masters in the Performing Arts at DasArts, Advanced Research in Theatre and Dance studies in Amsterdam. Nkanga has been an artist-in-residence at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam in 2002-04, DAAD Berlin programme in 2013-14 and at the Martin Gropius – Bau in 2019.

Her most recent solo exhibitions include: Museum of Modern Art, New York (2024); IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia, Spain (2023); Sint-Janshospitaal, Bruges, Belgium (2022); Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Austria (2021); Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin, Italy (2021-2022); Villa Arson, Nice, France (2021); Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Høvikodden, Norway (2020-2021); Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany (2020); MIMA, Middlesbrough, UK (2020); Tate St Ives, UK (2019); Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (2019); Ar/ge kunst Galleria Museo, Bolzano, Italy (2018); MCA Chicago, US (2018); Kunsthal Aarhus, Denmark (2017); Nottingham Contemporary, UK (2016); Beirut Art Center, Lebanon (2016); Tate Modern, London, UK (2015); Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany (2015); Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, The Netherlands (2015); Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany (2015); Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium (2015); Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France (2015)

Her participation in international group shows includes: 'Energies', Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art, New York (2024); 'THE MIND'S EYE. Images of Nature from Claude Monet to Otobong Nkanga', Fondation Beyeler, Riehen, Switzerland (2023); 'Dear Earth - Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis', Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2023); 'Busan Biennial 2022 - We, on the Rising Wave', Museum of Contemporary Art, Busan, South Korea (2022); 'KUB In Venice', Scuola di San Pasquale, Venice, Italy (2022); 'Black Melancholia', Hessel Museum of Art, New York, USA (2022); 'Currency: Photography Beyond Capture, 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg', Hamburg, Germany (2022); 'We Are History', Somerset House, London, UK (2021); 'Witch Hunt', Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA (2021); 'Global(e) Resistance', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2020); 'Our World is Burning', Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2020); 'Seismic Movements', Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh (2020); '58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia', Venice, Italy (2019); 'Sharjah Biennial 14: Leaving the Echo Chamber', Sharjah, UAE (2019); 'Artes Mundi 2018', National Museum Cardiff, UK (2018); 'Cosmogonies, according to the elements', MAMAC, Nice, France (2018); 'General Rehearsal', Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia (2018); 'Documenta

14', Athens, Greece (2017); 'I am a native foreigner', Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2017); 'Take Me (I'm Yours)', Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, Italy (2017); 'Dialogues, Manifesta – The European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2017); 'Life Itself, Moderna Museet', Stockholm, Sweden (2016); 'Museum on/off', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2016); '13th Biennale de Lyon, La vie moderne', Lyon, France (2015); 'Africa Remix', Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France, Hayward Gallery, London, UK, and Museum Kunstplatt, Düsseldorf, Germany (2004-2007).

Nkanga was given the Special Mention Award at the 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy, 2019 and won the 2017 Belgium Art Prize. Other notable awards include the Peter-Weiss-Preis, Sharjah Biennial Prize, the Lise Wilhelmsen Art Award, the Flemish Cultural Award for Visual Arts - Ultima and the Yanghyun Prize.

About the Nasher Sculpture Center:

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world, featuring more than 400 masterpieces by Brancusi, Calder, de Kooning, di Suvero, Giacometti, Basquiat, Hepworth, LeWitt, Matisse, Miró, Moore, Picasso, Rodin, Serra, and Shapiro, among others. The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for children 12 and under and members, and includes access to special exhibitions.

For more information, visit www.NasherSculptureCenter.org.